

Service specification

Priority: 1. Combatting Homelessness Strand: 1.1 Prevention and Targeted Intervention

Indicative Budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim:

Prevent homelessness through intensive support to key target groups (below), to sustain accommodation and increase individual resilience and independence. The service should also provide targeted intervention for individuals that are street homeless.

Types of service delivery we are looking for:

Tailored and targeted housing advice and support, tenancy brokerage and sustainment, particularly PRS, awareness raising and negotiation with landlords, rent deposit and bond schemes, PRS advice and support, financial hardship and debt advice, access to health services, and support to get ready for/ or into employment.

London Councils Grants Programme Principles

1. Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations.
2. Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services.
3. Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.
4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved a number of following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis (**which outcomes, depends on the client group worked with**).

Service area	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
1.1: Early intervention and prevention	<p>What we want to achieve Prevent homelessness through intensive support to key target groups (below) to sustain accommodation and increase individual resilience and independence. The service should also provide early intervention for individuals that are street homeless.</p> <p>How you will achieve this By taking early action through a range of support work with the specific target groups (below) to achieve our outcomes indicators. Typical service delivery elements may include: housing advice and support, tenancy brokerage and sustainment, particularly PRS, awareness raising and negotiation with landlords, rent deposit and bond schemes, PRS advice and support, financial hardship and debt advice, access to health services, and support to get ready for/ or into employment and peer support.</p> <p>Service models Projects should reflect the different needs relating to inner and outer London including outer London hotspots of rough sleeping, movement of people from</p>	<p>People maintain and sustain suitable accommodation</p> <p>1: Brief support and intervention work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short term accommodation • Number assisted to gain supporting documentation • Number with recovery of deposit issues resolved • Innovative housing models (outcome tbc post application?) <p>2: Intensive long term support and intervention work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of tenancies brokered • Number moving in to PRS • Number with evictions successfully averted • Number assisted to obtain suitable settled accommodation • Number assisted into shared accommodation • Number reconnected with stable family/friends accommodation • Number supported to develop a planned safe return safe home to country of origin, where appropriate • Numbers of reconnection of rough sleepers outside UK • Number of rough sleeper hotspot closures • Innovative housing models (outcome tbc post application) • %supported with one/more protected equalities characteristic (Equality Act 2010)

inner to outer London due to affordability and welfare reform, increase in temporary accommodation, accepted homeless and rough sleepers in outer London, as evidenced in a recent Homeless Link report¹.

Projects could include innovative models: working with other agencies/business to un-lock potential housing opportunities and affordable housing, securing deposits and rent in advance, creating new housing support solutions, including Housing First approaches²

Who this service should help

This service is for people aged 25 and over³, with needs that are best addressed through pan-London provision. These are target groups with either transient nature (including fleeing violence), minimal local authority connection/ low priority at local authority or with needs that are best dealt with through specialist provision to support them into accessing mainstream provision.

Priority target groups:, LGBT, mental health/ multiple

3. Work with landlords, hostels, other accommodation providers

- Number with resolved landlord/accommodation service issues affecting tenancy stability (particularly in outer London) may include harassment, abandonment and behaviour issues
- Numbers with disrepair resolved and able to maintain tenancy
- Numbers with adaptations organised and able to maintain tenancy
- Number with health and safety issues resolved and able to maintain tenancy
- Innovative housing models (outcome tbc post application?)
- Number with statutory accommodation issues resolved in collaboration with London boroughs

4: Tenancy sustainment work including improving financial resilience

- Number supported to successfully sustain tenancies/accommodation for 6 and 12 months
- Number with resolved debt, benefits and financial hardship issues
- Number with increased knowledge of housing options
- Number with increased budgeting/money management skills

People gain greater personal resilience

- Number with improved physical health
- Number with improved mental health
- Number maintaining substance misuse programme

¹Evidencing changes in Homeless Need in London, Homeless Link, 2016,

²This pilot model provides open-ended support within a harm-reduction framework. Housing is provided immediately and support made available using a client-led approach, enabling service users to exercise choice and control. A recent evaluation of nine Housing First services, including five London-based pilots, suggested positive outcomes in terms of sustained housing and improved physical and mental health. Bretherton J. & Pleace, N. (2015) Housing First in England

³ Refer to service 1.2 for younger adults.

	<p>complex issues (including drug and alcohol, personality disorders), EEA⁴ (in particular CEE⁵) nationals, No Recourse to Public Funds</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>Low income, unemployed, offender/ex-offenders, BAME, disabled (including mental health and learning disabilities), street homeless (including encampments and hotspots), rough sleepers, hidden homeless/those in unsuitable accommodation, women affected by sexual and domestic violence (for example via priority 2), trafficked women , those disproportionately affected by benefit changes such as large families and under 35's, older people 65+.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number with improved life skills (can include independent living and be measured through distance travelled tool) <p>People become employment-ready or are employed*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number with increased employability skills (inc.apprenticeships) • Number successfully obtaining employment for six months • Number successfully obtaining a training opportunity (accredited) • Number successfully obtaining an education opportunity for six months • Number successfully obtaining work placements, volunteering opportunities <p>*(intensive support expected e.g. 12 or more hours)</p> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers referred successfully onto a Priority 3 project or similar employment project.
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⁴ EU countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK. The EEA also includes Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Switzerland is neither an EU nor EEA member but is part of the single market and therefore Swiss nationals have the same rights to live and work in the UK as other EEA nationals.

