

Making Invisible Men, Visible



Supporting Local Domestic Abuse

Partnership Boards

Ensuring male victims and their children count:

Safe Accommodation and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

June 2021

ManKind Initiative charity: Helping men escape domestic abuse since 2001
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**“Ensuring male victims and their children count:
Safe Accommodation and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.”**

Contents

1. The Conundrum
2. Executive Summary
3. The ManKind Initiative
4. Statistics
5. Refuge/ Safe House Distribution
6. Considerations: Needs Assessment, Safe Accommodation Options and Legal
7. Ten Steps to Meet the Invisibility Challenge
8. Pooling Needs Assessments: Taking a Collaboration Approach with Neighbouring Authorities

Annex 1: Suggested Information Sources for the Needs Assessment

Annex 2: Sheffield City Council Questionnaire:

(1) The Conundrum

- 1 The Conundrum that Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards have to solve to keep male victims/survivors of domestic abuse safe, alongside their children, is:

How do you assess the level of support needed for male victims/survivors of domestic abuse in safe accommodation, when they are:

- invisible;
- often unaware of existing support;
- not being referred/signposted to appropriate support, and,
- limited or no services for them already in place including accommodation services.

How do you make invisible male victims/survivors, visible?

2. This Guide provides ten steps to help through:

- Step 1: Wide Data Collection
- Step 2: Use Gender Nouns
- Step 3: Qualitative Agency Interviews
- Step 4: Finding the Pathways
- Step 5: The Voice of Men and their Children (qualitative and quantitative)
- Step 6: Showing Where is the Nearest Support
- Step 7: Gap Assessment
- Step 8: Board Representation
- Step 9: Transparent Approach
- Step 10: Publish to Give Confidence

(2) Executive Summary

Note 1: Domestic Abuse should never be a competition between the genders of victims – a civilised and inclusive society should seek to ensure that everyone is safe. Therefore, nothing in this document is aimed at removing resources from female victims/survivors. In fact, more support is needed for all victims/survivors.

Note 2: Where the charity refers to male victims throughout, it has made no distinction between those with or without children. The term “male victims” does therefore include those with children.

1. In conducting an inclusive needs assessment in order to meet the statutory requirements of the “Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse, including Children, in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services”¹ guidance, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has been clear that this includes male victims of domestic abuse² and their children.
2. Male victims of domestic abuse are largely invisible to society and to public services. In effect, they are not “in the system”. This includes LGBT+ people and men who are victims of forced marriage and ‘so-called’ honour-based violence and abuse.
3. Men make up one in three of all victims of domestic abuse³, and one in four of all victims who report to police forces⁴. Yet, only one in 20 of all victims supported by local community services (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser services or equivalent, commissioned by authorities)⁵ are men. One in six men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.
4. A by-product of this invisibility is a lack of safe accommodation for male victims and their children. This is why the helpline run by the ManKind Initiative charity and others report that housing and homelessness is an ever-increasing problem for male victims – exacerbated significantly through the pandemic. Men escaping domestic abuse are sleeping in cars, tents, garages, or sleeping rough. Those within their homes live in fear of their safety and that of their children – they do not know where safely to escape to.
5. The charity estimates that around 300 men are sleeping rough because of partner abuse every night⁶. It is no surprise when there are currently only 33 organisations who have refuge / safe house places for men, with the rooms totalling just 227. There are no places in London, the Home Counties or East Anglia at all. Of these 227 places, only 47 are dedicated to men.⁷ These spaces are nearly always full, and

¹ Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse, including Children, in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services:

² IBID “The services and support commissioned must reflect the particular needs of all victims in the area. For example, there must be adequate and appropriate support within the area to support victims with particular needs such as disabled victims, those from a BAME background, those who identify as LGBT and male victims.”

