

**Domestic Abuse Support Briefing Paper**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Lucy Harrison, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Community and Housing Services
Report Author: Judith Willis	Job Title: Head of Community and Housing Services Contact email: Judith.willis@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.ukl
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:-**

- 1) The report be noted.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the July meeting of the RBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members asked to receive a paper on the support that Council offers to third sector organisations in the Borough, particularly to those providing support to victims (or helping to prevent the occurrence) of domestic violence. This included the funding streams that are made available to these organisations, and Council involvement in any partnership projects with such organisations.

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 This paper sets out all the support that is provided to support residents that are affected by domestic abuse and services that aim to prevent domestic abuse. The information is included below in Appendix 1 to the report.

**4. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Domestic Abuse Prevention Grants in 2023-24 - table.

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## Appendix 1

The table below set out the source of funding, provider of the service, Service title, the grant amount received in 2023/24 (unless otherwise stated) and a description of the service:

<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant amount</b>	<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Geographical area</b>
<b>Homelessness Prevention Grant</b>	<b>Redditch Night stop</b>	Safe Accommodation and Support (16-21 year olds). Floating support (21-35 year olds)	<b>£23,217.00</b>	Redditch Nightstop is a homelessness prevention charity supporting 16 to 35 year-olds to secure safe accommodation and develop skills to maintain their tenancies, engage with their local community, improve health and wellbeing and be financially independent, avoiding cyclical homelessness including victims/survivors of domestic abuse.	Redditch Borough
<b>Homelessness Prevention Grant</b>	<b>St Basils</b>	Young Person Pathway Worker Smallwood Almshouses	<b>£18,742.00</b>	St Basil's provides 24 hour supported accommodation for vulnerable, homeless young people, aged 16 - 24 years of age, as well as the support provision for 16 young families accommodated at Smallwood Almshouses including those who are victims/survivors of domestic abuse.	Redditch Borough

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<b>Homelessness Prevention Grant</b>	<b>Newstarts</b>	Preventing and alleviating homelessness through the provision of free pre-loved furniture	<b>£5,000.00</b>	NewStarts provide clients who are homelessness or in temporary accommodation due to domestic abuse free household items when they secure permanent accommodation. As well as the provision of free items they also offer debt and budgeting advice to ensure that individuals are best equipped to manage their finances.	Redditch Borough
<b>Homelessness Prevention Grant</b>	<b>Citizens Advice Bromsgrove and Redditch</b>	Targeted Debt Intervention	<b>£8,167.00</b>	Targeted debt relief advice for clients who are at risk of homelessness including victims/survivors of domestic abuse.	Redditch Borough
<b>Homelessness Prevention Grant</b>	<b>Batchley Support Group</b>	Homeless Support Co-ordinator (part time post)	<b>£5,000.00</b>	Batchley Support Group offer tenancy support to clients across the borough to support them in maintaining their tenancy as well providing food to clients on low or no income and access to shower and laundry facilities. They work with victims of domestic abuse as well as with perpetrators and are registered as a Safe House with Worcester County Council and follow their protocols for dealing with / supporting victims.	Redditch Borough

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<b>Redditch Borough Council</b>	<b>The Redditch Borough Council Community Safety Team</b>	Through officer time and co-ordination provides direct support to victims and survivors of DA by providing Sanctuary and Safe Accommodation Security Assessments to properties	<b>Officer Time</b>	Through officer time and co-ordination provides direct support to victims and survivors of DA by providing Sanctuary and Safe Accommodation Security Assessments to properties, <u>MARAC</u> co-ordination and providing advice and guidance to other council service areas crime risk and victim support measures.	Redditch Borough
<b>Redditch Borough Council</b>	<b>Starting Well</b>	Provides access to Worcestershire Reducing Parental Conflict Service	<b>Via Starting Well contract</b>	The service offers 4-6 bespoke sessions with both parents, in line with the Harmony at Home toolkit to support parents in reducing conflict in order to build healthy and happy family units. These sessions may be in the home, in a community venue or virtually. It recognises at times how challenging parenting can be, and the need to support parents to prevent the breakdown of relationships, this may include parents who are married, separating, co-parenting or divorced.	Redditch Borough

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<p><b>Through the Council's Grants to voluntary bodies scheme the following VCS organisation have been funded over the last 5 years</b></p>	<p><b>Old Needle Works</b></p>	<p>Parenting Provision, problem solving parents, Moving on Project.</p>	<p><b>£16,255.00</b></p>	<p>The Old Needle works is a wellbeing centre, with a focus on positive mental health. It aims to help people feel emotionally well, enjoy their lives, and reach their full potential. 1-2-1 sessions and support groups, use a trauma informed approach and evidence-based interventions to help people heal from early life experiences. The service works with children, young people and adults so that they can break free from their past and self-limiting beliefs, to live to their potential. by emailing us at <a href="mailto:info@theoldneedleworks.co.uk">info@theoldneedleworks.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Redditch Borough</p>
<p><b>Through the Council's Grants to voluntary bodies scheme the following VCS organisation have been funded over the last 5 years</b></p>	<p><b>Batchley Support Group</b></p>	<p>Safe Space</p>	<p><b>£7,415.00</b></p>	<p>The Group provides a space in their Centre for anyone experiencing domestic abuse. It can be isolating and difficult to find support or think about options. As a consequence UK SAYS NO MORE created Safe Spaces. Batchley Support Group provide this service at their Centre on Salters Lane. It provides a safe and discreet way to reach out to friends and family, and contact specialist support</p>	<p>Redditch Borough</p>