⁵ CEE is Central and Eastern European – represent high levels of rough sleepers in London (Bulgaria , Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Czech republic, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia)

Specific requirements of this strand:

- For services working with street homeless, to work with the GLA's Routes Home service where relevant.
- Have a demonstrable track record of working collaboratively with boroughs and other statutory and voluntary agencies
- Provide access and provision to all parts of London but not limited to building based activities – satellite provision and outreach encouraged
- Demonstrate significant and appropriate borough links and partnerships and in particular, experience of delivering services to people from outer London boroughs with links to local service providers
- Work within and encourage a multi-agency approach, ensuring effective links to local service provision and thereby reducing the pressure on public services
- Have a demonstrable track record of providing specialist not generic service delivery (where applicable to service outcomes), for example employability outcomes
- Work to deliver non-statutory services which add value to and do not duplicate existing local provision (but when this is not possible engage fully and cooperatively with boroughs if a statutory duty is owed)
- Work to support providers in Priority 2 that work with victims of sexual and domestic violence, many of which require housing advice and support b) work with providers in Priority 3 under our ESF funded programme to improve the employability and skills of unemployed and economically inactive people (where this is not delivered in-house or by a more suitable external provider).

Needs analysis

Services that prevent homelessness and support homeless people/households to move on to stable lifestyles, accommodation and employment are required in London. Multiple complex needs for this group are continuing to rise and require longer term intensive support. Closer partnership work with boroughs is needed through this funding, as the demand for these types of homelessness services and crisis intervention is already apparent as shown below. Homelessness statistics for London show the following:

Rough sleepers

- 7,580 people were recorded as rough sleeping in London in 2014/15, the highest number since data started being recorded. Recent figures show 8,096 people slept rough in London during 2015-16 and 5,276 new rough sleepers during the year.
- Most rough sleepers in 2014/15 were aged between 26 and 55 (12% were aged under 26 and 9% were aged over 55). The vast majority were men (86%). Nearly half were assessed to have a mental health need (45%), 41% had problems with alcohol and 31% with drugs; 28% had none of these support needs. There has also been a considerable increase in non-UK nationals sleeping rough in London from 1,700 in 2009/10 to 3,210 in 2014/15 (including a rise of 270 in the last year). 36% were from Central and Eastern European countries, In the last year the number rose by 700; likely to be linked to Housing Benefit restrictions for European Economic Area (EEA) migrants. 3% of London rough sleepers are UK nationals with experience of the Armed Forces
- CHAIN data indicates the increase in overall rough sleeping has been higher in outer London (34%) than inner London areas (13%)

- Many rough sleepers in London have experienced the care system (9%) and prison (33%).

Borough services

- 48,000 households live in temporary accommodation in London (three times higher than the rest of England put together), figures provisionally show a rise to nearly 51,000 for the end of 2015
- In 2014/15 4,800 households in London were found to be unintentionally homeless but not in priority need; 1,785 inner London borough and 3,082 in outer London
- In 2013 the majority of homelessness applications (66.5%) were made in outer London boroughs. In 2015 the division of applications was inner London 37.5% and outer London 62.5%.

Welfare reform

- In 2015, 10,500 families were affected by the overall benefit cap including 2,400 losing more than £100 per week. If the cap is lowered as planned, they will lose another £58 a week and a further 20,000 families will be affected
- 68 out of London's 70 LHA rates will be set below the 30th percentile rent levels in 2015-16
- In-work LHA claimants now outnumber out-of-work LHA claimants in London. As of August 2015, 58.3 per cent of London households in receipt of LHA were in employment. There has also been a shift from inner to outer London in caseloads
- Most cap-affected households in London were larger families and/or lived in a high-rent area , (the Benefit Cap affects larger families and these are disproportionately likely to be BAME)
- Low-income households living in the outer boroughs continue to grow and currently stand at 60%

Private Rented Sector

- In 2014/15 there were 27,000 landlord possession orders (permitting landlords to immediately evict tenants). This rate is more than double the rest of England. The highest rates were in Outer London with Enfield, Redbridge and Croydon all over 25 per 1,000. This rise in accelerated possession orders has been much greater in London where they now account for 58% of all landlord possession orders compared to 33% in the rest of England.
- In 2009/10, 930 households became homeless when a shorthold tenancy ended, 10% of the total. Since then the number becoming homeless for this reason is 7 times higher at 6,790 and is now the most common reason accounting for 39% of all homelessness acceptances provisionally 40% in 2015

Multiple needs

- 76% of homelessness accommodation projects have had to refuse access to clients whose needs were too high for the project to manage
- Some of the biggest gaps in provision for substance misuse treatment are around housing support, and services for people facing a 'dual diagnosis' or complex needs
- There has been a growth in use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) among those facing multiple and complex needs
- 46% of users of homelessness crisis services report an offending history with 79% of prisoners who were homeless before custody reoffending within a year after release
- 80% of homeless people reported some form of mental health issue (diagnosed or undiagnosed)

Employment

- People who experience single homelessness are known to be very likely to be unemployed before, during and after their homelessness
- Ethnic minorities experience disadvantage in employment in every borough in London, the rate of unemployment for BAME Londoners although improved in recent years remains high at 9.2% in 2015, double that of white Londoners (4.4%) and people from BAME communities are 2-3 times more likely to end up homeless

Promoting equality

Applicants will be asked how they will ensure their project addresses the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

The provision of effective and robust homelessness services both supports and promotes equality. Homeless people and those at risk of homelessness often experience multiple exclusions in a range of areas such as access to health, welfare and employment options.