³ ONS domestic abuse: findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales: year ending March 2020 (<https://bit.ly/3sQLJLT>) - Table 1 and 2

⁴ Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales: year ending March 2020 - <https://bit.ly/2WQ4JZ8> (Tables 11 and 16)

⁵ ONS: Domestic abuse victim services, England and Wales: November 2020 - <https://bit.ly/3uxBGZa> and Data: <https://bit.ly/3a9qme3> (Table 28)

⁶ 13% of men who are rough sleepers is due to partner abuse (85% of all rough sleepers are male). Extrapolating the Government figures on the number of rough sleepers, this equates to 300 men in the Autumn of 2020.

⁷ Correct as at 4 May 2021 – figures from the ManKind Initiative/Male Domestic Abuse Network

many are keeping men safe who have travelled long distances – but some men cannot travel that far.

6. **There is demand for safe accommodation for men and their children. However, with a severe lack of this type of provision and their invisibility, how can male victims' support needs be assessed and met? It creates a vicious cycle which risks the safe accommodation needs of male victims continuing to fall through the cracks.**
7. The challenge for Tier 1 authorities is to what extent they are truly meeting their statutory obligations under a range of laws in the first place ([Equality Act 2010](#), [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#) and [Care Act 2014](#)) and their new obligations under the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The duty in the new Act is designed to support unmet need for support within safe accommodation, helping more victims access the support they need when they need it
8. This places challenges and opportunities on Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards in meeting both the letter and the spirit of the Statutory Guidance with respect to assessing the “real picture” of the safe accommodation needs of male victims (and their children) in their communities. In the first instance, this includes the first function (needs assessment) and then the second function (strategy). The Guidance also emphasises the need to consider “those who come from outside of their area”.
9. This support document is produced with the aim of helping Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards in gaining a better and clearer picture of the safe accommodation needs of men which will then support provision and the assessment of their support needs within that provision. This is through assessing the need for the accommodation in the first place. **It sets out a ten-step approach which will create a vital opportunity to provide safety for male victims and their children.**
10. If we are to live in an inclusive and fair society then local authorities should be challenged if they say there is no demand for safe accommodation for men and their children because they are not “showing up” in the same old data sources or not being provided it in the first place. This places male victims and their children at risk.
11. To be clear and aligned with the charity’s inclusive approach, this document is supportive of any needs assessment and support for female victims and their children – and all under-represented groups. It should never be a competition between the genders of victims, in fact, it should never be a competition between anyone.

If Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards require any support or information with respect to male victims of domestic abuse, please call 01823 334229 or training@mankind.org.uk

(3) About the ManKind Initiative

1. The Mankind Initiative is the principal, expert and specialist charity in the UK focussing on male victims of domestic abuse. The charity collaborates and works in

close partnership with other organisations and practitioners to support male victims including local authorities, police forces and the health service. It does this through:

- Direct support to male victims through a national helpline funded by donations (over 2,000 calls per year). It also delivers Ministry of Justice funded support for male survivors in a number of police force areas.
 - Support for organisations and practitioners who want to better recognise, support, and understand male victims. This is through its specialist training, information and consultancy service⁸, [MIDASS](#) and the [MDAN](#) national practitioner community and information network it created, owns and manages (Male Domestic Abuse Network⁹). With Home Office funding, ManKind developed National Service Standards¹⁰ aimed at commissioners and organisations delivering domestic abuse support to male victims and their children.
 - Giving male victims a voice by engaging with stakeholders such as the Government, statutory agencies, politicians, academia, and the media.
2. The aim of the charity is to ensure all male victims of domestic abuse (and their children) are supported to enable them to escape from the situation they are in. We are gender inclusive in our view and want all female victims (and their children) to be able to escape abuse and access safe accommodation too.

