



Derby City Council

**URBAN RENEWAL CABINET MEMBER
MEETING
15 December 2016**

ITEM 4

Report of the Strategic Director of Communities
and Place

Bid for Funding for Specialist Support for South Asian Women

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for Derby City Council to submit a bid to DCLG for funding of £99,218 to provide support for women fleeing domestic abuse and forced marriage.
- 1.2 Derby City Council currently commissions Refuge, a specialist domestic violence organisation, to deliver 25 units of specialist refuge accommodation.
- 1.3 This funding application will support the refuge by funding the cost of the south Asian BME refuge service until March 2018. In particular, the funding will support the specialist provision of eight units of specialist BME refuge provision and a community worker for South Asian women.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To authorise the submission of this bid to the DCLG for funding supported housing services to women fleeing domestic violence.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This funding is important to the continued support of refuge placements.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The 2011 Census identified Asian or Asian British Indian and Asian British Pakistani as the two largest growing communities in Derby City.
- 4.2 Refuge is an organisation which currently delivers specialist refuge accommodation in the city, providing 25 units of accommodation and specialist support services and is recognised as being a centre of excellence.
- 4.3 This proposal will enable, if successful, Refuge to recruit a community based support worker to work with 50 BME women from South Asian communities, and to build sustainable pathways to provide opportunities for resettlement and move-on.

- 4.4 Refuge has existing contract arrangements with Derby City Council. It is expected that the funding will be paid to Refuge through existing payment and monitoring arrangements.
- 4.5 A key aspect of this funding will be to strengthen the partnership arrangements across the Local Authority boundaries, working with the Derby and Derbyshire Domestic Violence and Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy. A full copy of the proposed bid for funding is attached as Appendix 2.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 No other opportunities for funding currently exist, which can secure medium term funding for services of this kind. Without this support, the existing refuge will be a greater risk of closure.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Ian Fullagar, Head of Strategic Housing.
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Angelina Novakovic 01332 640330 angelina.novakovic@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Funding Bid Application in Full

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The demand for Derby City refuge space is extremely high. The calculated cost of delivering refuge support with Refuge is £1,813 per woman, for 2015-16. This represents extremely good value for money.
- 1.2 The bid, if successful, will not require any match funding from the Council or Derby Homes.

Legal

- 2.1 This bid will enable Derby City Council and its partner agency Refuge, to provide essential support to women fleeing domestic violence.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

IT

- 4.1 None

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 This bid enables Derby City Council to work in partnership to support disadvantaged and minority communities with specialist support needs in times of crisis.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 Many women fleeing domestic violence will have children and as such, this bid will enable better safeguarding arrangements.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The bid will enable the Council to deliver essential advice, support and safe homes to the most vulnerable members of our society.

Application Form

2016/18 Fund for refuges, specialist accommodation based support and service reform to help local areas meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services.

Name, address & contact details of applicant lead local authority:

Derby City Council

Names of partners: Refuge

Amount of grant sought:

Profile of bid 2016/18:

	16/17	17/18
Support		
Service reform costs		£3,000
Staff costs		£96,218
Other		
Total		£99,218

How many victims will be helped – adhering to the standards set out in Annex A – by the funding? An additional 50 victims will be helped

Summary of Bid (Bid proposals must set out what the local demand is for – refuges, or any other accommodation type, service improvement to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services, and how the bid addresses it)

Title and description of bid – what is the proposal and what are the aims?

How will it achieve them?

The title of the bid is “Derby City specialist support for South Asian women fleeing domestic abuse including forced marriage and honour based violence”

What resources are requested and what for?

Derby City Council currently commissions Refuge the specialist domestic violence organisation to deliver 25 units of specialist refuge accommodation. Derby City recognises that cross border working is essential to keep women and children safe and so these units are available to woman from anywhere in the country. Included in these 25 units is a centre of excellence providing specialist, safe and secure support for south Asian women and children, this is extensively used by women from outside of Derby, particularly other areas of the east midlands as the service is run in a culturally sensitive way to ensure that this particularly vulnerable client group get appropriate support. Many of the women we support do not speak English as a first language and this may have contributed to their isolation. Our refuge workers speak a range of languages, including Urdu, Punjabi, Mirpuri, Hindi and English.