This service will particularly benefit BAME people and non-UK nationals. The recent Homeless Link report commissioned by London Councils stated, “The proposed reduction in the Benefit Cap is likely to disproportionately impact on larger BAME and refugee families”.⁶ In addition, there is also a significant group of ‘hidden’ homeless people including women and older people who may not access statutory services or are not classified as being in priority need. LGBT people may also not be present in high enough numbers to be a local priority. Specialist needs of particular groups of people and the difficulties they currently experience in accessing mainstream provision should be addressed. Provision of specialised services addressing specific community, cultural and minority needs should only be provided where these services are not viable or being provided at a local level. This will need to be demonstrated through close partnership working with borough officers.

Race

BAME people are over-represented among London’s homeless population with over half of London’s rough sleepers being non-UK nationals. They are more likely to face complex problems and additional barriers in accessing appropriate services than other homeless people. Services should be accessible and be able to address the specific needs of groups such as ROMA, Latin American people and refugees.

Age

Research found that two thirds of older people had never been homeless before, and 50% did not seek advice when threatened with homelessness. A combination of events such as bereavement, ill health, debt and problems with landlords can lead to increased housing instability for this group which preventative services could address.⁷ . Older LGBT people face great inequality of access in relation to social care and wider provision. Often they fear and experience the dual discrimination of ageism and homophobia, often compounded by further discrimination.

Sex

Many women are currently losing their jobs due to disability related illness and losing Disability Living Allowance under new capability to work rules. Crisis report 63% of homeless women aged between 30 and 49 singled out domestic abuse as the key reason why they had lost their homes. A lack of safe and stable accommodation may be a barrier to people particularly women leaving prison. Homeless Link’s 2015 research

⁶ Evidencing Changing Homelessness in London, Homeless Link 2016

⁷ Causes of homelessness among older people, Sheffield Institute of Studies on Ageing (SISA) 2004

briefing notes that around 30% of people using homeless accommodation services are women. This increases to 46% in youth homelessness services, of which 5% are pregnant or young parents. These figures are likely to be an under-representation as women are more likely to be hidden homeless than men.⁸

Sexual orientation

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people may not be considered as a local priority because they may not exist in high numbers in certain localities and they may need to travel to other boroughs if they are fleeing harassment or abuse. Many LGBT people do not approach mainstream advice services for fear that they may face homophobia, biphobia or transphobia or that the workers may not understand their full situation.

Gender reassignment

Transgender people may not be considered as a local priority because they may not exist in high numbers in certain localities and may need to travel to other boroughs if fleeing harassment or abuse. Transgender people have much higher incidents of suicide, homelessness and poverty than many other communities due to the issues they face.

Disability

The poverty, inequality, discrimination and exclusion experienced by the majority of London's 1.4 million Deaf and disabled population mean that Deaf/disabled people are more reliant on welfare benefits and legal aid and statutory and voluntary services such as social housing. There is a reported issue of disabled people living in social housing living in unsuitable accommodation.

Pan London and complementing local and regional provision

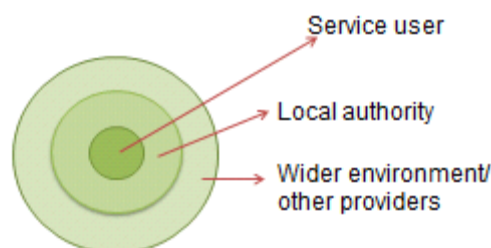
London Councils is a membership organisation whose members are the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation. One of the key principles of the Grants Programme is services that are best delivered at a pan-London level and services that best complement local provision. A set of indicative levels of service per borough is contained at the end of this specification.

Applications to work with rough sleepers would be expected to address the increased distribution of rough sleeping in outer London where the share increased between 2013 and 2015 - from 24% - 28% and the greater number of rough sleeping hotspots in this part of London (Source: CHAIN data, Homeless Link Evidencing change in homelessness Needs in London 2016). In particular, services should work with hotspots and encampments in outer London. Applications proposing to work with landlords should address the higher proportion of landlord repossessions in outer London through services to both landlords and tenants.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.

⁸ Homeless Link (as above)



Value for money

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate that their project offers value for money in the application and in the monitoring of the project.

Context: policy and other funding

The new Housing and Planning Act gained Royal Assent on 12 May 2016. In a recent London Councils briefing officers have outlined concerns that aspects of the Housing and Planning Act may limit borough's ability to deliver the homes that the capital needs. Wider policy changes including welfare reform, mental health care provision, the introduction of the Care Act 2014 and the changes across the criminal justice system (Transforming Rehabilitation or TR) continue to have impacts on the homelessness sector, services should be flexible and be able to adapt to the impact of these policy changes. The recent referendum on EU membership may lead to changes in the economy, migration and in legal frameworks, commissions would also need to be flexible to adapt to new emerging need relating to this. Following the recent change in London Mayor it is anticipated that the GLA activities in this area could be subject to change. Commissions are also expected to be flexible to adapt to the impact of this.

Timetable

Application round	
Assessment	
Grants Committee Decision	
Finalising grant agreement	
New commission starts	

Governance, monitoring and reporting

Successful commissions will be assigned to a Priority Manager/ Performance Manager at London Councils, who will review submissions from the commission and carry out monitoring visits. A grant agreement will be drawn up based on the application.

The commission is expected to submit annual audited accounts, quarterly and annual returns and respond to other ad hoc queries. Monitoring requirements can include an extensive reporting excel database, progress report and case studies, monitoring visits. Officers will monitor the project based on the funding agreement and information provided in the application form.

A Red, Amber Green (RAG) score will be drawn up each quarter and this will be reported to the Grants Committee, along with any particular relevant issues. Continued funding is based on successful performance, adherence to grant conditions and London Councils annual budget setting. Applicants should ensure they provide for this within the project budget and have sufficient monitoring systems and IT capability to adhere to the requirements.

London Councils officers will report to London Councils Grants Committee on the progress of commissions.