(4) Statistics

1. The charity has produced 55 key facts¹¹ about male victims of domestic abuse. There are a number that are key and of particular relevance (all refer to the 55 key facts, unless indicated in the footnotes). These are included in the key facts document alongside sources.
- The Office for National Statistics figures show every year that one in the three victims of domestic abuse are male equating to 757,000 men (1.56m women). The same ratio applies to male victims of partner abuse.
 - One in 6-7 men and one in 4 women will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.
 - Of domestic abuse crimes recorded by the police, 26% were committed against men. This equates to c155,000 offences per year.
 - Only 4.4% of victims of domestic abuse being supported by local domestic services are men according to SafeLives data. This highlights how few men are being supported by local domestic abuse services.
 - Over the pandemic period, the charity saw an increase in calls to its helpline by one quarter and visits to its website by 75%.

⁸ ManKind Initiative Domestic Abuse Support Service: <https://www.mankind.org.uk/for-professionals/mankind-initiative-domestic-abuse-service/>

⁹ Male Domestic Abuse Network: <https://mdan.org.uk/>

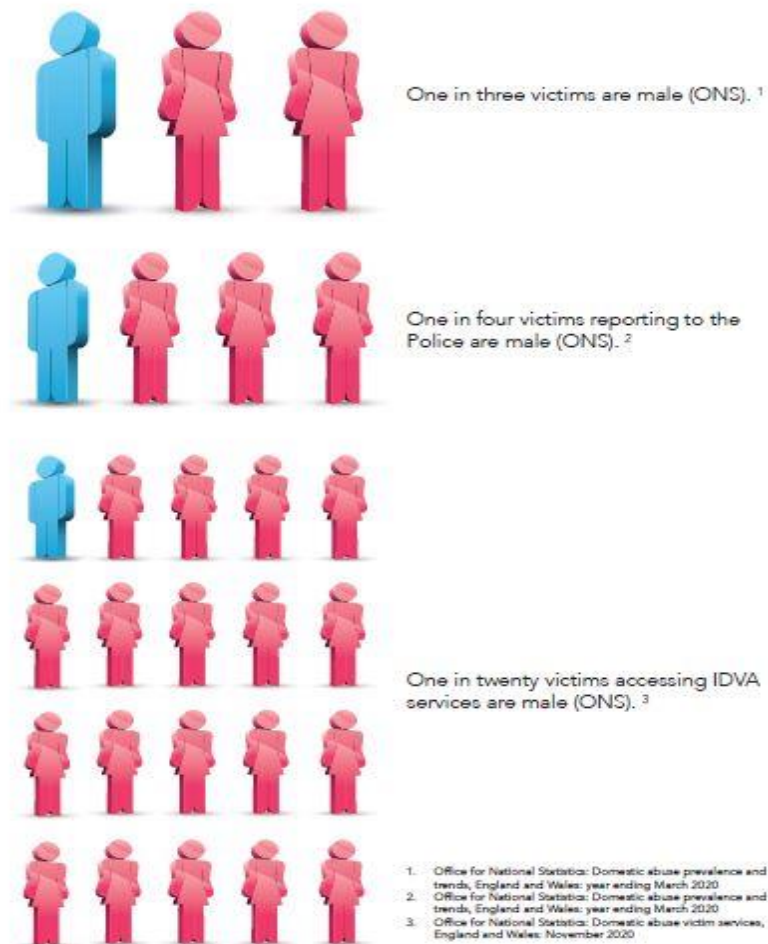
¹⁰ National Service Standards for Male Victims of Domestic Abuse: <https://mdan.org.uk/service-standards/>

¹¹ 55 key facts (2021) on male victims of domestic abuse: <https://bit.ly/2PON3wV>

- 61% of the men who call the ManKind Initiative helpline have never spoken to anyone about the abuse they are suffering and 64% would not have called if the helpline was not anonymous.
- There are 33 organisations in England with 227 spaces in refuges or safe houses for men – with only 47 of those places are dedicated for men.¹²
- Half of male victims (49%) do not disclose to anyone they are a victim of domestic abuse and are two and a half times less likely to tell anyone than female victims (19%).
- One in five victims (19%) of forced marriage are male¹³ and specialist helplines like Karma Nirvana have reported increases in men seeking support from so-called “honour” based violence and those with no recourse to public funds.