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				services in a private room with trained workers.	
<p><b>Through the Council's Grants to voluntary bodies scheme the following VCS organisation have been funded over the last 5 years</b></p>	<p><b>Sandycroft</b></p>	<p>The Sandycroft Centre offers an array of support services and education opportunities.</p>	<p><b>£6,500.00</b></p>	<p>The Sandycroft Centre offers an array of support services and education opportunities. Primary activities are Counselling, Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing Support, Domestic Abuse Specialist Services and Programmes, Family Support, Education &amp; Training as well as being a hate Crime Reporting Centre.</p>	<p>Redditch Borough</p>
<p><b>Through the Council's Grants to voluntary bodies scheme the following VCS organisation have been funded over the last 5 years</b></p>	<p><b>Home-Start North East Worcestershire</b></p>	<p>Home-start offer support to families who are struggling to cope.</p>	<p><b>£10,000.00</b></p>	<p>Home-start offer support to families who are struggling to cope. It provides support parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, debt, housing issues, domestic abuse, depression &amp; other mental health issues, alcohol &amp; substance abuse, multiple birth, illness, disability, learning difficulties or just finding parenting a struggle. Services offered are Home-visiting Support, Family Groups, Mums In Mind (PND Group), Circle of Security, Pre- Birth Teen Service, Baby Massage, Weaning, Freedom Programme</p>	<p>Redditch Borough</p>

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				(Domestic Abuse), SNAPS (Disability Support) and remote support.	
<b>Department for Leveling Up, Housing &amp; Communities (DLUHC)</b>	<b>West Mercia Women's Aid</b>	Domestic Abuse Advice and Support Service	<b>637,000</b>	Domestic Abuse Advice and Support Service (including refuge and trauma informed support to children)	County Wide
<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Social Care</b>	Worcestershire County Council Social Worker	<b>52,892</b>	Adults with health and care needs. Enhanced Domestic Abuse and housing support.	County Wide
<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Sarah Wigley Domestic Abuse Training</b>	Domestic Abuse Training	<b>£30,000.00</b>	Mandatory training to frontline social care, elected members and nominated partners.	County Wide
<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Bromsgrove Council on behalf of all Districts</b>	Worcestershire Housing Officers Group Domestic Abuse Housing Officers Support	<b>£202,000.00</b>	Worcestershire Housing Officers Group Domestic Abuse Housing Officers - Supporting the victims of DA in/into safe accommodation	County Wide
<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Lived Experience Advisory Group</b>	Advisory Group	<b>£30,000.00</b>	Understand the experience of DA Survivors and particularly those from groups with protected characteristics	County Wide
<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Worcestershire Children's First (WCF)</b>	Worcestershire Childrens First Domestic abuse element(s) of Family Safeguarding Model	<b>£150,000.00</b>	WCF Domestic abuse element(s) of Family Safeguarding Model - Supporting the tripartite activity in support of families experiencing DA	County Wide

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<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council</b>	Sanctuary Scheme	<b>£97,500.00</b>	Sanctuary Scheme - Target hardening accommodation, enabling survivors of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes.	County Wide
<b>DLUHC</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council</b>	DRIVE Programme	<b>185,815</b>	DRIVE programme – Worcestershire County Council contribution to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator programme to address behaviours, reduce risk and reoffending.	County Wide
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>Victim's Advice Line</b>	Victim Advice Line	<b>£820,515</b>	For the provision of the Victim Advice Line (VAL), a team of expert and fully trained Victim Care Coordinators helping victims of crime to cope and recover, regardless of whether they have reported to Police or not. The victim may then be referred onto other specialist services, dependent on the level of support they need. This type of model is being seen as best practice and a flagship across the country in delivering support to victims	West Mercia Wide
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>Victim Support</b>	Helping victims of crime in West Mercia	<b>£481, 474.00</b>	Helping victims of crime in West Mercia to cope and recover and delivering a restorative justice (RJ) service by bringing those	West Mercia Wide



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				that have been harmed by crime, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing harm and finding a positive way forward. The funding includes provision for 1 x 0.8 FTE Modern Slavery and Human trafficking worker, who will specialise in MSHT referrals, working with victims to identify and manage their support needs, and support with information, guidance and advice on the National Referral Mechanism	
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>West Mercia Rape &amp; Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRASAC)</b>	Support victims of sexual abuse/violence.	<b>£1,530,959.00</b>	Support victims of sexual abuse/violence. This grant maintains the current key frontline Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA), Male ISVA, Family ISVA and Children & Young Peoples (CHISVA) service provision within WMRSASC and to support continued delivery of the SELFIE training and awareness raising programme. This funding includes £100,000 to provide	West Mercia Wide