Requirements

Applications will be assessed, and funding awarded subject to available resources (i.e. the package of applications can not total more than the budget available).

Applications will be recommended for funding based on a scoring matrix and to deliver a Pan-London service to meet the needs of protected groups.

Recommendation for funding will always be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

If you are aware that submitting an application may give rise to a potential conflict of interest please inform the London Councils. A conflict of interest maybe where you are related to a member or staff officer of London Councils or you have privileged information about the organisation that places you at an unfair advantage over other competitors in the application process.

You should be aware that the information you submit may be subject to a request for information. London Councils is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and may be required to provide information to external parties.

Partnerships

Due to the range of target groups and geographical coverage required it is anticipated that many applications will be from partnerships. London Councils funds partnerships via a lead partner, however, all partners need to be eligible for funding under the London Councils eligibility criteria. Issues relating to the partners such as delivery, financial viability and eligibility are the responsibility of the lead partner to check. Service users that access services from more than one partner should be tracked across the partnership so that they are only counted once for monitoring/reporting requirements. Payments are made to the lead partner only.

The deadline for applications and any supporting documentation is **12 noon, x September 2016.**

Borough levels of indicative service provision

The following table provides indicative levels of service delivery per borough.

Please note that indicative service delivery levels are subject to change during the course of the grant.

Officers will add a table, before the bidding process, which sets out indicative areas of service delivery per borough.

Service specification

Priority: Combatting Homelessness
Strand: 1.2 Youth homelessness

Indicative Budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim:

Prevent young people age 16-24 becoming homeless and support them to independent lives, ensuring interventions are responsive to local situations.

Types of service delivery we are looking for:

Tailored, targeted wraparound services providing access to appropriate accommodation, working with multiple agencies including health services, outreach work including schools, supported family reconnection, advice and advocacy, counselling, independent living and life/interpersonal skills training, access to education/ training and support to get ready for/ or enter into employment. Including use of youth targeted delivery tools e.g. social/digital media and technology.

London Councils Grants Programme Principles
1. Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations.
2. Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services.
3. Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.
4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved the following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis.

Service area	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
1.2: Youth homelessness	<p>What we want to achieve Prevent young people becoming homeless and support them to independent lives, ensuring interventions are responsive to local situations.</p>	<p>Young people access, sustain, remain in or return to suitable accommodation</p> <p>1: Brief support and intervention work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short term accommodation <p>2: Intensive long term support and intervention work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number supported to obtain suitable safe settled accommodation Number assisted with family mediation/reconnection leading to safe and settled reconciliation Number supported to successfully sustain suitable safe accommodation for 6 months and 1 year or more Number with resolved debt, benefits and financial hardship issues Number with increased knowledge of housing options Number with reduced sanctions Number with resolved landlord/accommodation service issues Number with one/more of the protected characteristics in the 2010 Equality Act
	<p>How you will achieve this By working with young people at an early stage through a specialist youth targeted approach to provide early action through a range of support work to achieve our outcomes: Typical service delivery elements may include: access to appropriate accommodation, working with multiple agencies including health services, outreach work including schools, supported family reconnection, advice and advocacy, counselling, independent living skills, training and access to education/ training or employment opportunities, support to get ready for/ or into employment, peer mentors. Using youth targeted delivery tools e.g. social/digital media and technology</p>	
	<p>Service models we are particularly interested in Projects could include innovative models: working</p>	<p>Young people gain greater personal resilience and independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number with improved physical health Number with improved mental health Number completing Independent living skills workshops/course (incl.

with other agencies/business to un-lock potential housing opportunities and develop economically viable housing options for young people, securing deposits and rent in advance, London Housing Allowance (LHA) top up, creating new housing support solutions such as Housing First.

Who this service should help

This services is for young people aged 18-24 whose needs are best addressed through pan-London provision, These are young people with either transient nature, minimal local authority connection/ low priority at local authority or those disproportionately affected by homelessness or with needs not easily addressed at borough level.

Young people including those with additional and complex needs, BAMER, LGBT, care leavers, gang affiliated, at risk of sexual exploitation and domestic violence, EAA migrants and refugees, hidden homeless/those in unsuitable accommodation, No Recourse to Public Funds, offender/ex-offenders.

budgeting/money management)

- Number with improved interpersonal skills (incl. behaviour, conflict and relationships)

Young people become employment ready or are employed*

- Number with increased employability skills
- Number successfully obtained employment for six months (including apprenticeships)
- Number successfully obtained a training opportunity (accredited)
- Number successfully obtained an education opportunity for six months
- Number successfully obtained work placements, volunteering opportunities

*(with intensive support expected e.g. 12 or more hours)

Or (where appropriate)

- Number successfully referred onto a Priority 3 employment projects (or similar specialist employment provision)

Specific requirements of this strand:

- Have a demonstrable track record of specialist work with this target group
- Have a demonstrable track record of working collaboratively with boroughs and other statutory and voluntary agencies
- Provide access and provision to all parts of London but not limited to building based activities – satellite provision and outreach encouraged
- Demonstrate significant and appropriate borough links and partnerships and in particular, experience of delivering services to people from outer London boroughs with links to local service providers
- Have a demonstrable track record of providing specialist not generic service delivery (where applicable to service outcomes)
- Work within and encourage a multi-agency approach, ensuring effective links to local service provision and thereby reducing the pressure on public services
- Work to deliver non-statutory services which add value to and do not duplicate existing local provision (but when this is not possible engage fully and cooperatively with boroughs if a statutory duty is owed)
- Work to support providers in Priority 2 that work with victims of sexual and domestic violence, many of which require housing advice and support b) work with providers in Priority 3 under our ESF funded programme to improve the employability and skills of unemployed and economically inactive people (or alternative employment provision (including in-house) where this is more relevant).