2. **Figure 1** below highlights the attrition rate between the ratio of men and women who are victims according to the Office of National Statistics (one in three), the police (one in four) and then the numbers using local services (one in twenty).

Where are the male victims of domestic abuse?



¹² Correct as at 4 May 2021 – figures from the ManKind Initiative/Male Domestic Abuse Network

¹³ Source: Forced Marriage Unit 2019 report, Home Office: <https://bit.ly/3wrhycN>

(5) Refuge/ Safe House Distribution

1. The charity estimates that around 300 men are sleeping rough because of partner abuse every night¹⁴. Alarming, there are currently 33 organisations¹⁵ in England with only 227 refuge/safe house places for male victims – including no places in London, the Home Counties or East Anglia at all. Of these 227 spaces, only 47 are dedicated to men.
2. The current refuge / safe houses available for men per region in England is set out below. These are run by local commissioned services, often working in partnership with local housing associations:¹⁶

Region	Organisations	Refuge/Safe Houses Spaces	Dedicated Places	Non-Dedicated Places
East Midlands	6	28	6	22
East of England	0	0	0	0
London	0	0	0	0
North East	2	10	0	10
North West	7	57	7	50
South East	0	0	0	0
South West	8	37	11	26
West Midlands	7	53	4	49
Yorkshire and Humber	3	42	19	23
Total	33	227	47	180

3. Every Monday, the charity contacts all of the organisations within each of the regions above to determine what vacancies are available. An updated list of available spaces is then placed in a secure section of the MDAN portal. On average, there are about five organisations that have vacancies on any given Monday, and these often become full as the week progresses.
4. Often when a new male refuge /safe house is created, it may take a month for them to fill the places. This is usually because the provider has ‘presumed’ that men or referring organisations (police, housing departments, health service, solicitors etc.) will have knowledge of the new provision, but this is not always the case. We recommend a programme of proactive contact and promotion with these agencies as from experience when this has taken place, the refuge/safe houses fill quickly – ensuring men and their children can make use of the new provision.

¹⁴ 13% of men who are rough sleepers is due to partner abuse (Crisis – A Nation Apart? published December 2014) and according to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 85% of all rough sleepers are male. Extrapolating the Government figures on the number of rough sleepers, this equates to 300 men in the Autumn of 2020.

¹⁵ Correct as at 5 May 2021 – figures from the ManKind Initiative/Male Domestic Abuse Network

¹⁶ Source: ManKind Initiative.

(6) Considerations: Needs Assessment, Safe Accommodation Options and Legal

Needs Assessment

1. In conducting an inclusive needs assessment, there are a number of general considerations. This includes comparing local demographic data with the prevalence of different demographics of victims within services and housing presentations (for example, are one in six of those who are 'visible' men?).
2. It is important to assess where there is a difference between those visible in services and how many should statistically be visible, analyse the data and for services to establish why this may be the case.
3. There is also an opportunity to compile a holistic list of safe accommodation options available to victims of domestic abuse in your area, and ensure that there are sufficient to meet the needs of different demographics (for example male, LGBT+, ethnic minorities, older people, and victims with a disability).
4. Exploring options is important in increasing the number of spaces available for victims from a diverse range of circumstances, as well as any specific support needs they may have.
5. If there are no or limited accommodation options with the local authority– it is vital that the Board is aware where the nearest such support is.
6. Ensure that information and services are truly accessible to all victims of domestic abuse and their children.
7. Ensure that staff who may come into contact with a victim of domestic abuse are aware of how difficult it is to seek help and support where they need to flee domestic abuse and are empathetic and understanding, regardless of gender, sexuality ethnicity, disability or who have complex needs.