Funding cuts to supported housing services in Derby City have had a tremendous impact on the availability of support in the City. A review is currently under way that will see further cuts over the next year. We know that the culturally specific refuge for south Asian women in particular is a valuable national resource. Many BME refuges

have closed over the past few years and we are concerned that a lack of funding means the future of refuge provision in Derby City is under threat.

We are determined to find a long term solution to ensure we do not lose any refuge provision and in particular the BME refuge for south Asian women. We aim to do this by exploring and developing new funding partnerships. We want to bring new partners to the table that have an interest in domestic violence, housing and homelessness but have traditionally not funded refuge provision. Building new partnerships takes time and we are therefore asking for funding from DCLG to support the survival of refuge spaces by funding the costs of the south Asian BME refuge service until March 2018 whilst exploratory meetings take place and arrangements are developed over the next year.

In addition we have identified a need to provide specialist housing related support in the community to South Asian women who have left the refuge or have relocated to Derby to escape domestic violence. The 2011 census identified Asian or Asian British Indian and Asian or Asian British Pakistani as the two largest growing communities in Derby City. A community based support worker will provide specialist support to South Asian women and will build sustainable care pathways with a range of community based support services.

How many bed spaces¹, will the proposal provide and will these be provided in refuges, Sanctuary schemes, dispersed housing (with support) or other housing provision?

This proposal will support the delivery of 25 units of specialist refuge accommodation but in particular will fund eight units of specialist BME refuge provision for south Asian women. These eight units are modern self-contained flats within a purpose built refuge that was designed with input from service users. It has communal areas so that women and children can socialise and office space and key work rooms so that staff can deliver support on site. Staff speak a range of languages, and deliver culturally appropriate support to the women. The staff have developed expertise in working with women who have complex immigration needs and women with no recourse to public funds. They have excellent links with the Forced Marriage Unit and local BME support organisations.

The community based support worker will work with 50 BME women from south Asian communities to:

- provide specialist flexible, individually tailored housing related support services for BME victims living in their own homes and for women who have moved on from the refuges
- build sustainable pathways for BME women to and from a diverse range of community support organisations
- improve support in the community for BME victims who have additional complex needs such as substance misuse, mental health and immigration needs
- build sustainable pathways to provide opportunities for resettlement and move-on

¹ Number of victims units (for victims and their children).

What mechanisms are in place to ensure that named domestic abuse service providers in the bid receive the appropriate funding?

Refuge has existing contract arrangements in place with Derby City Council. The funding will be paid to Refuge through existing payment mechanisms and monitoring will be integrated in to existing monitoring reports.

What service change will you put into place to deliver the priorities for domestic abuse services?

There are two strands to this proposal

1. Traditionally Derby City refuges have been funded by supporting people. We are looking secure the future of the BME refuge units by engaging a broader set of stakeholders to transform the way refuge services are funded in the City.
2. Developing a co-ordinated infrastructure and pathways to support in the community for women from south Asian communities who are experiencing domestic violence.

Supporting evidence

Partnership working and working across Local Authority boundaries

- Which other organisations do you work in partnership with locally to tackle domestic abuse?
- What are your proposals for further developing partnership working and how will this funding help build those relationships?
- What accommodation based support do you provide to victims from other areas and what are the challenges in doing so?
- What actions are you proposing to take to support victims across local authority boundaries and from areas other than your local authority?

A Derby and Derbyshire Domestic Violence and Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy is in place. This is implemented through partnership arrangements with a Governance Board that leads the development of the strategy. Delivery of the supporting action plan is led by a Co-ordination sub-group. Key partners involved include Derbyshire Constabulary, Community Safety Partnerships, Crown Prosecution Service, children and adults safeguarding and social care, probation, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, Clinical Commissioning Groups, acute and mental healthcare providers, a wide range of third sector partners Women's Aid, Trident Reach, Refuge, Metropolitan Housing, Karma Nirvana and Victim Support. An outline of these governance arrangements is appended to this bid.