Needs analysis

Services that prevent homelessness and support homeless people to move on to stable accommodation, employment and lifestyle are required in London. Support enables the significant coordination of work across agencies within London and the voluntary sector to support local authorities to meet the needs of London's residents. An increased demand for homelessness services and crisis intervention is already apparent as shown below:

Homelessness statistics affecting London show the following:

- Young people are at particular risk of becoming homeless and rough sleeping among young people doubled between 2009–2014
- Nearly half of temporary accommodation residents are young people aged 16–24
- In 2014/15 13,490 young people aged 16-24 had a homelessness duty accepted accounting for a quarter of all acceptances
- More sanctions are received by younger age groups than older ones, In a typical month in 2014 8% of 16 to 24-year-olds receiving JSA were sanctioned in London, compared with 5% for 25 to 34-year-olds, and lower again for older age groups.
- LGBT young people are more likely to find themselves homeless than their non-LGBT peers and comprise up to 24% of the youth homeless population
- There is a rising proportion of young women in homelessness services compared to survey data in 2014 (46%, up 6%)
- The leading cause of homelessness continues to be parents or carers no longer willing to accommodate which rose as a causal factor from 36% in 2014 to 47%

- A large proportion of young people in homelessness services (44%) would be potentially affected by the proposed changes to end automatic entitlement for housing support for those aged 18-24.
- 57% of accommodation providers turned away young people who had no recourse to public funds and 40% of services turned away those with no local connection (24% and 25% in 2014) respectively)
- 55% of young people living in homelessness accommodation have complex needs and 34% have mental health issues (23% in 2014)
- Local authorities report both the availability of shared accommodation and relationships developed to let to young people with private landlords has decreased
- There are concerning levels of rough sleeping and sofa surfing reported by young people and declines in official statutory homelessness may have been offset by increases in other forms of homelessness
- Young people (aged 16-24) have the highest poverty rate of all adults and are over three times more likely to be unemployed (14% of young adults)

Promoting equality

Applicants will be asked how they will ensure their project addresses the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

The provision of effective and robust homelessness services both supports and promotes equality. Homeless people and those at risk of homelessness often experience multiple exclusions in a range of areas such as access to health, welfare and employment options.

Specialist needs of particular groups of young people and the difficulties they currently experience in accessing mainstream provision should be addressed. Provision of specialised services addressing specific community, cultural and minority needs should only be provided where these services are not viable at a local level.

Age

Young people and especially young homeless people are adversely affected by the current recession and social welfare reforms. The minimum wage is lower for young people under the age of 21. Young people are disproportionately represented in the unemployment figures. Homeless Link's 2015 report into youth homelessness notes that nearly half of temporary accommodation residents are young people aged 16–24.¹

Disability

The poverty, inequality, discrimination and exclusion experienced by the majority of London's 1.4 million Deaf and disabled population mean that Deaf/disabled people are more reliant on Welfare benefits and legal aid and statutory and voluntary services such as social housing. The majority of disabled people living in social housing are living in unsuitable accommodation. Increasing numbers of young people experience high levels of mental illness and learning disabilities. Support and training for this client group is already at a reduced level.

Gender reassignment

¹ Homeless Link, Evidencing the changing need of homelessness in London, 2016

Transgender people may not be considered as a local priority because they may not exist in high numbers in certain localities and may need to travel to other boroughs if fleeing harassment or abuse. Transgender people have much higher incidents of suicide, homelessness and poverty than many other communities due to the issues they face.

Race

BAMER people are over-represented among London's homeless population with over half of London's rough sleepers being non-UK nationals. They are more likely to face complex problems and additional barriers in accessing appropriate services than other homeless people. The service should be reflective of the needs of particular groups such as Roma, Latin American and refugees.

Religion

Some issues highlighted under race may also be relevant.

Sex

Young women are more likely to be amongst the 'hidden homeless' seeking out of the way places to sleep rather than sleeping rough on the streets. Homeless Link's 2015 research briefing notes that around 30% of people using homeless accommodation services are women. This increases to 46% in youth homelessness services, of which 5% are pregnant or young parents. In Homeless Link's youth homelessness report experience of sexual abuse and/or assault was heavily concentrated among female respondents.

Sexual orientation

Young people flee homophobic violence or are forced to leave home due to their sexuality and often have to leave their borough of origin. Specialist support is limited. Many LGBT people do not approach mainstream advice services for fear that they may face homophobia, biphobia or transphobia or that the workers may not understand their full situation. Albert Kennedy Trust's 2015 report notes that LGBT young people are more likely to find themselves homeless than their non-LGBT peers and comprise up to 24% of the youth homeless population. There is a lack of specialised accommodation options for LGBT people and they are also at significantly increased risk of experiences linked to homelessness, including: parental rejection, physical, sexual and emotional abuse and familial violence.²

Pan London and complementing local and regional provision

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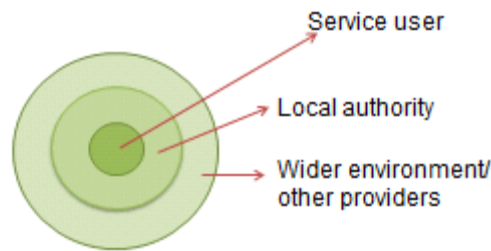
Applications proposing to work with landlords should address the higher proportion of landlord repossessions in outer London through services to both landlords and tenants.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of

² Evidencing Changes in homelessness need in London, Homeless Link 2016

referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.



Value for money

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate that their project offers value for money in the application and in the monitoring of the project.