Safe Accommodation Options

8. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has specified 'relevant' safe accommodation as being:
 - **Refuge accommodation** – offers accommodation and intensive support which is tied to that accommodation.
 - **Specialist safe accommodation**– safe accommodation which provides dedicated specialist support to victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs (also known as 'by and for')
 - **Dispersed accommodation:**

- i. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained accommodation with the same level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge
 - ii. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation which is not within a refuge, but with support for victims who may not require the intensive support offered through refuge, but are still at risk of abuse from their perpetrator/s.
- **Sanctuary Schemes** – properties with local authority installed Sanctuary Schemes or other similar schemes which provide enhanced physical security measures within a home.
 - **Move-on and / or second stage accommodation** - interchangeable terms for projects temporarily accommodating victims, including families who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and permanent accommodation.
 - **Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation** – i.e. a safe place with support. To give victims an opportunity to spend a temporary period of time to [consider and] make decisions in an environment which is self-contained and safe.

Legal Considerations

9. As well as the Domestic Abuse Act, the Statutory Guidance sets out that Local Authorities must ensure they comply with their obligations under a range of associated Acts, all of which apply to male victims:

- Equality Act 2010;
- Human Rights Act 1998;
- Children's Act 2004;
- Housing Act 1996; and,
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

Local Authorities should also consider their duties alongside the following guidance:

- Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse in refuges or other types of temporary accommodation: statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England.
- Homelessness Code of Guidance
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges
- Working together to safeguard children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- Violence against women and girls: national statement of expectations

The Care Act 2014 should also be added to the list due to its provisions on physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing, and protection from abuse and neglect.

10. **The Equality Act 2010** is one area that is often overlooked with respect to male victims. For example, it is a breach of the Equality Act if a female victim with two sons

receives a higher level of support and service than a male victim with two daughters when both are assessed as having the same level of risk and harm. This is because the father (and defacto, his two daughters) are being discriminated against solely because of his gender. It is irrespective if only one male victim needs safe accommodation, providing they objectively meet the legal criteria that also applies to female victims, the local authority has a duty to provide it.

11. In addition, it is important to consider the issue of the same level or equivalent level of support. It is not equal to be able to have the preferred option for a female victim to go to a refuge/safe house but you can only offer a male victim a place in hostel for those with addictions or on bail.
12. The legislation is important as the charity continues to receive calls from some Local Authority housing or other related departments, seeking to refer a male victim because they need safe accommodation – without recognising it is the Local Authority themselves who have responsibility to provide or arrange such accommodation to meet their statutory obligations (the Domestic Abuse Act does not place a requirement on authorities to provide domestic abuse victims with accommodation).

Out of area

13. The Statutory Guidance is clear with respect to assessing needs including those who come from out of area. This means when it comes to assessing demand in the first place, this must be taken into account as well.

Guidance: “Assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for domestic abuse support in their area for all victims (and their children) who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area.”
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(7) Ten Steps to Meet the Invisibility Challenge

1. There is a clear challenge and importantly, an opportunity, facing Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards and their need to support male victims under the new duties and the current legislation. That is, if Boards base their needs assessment on quantitative data solely for those already being supported directly in safe accommodation or being supported by the “usual” public services, it is unlikely to reveal the true picture of need. The opportunity will be missed to assess the actual volume of male victims who need safe accommodation in the first place, before assessments can then be made on the support they need within that accommodation.
2. This is because as statistics show, too many men are not in the “domestic abuse system”.
3. This places challenges and opportunities on Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards in meeting both the letter and the spirit of the Statutory Guidance with respect to assessing the “real picture” of the Safe Accommodation needs of male victims (and their children) in their communities. In the first instance, this includes the first

function (needs assessment) and then the second function (strategy). A simple perfunctory “tick box” exercise will not work for male victims; more work is needed.

