

## Bristol City Council Equality Impact Assessment Form

(Please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this form)



Name of proposal	Revised commissioning of Domestic & Sexual Violence Support Services
Directorate and Service Area	Adults, Children and Education/ Public Health
Name of Lead Officer	Thara Raj

### Step 1: What is the proposal?

Please explain your proposal in Plain English, avoiding acronyms and jargon. This section should explain how the proposal will impact service users, staff and/or the wider community.

#### 1.1 What is the proposal?

This EqlA relates to the potential impact of reducing the investment in services to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the city within the range of a 5-15% reduction in funding from the 2018/19 baseline investment of approx. £1.3m p/a.

The services in scope of this consultation comprise:

Service	Description of service	Provider
Survivor Group Work	Programme of 12 week courses running throughout Bristol – the Freedom, Crush and the Recovery toolkit.	Next Link
Victim Support IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor)	Female IDVA based in the Lighthouse (Witness and victim care service) who provides practical and Criminal Justice System support, risk assessment, support safety planning and support through Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, and access to services to meet the needs of victims of domestic abuse	Victim Support
BME IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor)	Community outreach provision is provided throughout Bristol for BME women affected by domestic abuse. Provides resettlement and outreach support for women and their families and includes housing access and support with tenancys etc.	Next Link
Complex Needs Safe House	Specialist safe house for women with support needs such as i.e. fleeing domestic abuse or sexual violence and ongoing substance misuse or mental ill health.	Next Link

Sexual Violence Support Service	To provide a free and confidential telephone line advice service to victims and survivors of historic and current sexual abuse and to provide onward pathways for clients in to appropriate community based therapeutic interventions	Sexual Violence Consortium
Street Sex Work Support Service	To provide intensive support to street sex workers experiencing domestic and sexual violence including site based drop-ins and street outreach of practical, emotional support and pathways into treatment and recovery services	One25
Men's DVA Support Service	To provide a dedicated independent domestic and sexual abuse advisor role specifically for male survivors	Victim Support
Think Families Early Help DVA Support	To provide specialist domestic abuse support services embedded within the Families in Focus locality teams - aligned to the think family /early help services	Next Link
BME Crisis Response Service	To provide specialist support to BAME female survivors of domestic abuse requiring culturally sensitive practical and emotional support and assistance through the criminal justice system	Next Link
The IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) Service in Primary Care	To provide training and recording coordination of GP practices in raising aware and of domestic abuse amongst practice patients	Next Link
Bristol DVA Support Service	A range of universal community based support services accessed through 3 locality hubs and providing a range of preventative and early intervention services, advocacy, advice and support and also the provision of 38 general needs refuge spaces across the city	Next Link
Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) in Emergency Department (ED)at Bristol Royal Infirmary	IDVAs provide support for male and female victims who present in the Emergency Department including crisis intervention, risk assessment and advocacy.	University Hospital Bristol (UHB)
IDVA in ED at Southmead Hospital	IDVAs provide support for male and female victims who present in the Emergency Department including crisis intervention, risk assessment and advocacy.	Provided by Next Link South Glos Council are lead commissioner

**Step 2: What information do we have?** Decisions must be evidence-based, and involve people with protected characteristics that could be affected. Please use this section to demonstrate understanding of who could be affected by the proposal.

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected? This proposal relates to a number of services, demographic monitoring data from these services for the last year is displayed in the table below:

<b>Service</b>	Number per annum	Age (over 65)	Disability	Sex (F)	Gender Reassignment	Race (from BAME communities)	Any Religion/Belief declared	Sexual Orientation (LGB)	Pregnancy
Survivor group work	207	2%	43%	99%		21%	35%	7%	
Victim Support IDVA	120	4%	5%	100%		19%	7%	4%	
BME IDVA	130	3%	17%	100%		100%	78%	0%	
Complex Needs Safe House	25	0%	39%	100%		11%	11%	9%	
Sexual Violence support service	633	0%	28%	97%		25%	12%	14%	
Street Sex work	55	0%	11%	100%		17%	22%	9%	
Men's DVA	80	2%	16%	0%	3%	25%	15%	8%	
Early Help	80	0%	15%	100%		20%	10%	2%	
BME crisis service	74	0%	30%	100%	2%	98%	71%	0%	
IRIS in Primary care	214	5%	32%	99%		39%	28%	10%	
Bristol DVA Support Service	888	NK	31%	99%	1%	24%	25%	3%	
IDVA in Emergency Department (ED) at BRI	240	8%				24%		3%	7%
IDVA in ED Southmead Hospital	184	2%	8%	97%		12%	24%	10%	

2.2 Who is missing? Are there any gaps in the data?

We have not captured the numbers of women who are pregnant when using these services however we know that domestic abuse often starts in pregnancy. Nearly one in three women who suffer from domestic abuse during their lifetime report that the first incidence of violence happened while they were pregnant and 40%-60% of women experiencing domestic violence are abused while pregnant. (Department of Health, 2005)

The other protected characteristic that hasn't been recorded is whether service users are married or in a civil partnership.

2.3 How have we involved, or will we involve, communities and groups that could be affected?

This is a draft EIA and the learning from the public consultation would be incorporated after the consultation is complete.

**Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?**

Analysis of impacts on people with protected characteristics must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts in this section, referring to all of the equalities groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics?

- We know that women are more likely than men to experience domestic and sexual abuse and the figures above demonstrate that women make up the majority of users of Domestic and Sexual violence support services; hence a decrease in service provision would adversely affect these women.
- Nationally women with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year (16%), compared with those without a long-term illness or disability. (Public Health England ,2015). The figures in the table above show that those with disabilities are accessing these services and would therefore be affected by a decrease in service provision.
- The services work with a significant number of individuals from BAME communities and in some cases these are specialist support services and a reduction in funding would potentially affect the capacity of these services.

3.2 Can these impacts be mitigated or justified? If so, how?

We would need to work with existing providers to explore opportunities to mitigate the impact of any reduction in funding by realigning services to meet the needs of all service users with protected characteristics.

3.3 Does the proposal create any benefits for people with protected characteristics?

No, however we will continue to work on outcomes to ensure they are well designed to encourage providers to design services with maximum impact for under-represented groups.

3.4 Can they be maximised? If so, how?

Not applicable

#### Step 4: So what?

The Equality Impact Assessment must be able to influence the proposal and decision. This section asks how your understanding of impacts on people with protected characteristics has influenced your proposal, and how the findings of your Equality Impact Assessment can be measured going forward.

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?
It has highlighted the need to be aware of the high numbers of people with disabilities who are using these services.
4.2 What actions have been identified going forward?
To improve monitoring of protected characteristics particularly pregnancy. A consultation will be undertaken on the proposal as part of a consultation on the commissioning of all public health services.
4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured moving forward?
Equalities monitoring information will continue to be collected and reviewed quarterly with the service providers.

Service Director Sign-Off:	Equalities Officer Sign Off:
Date:	Date: