

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee - 22 June 2021

Subject: Domestic Violence and Abuse Funding

Report of: Strategic Director – Neighbourhoods

Summary

This report sets out the current funding arrangement for Domestic Violence and Abuse services across Manchester. It highlights in particular new investments that the council is making in 2021/22 to help further support victims and children and tackle perpetrator behaviour.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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1. Background

- 1.1. This paper sets out council funding for services specifically focused on domestic violence and abuse (DV&A). This focus distinguishes them, from a budget perspective, from wider council services like social care. In turn, council services – D&VA focused or otherwise – form part of a much wider set of community and public services that engage with victims and children. All of these play a key role in supporting victims and children, and in holding perpetrators to account.
- 1.2. Nationally and locally, it has been acknowledged that funding provision for DV&A services has historically been piecemeal and short term in nature. There are however changes taking place in Manchester. Three in particular are highlighted here.
- 1.3. First, over the last year, council officers have been engaging with victims and stakeholders across the city to refresh the Manchester Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy. As part of this work, current commissioned services and funding arrangements have been reviewed and the strategy will be used to inform future commissioning intentions. The strategy will have implications much wider than DV&A specific services - a consistent theme in stakeholders' feedback is that a combined effort is needed across services, communities, residents and businesses both to better support victims and also to change harmful attitudes and behaviours, preventing future abuse. The refreshed strategy will be considered at the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny later this year
- 1.4. Second, on 29 April 2021, the new Domestic Abuse Act passed into law. This places several additional statutory duties on Local Authorities including:
 - explicitly recognising children as victims if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.
 - establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and sets out the Commissioner's functions and powers.
 - placing a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.
 - provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance.
- 1.5. Third, Manchester City Council has been successful in securing additional funding streams including the New Burdens Funding detailed below.

2. Overview of funded services and new investment for 2021/22

- 2.1. In total the council funds £2,268,305 in 2021/22 for DV&A services, which includes contributions from Manchester Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Community Safety Partnership. In addition to this, it has recently been confirmed that the council will receive a

further £1,652,996 from central government in relation to new burdens funding, which is discussed further in section 3. This brings the total budget available for DV&A services in 2021/22 to £3,921,301.

- 2.2. Table 1 below breaks down the different sources of funding for DV&A services, which are varied and comprise different budgets within the council as well as funding from wider sources including central government, GMCA, joint funded services with the CCG and Community Safety Partnership grants.

Table 1: Funding sources for DV&A services

Funding Source	Annual Amount
Additional New Burdens Funding (see section 3)	£1,652,996
Adults commissioning budget	£1,152,971
New MCC investment (see below)	£433,427
MHCC (CCG)	£325,164
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	£107,226
Population Health	£19,517
Covid Recovery Funding	£50,000
DA Capacity Building funding	£50,000
Community Safety Partnership	£30,000
Total	£3,921,301

- 2.3. Appendix 1 then sets out the services that are commissioned with these funds, which include in-house (i.e., council delivered) services, and externally provided services.
- 2.4. There are a few points to highlight in relation to 2021/22 with regards to these services. Most notably, the council has funded three-year investment of just under £1,000,000 for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 which is being used to fund three new services:
- the Children’s Society have been commissioned to deliver a suite of direct interventions offering a safe level of support to children and young people who are, or have suffered, domestic violence and abuse. These are delivered through a bespoke support package tailored to a child’s needs and comprise activities such as therapeutic one-to-one counselling, group work sessions, sand, play or art therapy based on the child’s root and presenting issues. This work supports the Strive and Encompass work so that there is an offer for those children and young people that are identified through this work.
 - Talk Listen Change have been commissioned to deliver a range of behaviour change interventions to support both adults without children and families at an early stage to address domestic abuse that would support the Safe and Together work that has been introduced in Children's Social Care. This includes an increased provision of perpetrator programmes, to include

perpetrators where English is not the first language, same sex relationships, both male and female perpetrators and delivers a whole family approach to DV&A work. This contract enhances the current offer of perpetrator work to include an increased provision of service to couples and adults without children.

- In addition, a new service has been commissioned from Talk Listen Change that focuses on providing support and interventions for children and young people who display violent and abusive behaviours towards their parent/s. The service is underpinned by the key principles of early intervention and prevention, developing resilience and partnership working.

2.5. Additionally, Manchester is also participating in the national roll out of the Drive programme in the South of the City. Drive is the Home Office recommended approach for high-risk high harm perpetrator work and follows a specified model using the Respect accredited standard. This programme of work cost £50,000 for one year and came out of 2020/21 funding. It runs from December 2020 to December 2021.