4. We believe the Needs Assessment should include extra steps as well as ensuring there is good diverse Board representation:

Step 1: Wide Data Collection - Widen the quantitative data collection to a broader group of organisations (see suggested list in Annex 1) rather than those listed on the template form or the obvious sources (“standard agencies” such as the police, housing departments or commissioned services). This data collection should include the demand for safe accommodation as well as the type of support needed.

Step 2: Use Gender Nouns - Ensure that any research with all organisations (including “standard agencies”) explicitly uses gendered nouns (and non-binary) and not the generic “victims”. The risk is that unless it explicitly states male victims (and other under-represented groups) some will just “think” it does not apply to these groups. Those filling in the template or providing information will need to be prompted.

Step 3: Qualitative Agency Interviews - Conduct qualitative interviews with the broader group of sources as well above agencies as well as the “standard agencies”.

Qualitative interviews are crucial (including with standard agencies, as well as the domestic abuse commissioned service); they unpick gender stereotypes/assumptions and a lack of knowledge of statutory responsibilities or service provision. Three recent examples include:

Example 1: A local authority’s homeless officer contacted the charity asking to refer a male victim who was at risk of becoming homeless. The officer did not know that the local domestic abuse commissioned service supported men and that the council’s statutory housing and homeless duties applied to male victims of domestic abuse as well as women.

Example 2: A solicitor called the charity looking for safe accommodation for a client who he was also seeking a non-molestation order for. The client was sleeping in his car. There was the same lack of awareness as set out in Example 1 of local services and responsibilities.

Example 3: A local authority undertaking interviews with victims / survivors for their needs assessment, found that a male victim’s journey to settled accommodation had taken a considerably longer time than for female victims with the same level of need and risk.

Step 4: Finding the Pathways – As part of the qualitative assessments, it is vital to find out what the pathways are for men accessing safe accommodation. This is important to explore when men are in contact with public services which are not specialist domestic abuse services such as A&E, GPs and police forces. It was worth asking GP surgeries or Clinical Commissioning Groups for example who have signed up to the IRISi programme what their pathways to safe accommodation are for male victims.

Example 1: An example presented to Wokingham Council's Partnership Board in May 2021 highlighted where a man (in another part of England) who had been released by A&E who tended to his injuries was placed by the police in a bail hostel. Does this happen in your area?

Step 5: The Voice of Men and their Children: Ensure the voices of male victims are heard and do so through qualitative and quantitative methods.

(i) Qualitative:

Contact local services that are supporting male victims and if safe to do so, speak to men about their experiences and housing needs. Ask about:

- whether the lack of a safe place to go affected their decision to stay in an abusive relationship longer than they should have done;
- would it have made a difference to them if they knew they had somewhere safe to escape to;
- where did they go when they left their perpetrator (where did they sleep);
- did they have to leave the property that they rented / owned;
- if their perpetrator was subject to a court order, where did they go (we have cases of female perpetrators who have been bailed back to the property they shared with their male victim, thereby forcing him to move).

(ii) Quantitative

Consider an anonymous public survey asking for men to tell share their experiences of what they need or needed. This obviously could be for female victims too.

The key when promoting this though is to ensure that it is clear that it is for men – not just in the introduction but also how it is promoted. It is recommended to use the phrase “survey for female and male victims” rather than just “victims”.

Sheffield City Council (see Annex 2 for questions / format) is conducting such a survey:

Step 6: Where is the nearest support: If there is no or limited accommodation options with the local authority for male victims – it is vital that the Board is aware where the nearest such support is, so they can make rounded decisions and assessments. This is especially the case for refuge and safe house options for male victims, including those with children.

Step 7: Gap Assessment: Assess and report back to the Board any gaps between what the returned data shows compared to what is expected given the local and national data about the number for male victims. This should help determine whether the needs assessment reflects the true picture – and will help the Board make the right decisions on how to support everyone in their community.

Step 8: Board representation: It is vital that there is a voice representing male victims on the Board. That can be from the local commissioned service (the IDVA or equivalent who is assigned to support male victims) or from other sources including

national organisations. This can be applied to other groups such as those from the LGBT+ and BAME communities for example.