Context: policy and other funding

The new Housing and Planning Act gained Royal Assent on 12 May 2016. In a recent London Councils briefing officers have outlined concerns that aspects of the Housing and Planning Act may limit borough's ability to deliver the homes that the capital needs. Wider policy changes including welfare reform, mental health care provision, the introduction of the Care Act 2014 and the changes across the criminal justice system (Transforming Rehabilitation or TR) continue to have impacts on the homelessness sector, services should be flexible and be able to adapt to the impact of these policy changes. The recent referendum on EU membership may lead to changes in the economy, migration and in legal frameworks, commissions would also need to be flexible to adapt to new emerging need relating to this. Following the recent change in London Mayor it is anticipated that the GLA activities in this area could be subject to change. Commissions are also expected to be flexible to adapt to the impact of this.

Timetable

Application round	
Assessment	
Grants Committee Decision	
Finalising grant agreement	
New commission starts	

Governance, monitoring and reporting

Successful commissions will be assigned to a Priority Manager/ Performance Manager at London Councils, who will review submissions from the commission and carry out monitoring visits. A grant agreement will be drawn up based on the application.

The commission is expected to submit annual audited accounts, quarterly and annual returns and respond to other ad hoc queries. Monitoring requirements can include an extensive reporting excel database, progress report and case studies, monitoring visits. Officers will monitor the project based on the funding agreement and information provided in the application form.

A Red, Amber Green (RAG) score will be drawn up each quarter and this will be reported to the Grants Committee, along with any particular relevant issues. Continued funding is based on successful performance, adherence to grant conditions and London Councils annual budget setting. Applicants should ensure

they provide for this within the project budget and have sufficient monitoring systems and IT capability to adhere to the requirements.

London Councils officers will report to London Councils Grants Committee on the progress of commissions.

Requirements

Applications will be assessed, and funding awarded subject to available resources (i.e. the package of applications can not total more than the budget available).

Applications will be recommended for funding based on a scoring matrix and to deliver a Pan-London service to meet the needs of protected groups.

Recommendation for funding will always be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

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Partnerships

Due to the range of target groups and geographical coverage required it is anticipated that many applications will be from partnerships. London Councils funds partnerships via a lead partner, however, all partners need to be eligible for funding under the London Councils eligibility criteria. Issues relating to the partners such as delivery, financial viability and eligibility are the responsibility of the lead partner to check. Service users that access services from more than one partner should be tracked across the partnership so that they are only counted once for monitoring/reporting requirements. Payments are made to the lead partner only.

The deadline for applications and any supporting documentation is **12 noon, x September 2016.**

Borough levels of indicative service provision

The following table provides indicative levels of service delivery per borough.

Please note that indicative service delivery levels are subject to change during the course of the grant.

Officers will include a table here to provide % of indicative service delivery per borough based on youth homelessness figures.

Service specification

Priority: Combatting Homelessness

Strand: 1.3 Supporting the response to homelessness in London through support to voluntary sector organisations

Indicative budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim:

Prevent homelessness and increase housing opportunities by improving the service delivery and effectiveness of frontline homelessness organisations. This should be achieved through work with local authorities and landlords. Additionally create adaptive services through the utilisation of targeted research and information on changing patterns of need across inner and outer London and legislative changes.

Types of service delivery we are looking for:

Specialist advice and support, training, information dissemination, briefings, forums, peer support, relationship brokerage, mapping, annual evaluation, events, surveys. Contacts and services directory, service performance report information (ideally provided through website online portal). To frontline homelessness organisations, local authorities and housing professionals and landlords.

London Councils Grants Programme Principles

1. Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations.
2. Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services.
3. Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.
4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved the following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis.

Service area	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
1.3: Supporting the response to homelessness in London through support to voluntary sector organisations	<p>What we want to achieve</p> <p>Prevent homelessness and increase housing opportunities by improving the service delivery and effectiveness of frontline homelessness organisations. This should be achieved through work with local authorities, social philanthropy/investment organisations. Additionally create adaptive services through the utilisation of targeted research and information on changing patterns of need across inner and outer London and legislative changes.</p>	<p>Frontline organisations deliver higher quality, specialist housing provision as a result of this service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number with increased awareness of specialist/equalities needs of clients • Number adapting services to meet the specialist/equalities needs of clients • Number introducing new services to meet the specialist/equalities needs of clients • Number feeling better able to challenge unlawful/discriminatory practice • Number with increased knowledge of changes in homelessness law/benefit reforms • Number with improved working relationships with local services • Number with increased knowledge to adapt service delivery as a result of change of need across London/legislative change
	<p>How you will achieve this</p> <p>By working with small and medium homelessness projects including London Councils funded projects to support their organisational health and resilience, ability to demonstrate impact and their working relationships with local authorities and other agencies. Typical service delivery elements may include: Advice, training, information, briefings,</p>	<p>Local authorities, housing professionals, landlords and relevant professionals more aware of VCS homelessness support available and specialist needs of clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of VCS able to demonstrate that they have adapted their

forums, relationship brokerage, peer support

By working with London Councils funded projects to ensure they are well connected to and complement local authority provision. Also by connecting projects working under Priority 1, 2 and 3 and raising awareness on issues where there are interrelated elements. Typical service delivery elements may include: advice, mapping, evaluation, briefings, relationship brokerage, events, forums, information dissemination. Contacts and services directory, service performance report information ideally through website online portal

By reviewing need in inner and outer London and communicating changes to providers. Local authorities and Sub-regional housing partnerships support to keep abreast of emerging homelessness legislation, key sector findings and knowledge of VCS support available Typical service delivery elements may include: Research, surveys, briefings, forums, information dissemination.

