

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 09 March 2021

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Government funding to implement the Domestic Abuse Bill</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All		
<b>Author:</b> Anne Colquhoun	<b>Job title:.</b> Head of Service Public Health		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Asher Craig (Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equalities)	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Jacqui Jensen		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet			
<p><b>Purpose of Report:</b>                  In February this year Bristol City Council was advised that the Government allocation to enable the city to deliver its duties in relation to the Domestic Abuse Bill was £1,079,426 for 2021/22.                  Cabinet is asked to approve the acceptance of the allocated funding and authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with Cabinet Member Communities and Public Health and the Director of Communities and Public Health to establish a collaborative commissioning board to spend the funding and take all steps necessary to procure and award contracts to implement the expectations of the Domestic Abuse Bill.</p>			
<p><b>Evidence Base:</b>                  The Domestic Abuse Bill (2019-21)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Domestic Abuse Bill is currently passing through parliament. It sets out a new statutory definition of domestic abuse and set out responsibilities for local authorities.</li> <li>2. These include, assessing need and commissioning support for victims and children in safe accommodation, having a local needs assessment and strategy, appointing a multi-agency partnership board to oversee the delivery of a strategy and action plan.</li> <li>3. Domestic abuse support will include: Advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers);</li> <li>4. Domestic abuse-prevention advice – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent re-victimisation.</li> <li>5. Specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and / or complex needs, for example, interpreters, faith services, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, and immigration advice;</li> <li>6. Children’s support – including play therapy and child advocacy; Housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home and advice on how to live safely and independently; and counselling and therapy for both adults and children.</li> <li>7. The allocation to Bristol is £1.079.426 for 2021/22. It is proposed that there will be a similar allocation each year for a further two years and that it will become part of the annual settlement after this time.</li> <li>8. The Mayoral Commission on Domestic Abuse report sets out principles and recommendations that organisations across the city, from specialist services to businesses and employers, can adopt to help prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence, support those experiencing it, and help survivors to recover. This work will guide the decisions relating to how the domestic abuse funds are spent and will feed into the commissioning of all DA services in Bristol for April 2022.</li> <li>9. As part of the requirements to deliver the DA Bill, Bristol City Council will establish a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (strengthening the existing sub-group of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership Board) and a Collaborative Commissioning Board, which will make joint recommendations about how funding is spent for appropriate sign off.</li> </ol>			
<p><b>Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:</b>                  That Cabinet:</p>			

1. Approve the acceptance of the allocated funding of £1,079,426 for 2021/22 to deliver the statutory duties of the Domestic Abuse Bill.
2. Approve the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and a Collaborative Commissioning Board to make joint recommendations on use of the funding to commission Domestic Abuse Services in accordance with the decision pathway process.
3. Authorises the Executive Director People in consultation with Cabinet Member Communities and Public Health and the Director of Communities and Public Health to spend the funding in accordance with the recommendations of the Collaborative Commissioning Board and take all steps necessary to procure and award contracts to meet the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Bill.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

1. **Wellbeing** – Embed health in all our policies to improve physical & mental health and wellbeing, reducing inequalities and the demand for acute services.
2. **Empowering and Caring** – Prioritise community development and enable people to support their community. The commission emphasises that domestic abuse and sexual violence are everybody’s business and includes commitments to empower communities and local businesses to take steps to prevent and respond to abuse.
3. **The One City Plan** contains the goal that by 2049, “Bristol will be a city free from domestic abuse and gender inequality.”

**City Benefits:**

1. Funding allocated to deliver the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Bill will enable the city to embed and expand its response to prevention and facilitate clear support pathways for those experiencing domestic violence making the city a more caring and safer place to live and bring up children.
2. The requirements of the DA bill will ensure we have a sustainable partnership model that will enable the city to embrace system change and work effectively together to prevent and respond to domestic abuse.

**Consultation Details:**

1. Bristol City Council submitted a response to a Government consultation about the allocation of the DA Bill funding. Bristol City Council specifically requested that deprivation be considered in the allocation formula- this was a successful addition to the final formula and will have increased the Bristol allocation.
2. Organisations who participated in the Mayoral Commission workshops included Bristol City Council, North Bristol NHS Trust, University Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS Trust, Avon and Somerset Police, Probation Services, Next Link Housing, SARSAS (Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support), Bristol Women’s Commission, Galop, Womankind, Kinergy, Beloved, Shelter, and IRISi. The resulting recommendations will be incorporated in any decision around spend of the DA funding allocation.

**Background Documents:**

1. [Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21](#)
2. [Re-Procurement of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services Contracts](#)
3. [The Economic and Social Costs of Domestic Abuse \(Home Office, January 2019\)](#)
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/funding-allocation-methods-new-domestic-abuse-duty>

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£N/A	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	N/A
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£N/A	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	N/A
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**

**1. Finance Advice:** The Domestic Abuse Bill currently before Parliament includes a new duty relating to the provision of support to victims and their children within safe accommodation, placing requirements on authorities (across England to appoint a local partnership board, prepare and publish strategies based on robust needs assessments and give effect to these strategies. Bristol City Council has been allocated £,1079,426 in funding to deliver these new and important responsibilities which will come into force in 2021.

**Finance Business Partner Denise Hunt 24 February 2021.**

**2. Legal Advice:** The Domestic Abuse Bill requires local authorities to publish and implement a strategy for the provision of domestic abuse support and appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board to advise it on the strategy. The Bill also provides that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse will automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance. The procurement process to spend the funding must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

**Legal Team Leader:** Sarah Sharland/Husinara Jones, 25/2/2021

**3. HR Advice:** There are no significant HR implications for Bristol City Council employees in relation to this report

**HR Partner: Lorna Laing 24/02/21**

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Jacqui Jensen Executive Director	1 March 2021
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Councillor Asher Craig	24 February 2021
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	1 March 2021

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>