Step 9: Transparent approach: For the Board and the public in general to be able to judge the completeness of the Board Assessment, the names of the organisations that took part in the assessment should be made.

Step 10: Publish to give confidence: As part of the report the Board and the published report (if different), there should be sections explaining the accommodations needs and pathways for under-represented groups, including male victims. This will aid accountability, and also give confidence to those in abusive relationships that there are, or soon will be, safe options they can take to escape.

(8) Pooling Needs Assessments: Taking a Collaboration Approach with Neighbouring Authorities

1. Many men in refuges/safe houses are “out of area” – often because this is safe but also because there is no refuge/safe house in their local community/area. They have no choice but to leave.
2. In not supporting the provision of safe accommodation including refuges/safe houses, some local authorities have told the charity that there is not the demand within their local area, so there is no need.
3. **Firstly**, this means that men in their area that need a place have nowhere local they can escape to and therefore are left with the only option of leaving the area altogether. For many men this means travelling long distances – which can result in further isolation including disruption of employment and family support connections.
4. For many men this upheaval is an additional barrier meaning they do not leave at all, or they sleep on the streets, in cars or on friends’ sofas. This means they do not receive any wraparound support at all and remain invisible to the “system”.
5. As seen where there are few or no spaces which continues to be a significant problem. It remains a housing scandal in London that this are no refuge and safe houses for male victims with no one taking responsibility for it.
6. **Secondly**, it also means that local authorities are not being good partners as they are expecting other authorities/organisations to look after their male residents fleeing from domestic abuse without providing the same or reciprocating support for other local authorities.
7. This is even more explicit as the guidance refers to support of “out of area” victims.

Partnership working

8. The charity believes that the results of need assessments for male victims indicate support should be pooled (assessed together) with neighbouring Tier 1 authorities. This is particularly the case if the assessment:

- does not show a need for safe accommodation including safe house / refuge places for men or,
 - shows some need, including from out of area, but it may be financially inefficient if safe accommodation for men is not needed all the time
9. By partnering with neighbouring Tier 1 authorities and assessing needs together – this will provide a better picture of overall need - ensuring there is support for men and that the guidance and law is met.
 10. For example, through pooling, it may show that whilst there is not enough demand for safe house/refuge accommodation with additional support in each Tier 1 authority, there may be enough demand across neighbouring authorities. It may mean therefore three Tier 1 authorities, partner together to create a refuge/safe house for male victims that is shared and funded between the three authorities.
 11. The risk to male victims by not following this approach is that whilst there may be some demand in Local Authorities, all turn round and say there is not enough demand solely in their particular council boundaries to justify it. Even if there is demand when that demand is pooled with neighbouring areas. It could mean that none is provided at all in a wider geographical area and male victims fall between the cracks – and still end up sleeping in cars and parks. Neighbouring authorities should work together.

Annex 1: Suggested Information Sources for the Needs Assessment

Housing	Local Council Housing Departments Housing Associations Homeless charities / support agencies
Health	Hospitals (especially A&E, X-ray, and outpatients) GP Surgeries Clinical Commissioning Groups Mental Health Trusts Mental Health charities including MIND Substance Misuse services - Turning Point
Justice	Police Solicitors Courts Probation / Offender resettlement services
Care	Social Services
Neighbouring Local Authorities	Neighbouring Tier 1 authorities
Domestic Abuse	MARACs Commissioned Services Charity and voluntary services
Survey	Online with promotion
Others	Local veterans' charities Job centres Citizens Advice Voluntary organisations and charities Animal/ Pet rehoming charities

	Food banks
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Annex 2: Sheffield City Council Questionnaire:

Overview

Why are we consulting about domestic abuse?

We are seeking your views and experiences of domestic abuse services and accommodation to help inform changes that will be introduced by the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill.