2.6. A further development is that Manchester CCG has confirmed that they will continue to fund the IRIS service for a further three years. The IRIS service offers training for GPs and the practice nursing team in each practice by specialist domestic abuse workers called IRIS Advocate Educators (AEs) who are employed by Manchester Women's Aid. IRIS Advocate Educators both co-train GPs and nursing team in how to spot and refer instances of DV&A, as well as offering a specialist service to patients who are referred through the IRIS service

3. Further New Burdens funding

3.1. In addition to the funding highlighted above, the new Domestic Abuse Act places a new duty on local authorities to provide support to victims in refuges and other safe accommodation.

3.2. In order to support local authorities in delivering this new duty, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has established a New Burdens Funding pot, of which Manchester is due to receive £1,652,996 for 2021/22. The funding is guaranteed for three years, but funding allocations for 2022/23 and 2023/24 have not yet been set.

3.3. A working group of officers from across homelessness and domestic abuse services are currently developing proposals for how this funding is spent. This has included working with current providers and in-house services to develop new service offers, as well as establishing monitoring and oversight for the programme of work.

3.4. Proposals are still in development but have been designed to deliver a coordinated Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation Pathway. This will enable a holistic view of individuals' needs and for the provision of support across their

recovery journey. As well as allowing for integrated assessment linked to a range of housing and support options, the pathway will also ensure that individuals are supported with recovery and move on. There are three elements to the proposed pathway:

- Integrated specialist front door and support planning: this will include specialist DV&A Advisors within the Housing Solutions Team to assist with accommodation and support planning.
- Enhanced safe accommodation and support offer: this will include additional recovery support and capacity to be delivered in refuges, sanctuary support, a dedicated children's offer, and specialist support services to support individuals with protected characteristics, including our LGBT Accommodation Project. A key element of this provision will be a new floating support service to work with individuals and families in dispersed temporary accommodation. This service will provide a full range of housing related support alongside specialist DV&A therapeutic interventions.
- Move on and recovery: this will include a Private Rented Sector offer and resettlement support to work with individuals and families as they move into independent accommodation.

3.5. In addition to the support outlined above, funding will be utilised to create Project Management capacity. This role will oversee monitoring and reporting to MHCLG and the new Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, as well as supporting commissioners in monitoring and evaluation of new services and contributing towards the development of Manchester's Needs Assessment. The role will also include providing evaluation support to commissioners to make recommendations for future spend.

3.6. There will be a training programme for internal and external partners to explain the details of the new Act, and how it relates to their service, and a session will be held for Elected Members to attend.

3.7. In addition to New Burdens funding Manchester is also developing a bid for an MHCLG funded 'Respite Room', which will deliver a safe, single gender space with intensive, trauma informed support for vulnerable female rough sleepers with a history of sexual violence or DV&A. If successful, this service would complement New Burdens funded services by providing a specialist service for women who do not traditionally access traditional services such as refuge. Decisions on bids will be made in July with successful services commencing delivery in October 2021.

4. Funding in light of the emerging strategy

4.1. Nationally and locally, it has been acknowledged that funding provision for DV&A services has been often piecemeal and short term in nature. Both the LGA (Local Government Association), and the recent Manchester strategy consultation, highlighted that many services are often funded via small-scale and short-term

grants. This has the dual impact of making it difficult for commissioners and providers to plan long term interventions, whilst also meaning that the funding which is allocated tends to be smaller scale and short term in nature, creating additional challenges in measuring the effectiveness of the interventions.

- 4.2. Considering this national and local context, the recent funding secured by Manchester has been a positive and welcome achievement. In addition to this, our partners in the CCG have been able to commit a further 3 years funding to the IRIS project, despite uncertainties regarding their future organisational structure.
- 4.3. Decisions on how DV&A funding is used going forward will be informed by the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Refresh. During consultation on the Strategy, stakeholders highlighted the need to review how available funding is used and the need for clear partnership targets and outcomes to be achieved. Considering this request, the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group have agreed to the creation of a dedicated Task and Finish group to explore the options for integrated funding and smart, measurable and achievable targets.
- 4.4. Another emerging key priority, emanating from discussions with stakeholders, is how we ensure that key frontline services and providers are adequately funded. This priority must be balanced against the need to ensure mainstream public services (i.e., Frontline staff who are not specialist DV&A services) across the city are trained and equipped to spot signs of abuse early and know how to provide effective initial help. A key aim of the new strategy will be to work with such services, alongside schools, colleges and universities to support them in helping to prevent abuse, intervene earlier and change attitudes.