Partnership

There are five well established MARACs (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences), across city and county and well established Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) teams, two specialist DV Courts and a level of MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) arrangements. Currently the focus of the partnership is on improving co-ordination, aligning activity and communication and focusing on our shared outcomes. Joint commissioning has not yet been developed across the two local authority areas for DVA but there are joint funding arrangements for MARAC co-ordination and the Sexual Assault Referral Clinic.

A Derby Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Group co-ordinates activity for delivering the city elements of the action plan to deliver the joint strategy. Membership includes both commissioners and providers such as Refuge, Derby Homes, Metropolitan Housing, Derby Women's Centre, Education Welfare, Safeguarding, IDVA, Children and Adults social care, Relate, health etc. Addressing operational issues between agencies, information sharing, consistency of processes and case reviews are done at this multi-agency meeting.

Regional Working

At present refuge provision is commissioned and contracted through each of the East Midlands Council's Housing functions Whilst we do not jointly commission there is co-operation across the authority boundaries and services support victims from across the region and beyond.

Inclusion of specific provision for BME victims and those from isolated/marginalised communities

- What actions are you taking to ensure that smaller BME organisations are included in bid proposals?
- What is your proposal for assessing the needs of isolated and /or marginalised communities in your area and coming into your area?
- What actions are you taking to make provision for local specialist support and protect specialist services of importance beyond the local area?

Refuge has been providing specialist accommodation support for south Asian women in Derby for eight years. Refuge was also commissioned by Derbyshire PCC In April 2016 to provide support through a single point of access. We analyse need using data from IMPACT Refuge's casework management tool. We use the data to assess need. In the refuge service last year, 54% of victims accessing Refuge's services were from BME communities.

We value this specialist work and support the provision of a centre of excellence for south Asian women and children. The service is extensively used by women from outside of Derby, particularly other areas of the east midlands as the service is run in a culturally sensitive way to ensure that this particularly vulnerable client group get appropriate support.

Value for money and additionality

- How many domestic abuse victims do you currently support and what is the current cost per victim for general/specialist support?
- What more will you be able to achieve with this additional funding?
- How will you capture the outputs and benefits gained from this funding and how will this feed into local area strategies and longer term sustainable solutions for domestic abuse?
- What estimate have you made of the costs incurred for example if staff are hired with the funding, the approximate annual cost per person and dates of employment?
- What assessment have you made of the level of resource and what measures are you putting into place to deliver the commitments set out in your bid beyond March 2018?

The demand for a Derby City refuge space is extremely high. Last year Refuge received 293 referrals, but was only able to support 108 women and their children meaning that 185 women were turned away. Given the level of need we are determined to prevent our refuge units from disappearing. In 2015-16 the BME refuge for south Asian women supported 31 women at a cost of £1,813 per women. This is incredible value for money and does not include support provided to children.

There is currently no BME specialist housing related support in the community for victims of domestic abuse. We will use this funding to develop a co-ordinated response to housing support needs for BME women. We will employ a community based outreach worker who will support 50 women at a cost of £800 per woman.

Deliverability

- What assessment have you made of the level of resource required to deliver the commitments set out in your bid?
- How have you ensured these resources will be in place beyond March 2018?

With additional funding from DCLG we will support the delivery of eight refuge spaces in Derby City which will operate as a centre of excellence for south Asian women from anywhere in the country. We will explore and secure partnership options for future long-term funding to ensure long term sustainability. The outreach worker will build sustainable pathways in the community that will last beyond the expiration of funding. We can confirm we have assessed the level of resources required and availability of staff to deliver this project.

Any other information which you wish to have taken into consideration.
None

Completed forms (including signature by Local Authority lead partner(s) to be submitted by 5pm 16 December 2016 to:

DomesticAbuse.Fund@communities.gsi.gov.uk