This means we need to ensure there is sufficient provision of domestic abuse specialist support, especially in provided accommodation, for all people who are experiencing domestic abuse. This includes male victims and people who are LGBTQ+ as well as women. If you need to flee your home, or need support to stay safe in your home, due to domestic abuse then there are a range of options available. This includes

- Refuge accommodation (a safe house or larger scheme housing and providing support for multiple people experiencing domestic abuse)
- Emergency accommodation (such as temporary accommodation, Bed & Breakfast, emergency short term placements in safe accommodation or refuges)
- Safe accommodation like an individual flat / house which has additional security measures and you have a specialist domestic abuse support worker who visits you
- Having security measures put into your home

Throughout the questionnaire there will be opportunities to answer questions relevant to your own particular situation and the types of support you received while living in your own home or in a new accommodation e.g. refuge, Safe Zones property or other accommodation following fleeing domestic abuse.

Most questions are for people who have personal experience of abuse, but a few questions can be answered by family and friends of those affected by domestic abuse and by professionals.

We appreciate everyone's individual situation is different, so for some this will be a quick process, for others it may take a bit longer. You may feel like there are a few questions you may not want to answer. This is fine just skip that question and move on to the next one.

Definition of domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is

- when you are in or you have been in a relationship with a person, or a relative is causing you harm or making you feel scared.
- Forms of abuse used may include physical and sexual violence, stalking and harassment, emotional abuse, mental and psychological abuse coercive and controlling behaviour, economic abuse, forced marriage and honour-based abuse.
The full definition of domestic abuse can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets/statutory-definition-of-domestic-abuse-factsheet>

Other uses for the consultation

The Domestic Bill also requires local authorities to write a domestic abuse strategy. Our current strategy will can be found here. <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/05/Domestic-And-Sexual-Abuse-Strategy-2018-2022-FINAL.pdf>

Your responses will help inform a revised domestic and sexual abuse strategy for Sheffield.

Safe Accommodation:

If you need to flee your home due to domestic abuse then there are a range of safe accommodation options available. This includes

- If you are a woman, a women’s refuge in Sheffield or outside of Sheffield – where you are accommodated alongside other victims, you have a separate bedroom/s, access to communal spaces and onsite specialist domestic abuse support.
- For all victims – an individual flat / house which has additional security measures and you have a specialist domestic abuse support worker who visits you (this is known as dispersed accommodation and in Sheffield this is called the IDAS Safe Zones project).
- Temporary accommodation including hostels, hotels, B&B – where there is no specialist support provided by the accommodation provider.
- Floating support provided by Shelter – this is specialist support to help you stay in your own home or move to a new home after your time in any of the above.
- Sanctuary measures – putting security measures put into your home.

Sheffield is to receive additional funding to help provide domestic abuse support to all victims and children living in accommodation. Based on your experience what do you think should be the priorities?

	High priority	Middle priority	Low priority	No opinion
Specialist workers who could help you more with your mental health and domestic abuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialist workers who could help treat you for your substance misuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialist workers who can help with housing advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specialist workers who can help with debts, money and benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More activities to address your wellbeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More Power to Change group support (awareness raising group on domestic abuse)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	High priority	Middle priority	Low priority	No opinion
Better hand over from your accommodation to your new property when you are rehoused	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More play sessions for children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More therapeutic support for children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More support to help you feel safe in your own home, so that you don't have to move because of domestic abuse, or in your new home when you are rehoused.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More support from a specialist DA worker when you are in court	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please state below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have you ever experienced domestic abuse / been a victim of domestic abuse? (Required)

- Yes, I am being abused currently
- Yes, the abuse has now stopped but it happened in the last 12 months
- Yes - between 1-2 years ago
- Yes - between 2-5 years ago
- Yes - over 5 years ago
- No – I am a friend / family member of a victim
- No – I'm a professional working with victims – enter where you work below

If you are a professional, please enter where you work here

If you are a professional, please enter where you work here