Service models

Projects could include innovative models to working with other agencies/business (such as social investment/philanthropy and responsibility/charitable arm of businesses) to unlock potential housing opportunities and increase affordable housing/affordability of housing.

Who this service should support.

services and increased their links (to local authorities, providers under Priority 1 and 3, and other agencies) to deliver holistic solutions for service users

- Number of VCS aware of changing need in inner and outer London and able to adapt services accordingly.
- Number of housing professionals with increased awareness of specialist /equalities needs of clients
- Number of landlords with increased awareness of specialist/equalities needs of clients
- Number of housing professionals with increased knowledge of changes in homelessness law/benefit reforms
- Number of Landlords with increased knowledge of changes in homelessness law/benefit reforms
- Number of housing professionals who feel better informed of funded services and how they assist local delivery
- Number of housing professionals with improved working relationships with funded services

Small/ medium frontline providers are effective and sustainable organisations (

- % of additional funding generated through fundraising support
- Number of organisations with more diverse funding streams
- Number with a wider understanding of funding processes and opportunities
- Number of organisations with better ICT capacity
- Number with improved ability to form partnerships/work collaboratively
- Number of organisations supported to work together on more than one occasion
- Number with improved ability to demonstrate impact

Target groups: small/medium frontline homelessness voluntary organisations and equalities focused organisations through working with housing providers (social landlords), local authority housing departments and sub-regional housing partnerships and commissions funded under priority 1, 2 and 3.

- Number of organisations supported to work across priority area/cross-sector on more than one occasion
- Number of relationships brokered between VCS and social philanthropy/ investment organisations charitable arms of businesses to increase housing opportunities.

Specific requirements of this strand:

- Have a demonstrable track record of working collaboratively with boroughs and other statutory and voluntary agencies
- Be flexible to adapt to changing needs, for example to work with the GLA on retention of staff in the homelessness sector and potential for involving clinical supervision for staff working with vulnerable clients.
- Demonstrate significant and appropriate borough links and partnerships and in particular, experience of delivering services for organisations from outer London boroughs with links to local service providers
- Work within and encourage a multi-agency approach, ensuring effective links to local service provision and thereby reducing the pressure on public services
- Have a demonstrable track record of providing specialist not generic service delivery (where applicable to service outcomes)
- Work to deliver non-statutory services which add value to and do not duplicate existing local provision (but when this is not possible engage fully and cooperatively with boroughs if a statutory duty is owed)
- Have experience of developing web portal/online information.

Needs analysis

During the Grant Review (2015-16) and follow up work with boroughs and other stakeholders there was a view expressed that respondents would like to see a future homelessness grants programme more linked to relevant local authority officers. Voluntary organisations use resources in keeping data up to date on contacts in the 33 boroughs, which would be much more efficient to do at a central level. It was also felt that given the interrelated nature of homelessness and unemployment that priorities working on both these areas should be brought together. It was felt that service1.3 could support these aims as well as drawing out the different need in inner and outer London. Whilst a number of homelessness providers are well –resourced, there are also many small and medium organisations that benefit from support to increase their resilience, partnership working and quality provision, in particular keeping up to date with multiple and complex changes in housing legislation.

Promoting equality

Applicants will be asked how they will ensure their project addresses the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010. Services will demonstrate ability to comply with relevant equalities legislation in delivering services. Services will demonstrate capacity to include users in the delivery of services and monitoring impact. Services will need to monitor the equalities information for all service users in order to ensure services are accessible and address any areas of under representation. Small specialist organisations providing homelessness advice may lack the available resources to be able to keep up to date with changes in legislation and successfully link to relevant local services. This service should provide relevant support to these organisations.

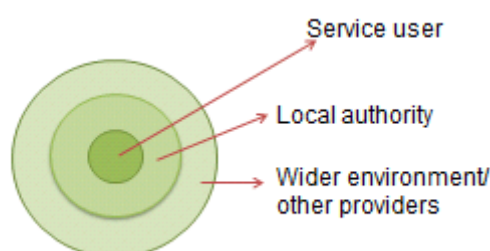
Pan London and complementing local and regional provision

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This service is expected to monitor changes in needs related to inner and outer London and support funded organisations to adapt to these. It should also provide support and training to PRS landlords particular in outer London where repossession and evictions are higher.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.



Value for money

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate that their project offers value for money in the application and in the monitoring of the project.

Context: policy and other funding

The new Housing and Planning Act gained Royal Assent on 12 May 2016. In a recent London Councils briefing officers have outlined concerns that aspects of the Housing and Planning Act may limit borough's ability to deliver the homes that the capital needs. Wider policy changes including welfare reform, mental health care provision, the introduction of the Care Act 2014 and the changes across the criminal justice system (Transforming Rehabilitation or TR) continue to have impacts on the homelessness sector, services should be flexible and be able to adapt to the impact of these policy changes. The recent referendum on EU membership may lead to changes in the economy, migration and in legal frameworks, commissions would also need to be flexible to adapt to new emerging need relating to this. Following the recent change in London Mayor it is anticipated that the GLA activities in this area could be subject to change. Commissions are also expected to be flexible to adapt to the impact of this.

Timetable (to be amended)

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Requirements

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The deadline for applications and any supporting documentation is **12 noon, x September 2016.**

Service specification

Priority: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence¹
Strand: 2.1: Prevention (working with children and young people)

Indicative Budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim: To prevent current and future sexual and domestic violence by addressing gender stereotypes and the acceptability/ condoning of sexual and domestic violence (including child sexual exploitation), knowledge of myths, warning signs, and healthy relationships. Children who disclose on the project to be provided with appropriate support to link into relevant services.