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				immediate crisis support to reduce and reopen the counselling waiting list which was closed in June 2021.	
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>West Mercia Rape &amp; Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRASAC)</b>	To provide specialist Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) support	<b>£305,000.00</b>	To provide specialist Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) support – the Branch and Purple Leaf Projects provide education, intervention and support to children and young people (CYP) who are at risk of or have been a victim of CSE in Worcestershire, Shropshire, and Herefordshire.	West Mercia Wide
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>NHS England SARS</b>	Regional CYP Sexual Assault & Referral Service (SARS)	<b>£155,161.00</b>	To provide the Regional CYP Sexual Assault & Referral Service (SARS) which is a region-wide service providing expert care for children and young people who have disclosed sexual assault, or who may have been subject to sexual abuse. Clients are seen by an experienced paediatrician with specialist training in forensic examination and are supported by a crisis worker	West Mercia Wide

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<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA)</b>	IDVA Contract - For the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service	<b>£1,081,259.00</b>	IDVA Contract - For the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service: IDVAs represent an accredited and co-ordinated response to standardise and support the delivery of advocacy services for victims of domestic violence. Serving as a victim's primary point of contact, IDVAs normally work with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans. IDVAs usually work with cases deemed to be at high risk of harm or	West Mercia Wide
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA)</b>	Children and Young People's service.	<b>£41,200.00</b>	Grant pays for a Children and Young People's service to engage with those between the ages of 5-13 who are identified as at risk of suffering significant negative outcomes as a result of domestic abuse within their family/home environment. Age-appropriate activities promote knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse and its impact on children and young people and	West Mercia Wide

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				help them to understand how to avoid or conclude unhealthy relationships themselves. The Project Worker will also visit schools, raising awareness of domestic abuse with both staff and pupils.	
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>DRIVE Herefordshire &amp; Worcestershire</b>	DRIVE is a RESPECT accredited high-risk perpetrator programme	<b>£579,384.00</b>	DRIVE is a RESPECT accredited high-risk perpetrator programme run in both Herefordshire and Worcestershire by Cranston which aims to reduce the number of child and adult victims of Domestic Abuse. It is a whole system approach, which uses an intensive individual case management intervention alongside a multi-agency response. Drive challenges and supports perpetrators to change their behaviour and works with partner agencies (like the police and social services) to disrupt abuse. This funding is made up of contributions from the PCC and other partner agencies.	West Mercia Wide

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<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>Victim Advice Line (VAL)</b>	Advice Line	<b>£33,250.00</b>	for the Domestic Abuse proactive intervention project, to enhance the existing VAL provision and increase the opportunities to proactively reach out to DA victims and survivors who have not been referred for support and provide them with a point of contact through their cope and recovery and criminal justice journeys.	West Mercia Wide
<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>Additional MoJ Funding</b>	The OPCC was awarded £677,613 per annum over the next 3 years (£2,032,838 in total) from the MoJ to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.	<b>£677,613.00</b>	The OPCC was awarded £677,613 per annum over the next 3 years (£2,032,838 in total) from the MoJ to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. The funding was apportioned as follows:-  <b>Victims Advice Line</b> £12,500 <b>AXIS</b> - £223,054 <b>Connexus</b> - £30,448 <b>Worcester Community Trust</b> - £43,772 <b>WMRASAC</b> - £293,327 <b>WMWA</b> - £74,484	West Mercia Wide

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<b>West Mercia Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	<b>DRIVE Programme</b>	Two DA Support Officers	<b>£63,740.00</b>	for to provide support to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel in Worcestershire and Herefordshire as part of the DRIVE project	Worcestershire and Herefordshire
<b>Worcestershire Community Foundation</b>	<b>Worcestershire Community Foundation</b>	Support to DA survivors and Victims.	<b>£90,000.00</b>	have allocated £90,000 of grants to local organisations, some of which are projects to support DA survivors and Victims. Sandycroft are included in the latest round of successful allocations here: - <u>15 grassroot organisations receive share of £90,000 - Worcestershire Community Foundation (worcscf.org.uk)</u>	Worcestershire wide
<b>North Worcestershire Community Safegey Partnership (CSP)</b>	<b>North Worcestershire CSP</b>	Respect Mentoring Programme, Youth Outreach and Detached Youthwork	<b>£17,000.00</b>	Provides £17,000 of funding for projects to young people via the Respect Mentoring Programme, Youth Outreach and Detached Youthwork some of which provides support and guidance to young people involved in unhealthy relationships either as victims or perpetrators.	North Worcestershire wide

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<b>North Worcestershire CSP</b>	<b>North Worcestershire CSP</b>	Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)	<b>£20,000</b>	The Partnership also funds the statutory Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process at £20,000 per year to carry out independent reviews into cases where a death may have a link to Domestic Abuse	North Worcestershire Wide

Judith Willis

Head of Community & Housing Services