Types of service delivery we are looking for:

A range of interventions in schools or other youth settings. Activities could include, drama performances/workshops, school assemblies, smaller workshops, resource packs on myths, warning signs and where to get help, support to access relevant help for children who disclose, and supporting the creation of champions and whole school change.

London Councils Grants Programme Principles
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4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

¹Sexual and Domestic Violence' is defined as domestic violence, sexual violence, 'honour-based' violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, prostitution and trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment, coercion, sexual exploitation and gang-related sexual violence.

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved the following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis.

Service areas	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
2.1: Prevention (working with children and young people)	<p>What we want to achieve To prevent current and future sexual and domestic violence by addressing gender stereotypes and the acceptability/ condoning of sexual and domestic violence (including child sexual exploitation), knowledge of myths, warning signs, and healthy relationships. Children who disclose on the project to be provided with appropriate support to link into relevant services.</p> <p>How you will achieve this The service would cover a range of interventions in schools or other youth settings. Delivery will result in lasting change, through equipping professionals to continue delivering the messages, incorporation in schools policies and procedures, creating a network of champions (borough officer, teacher and pupil and parent). Activities could include, drama performances/workshops, school assemblies, smaller workshops, resource</p>	Children and young people view sexual and domestic violence as unacceptable and can identify the warning signs and myths (this includes domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, online/smartphone (sexting), gang related abuse, harmful practices, stalking)
		Children and young people can identify what positive respectful relationships are based on equal power and have increased empathy, confidence and empowerment enabling positive choices to be made for themselves and in supporting their peers
		Children and young people can identify where to seek support/ their rights/ the legal framework / how to disclose
		Children and young people's communication with their peers reflects the change in knowledge and attitudes about healthy relationships
		<p>Professionals and parents (teachers, youth workers, borough officers) understand the facts, myths and risk factors relating to sexual and domestic violence (in particular issues that affect children and young people such as sexual exploitation, trafficking, FGM and sexual violence in gang settings) and feel able to address issues with children and young people and undertake further work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of professionals reporting increased knowledge and awareness and

	<p>packs on myths, warning signs and where to get help, support to access relevant help for children who disclose, and supporting the creation of champions.</p> <p>The Service should link to local child safeguarding boards and borough sexual and domestic violence officers. Services should have effective referral mechanisms for those who disclose (victims and perpetrators) and should support children and staff with this process.</p> <p>Who this service should support.</p> <p>Children and young people (including SEN, looked after children) teachers, other youth professionals, borough officers and other relevant professionals (MPS)</p>	<p>commitment to ensuring the work is embedded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of schools with the learning incorporated into policies and procedures <p>Children and young people are more aware of sexual and domestic violence in relation to the eight protected characteristics (for specialist support available regarding violence in same sex relationships, harmful practices)</p>
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Specific requirements of this strand:

- To be flexible to adapt services following the results of the MOPAC pilot.
- To liaise with relevant borough officers to plan the delivery of the service in each borough.
- To ensure safe disclosure through girl/boy only sessions and projects able to demonstrate knowledge of referral routes and local safeguarding processes and appropriate referral routes.
- That any work tackling sexual violence associated with gangs to only be undertaken by an organisation that can demonstrate an effective track record in this area, a sound knowledge of local safeguarding frameworks and that will provide training to professionals to ensure the safety of children/ young people who disclose
- In order to affect lasting change the work delivered needs to form part of a school and/or organisational culture. Links should be made to local provision and partnership working is desirable.
- Deliver non-statutory services which add value to but do not duplicate existing local provision
- That services are regularly reviewed (and adapted) with input from service users.

Needs analysis

It is estimated the one in four women will experience sexual/domestic violence in their life. Research carried out by NSPCCⁱⁱ with teenage boys and girls revealed the following,

- A quarter of teenage girls and 18% of teenage boys had experienced violence from a partner.
- Girls were much more likely to report that the physical violence had occurred more than once, and were more likely to stay in a violent relationship.
- One in nine girls said they had experienced severe violence compared to 4% of boys.
- Girls were also disproportionately affected by sexual violence. It is also worth noting that teenagers in same-sex relationships were more at risk than those in opposite sex relationships

Negative gender attitudes that are not challenged before the age of 11 are hard to change. Education on this should start as early as possible; from the age of five upwards.² Research conducted with 1,300 children aged 8 to 16 revealed that 75% of 11-12 year old boys thought that women get hit if they make men angry, and that boys and girls of all ages believed that some women deserve to be hit.³

Domestic violence affects children, in 75% to 90% of incidents of domestic violence children are in the same or next room ⁴This service will need to handle disclosures by children and young people appropriately.

Sexual bullying involves both physical and virtual settings where it takes place between young people. It can involve 'sexting' the sending of explicit SMS messages including images through mobile phones as well as through social networking sites. Issues around the sexuality of young people are also often involved in addressing the bullying problem.

Race on the Agenda published a report on gang based sexual violence against girls. It has highlighted the fact that rape is used by gang members as a form of

² Silence is not always golden: Tackling Domestic Violence, National Union of Teachers, p.5

³ Vision for services for children and young people affected by domestic violence, LGA, p.23

⁴ <http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence/articles.asp?section=00010001002200020001&itemid=1262>

punishment/control as well as issues around exploitation of young females that are involved in gang structures in London.

Promoting equality

Applicants will be asked how they will ensure their project addresses the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Services delivered should reflect issues relating to the demographics of each school setting (for example schools which have a higher proportion of children who originate/ parents originate from countries in which FGM is practiced).

Sexual and domestic violence cuts across all levels of society, age, race etc. Applicants should be able to demonstrate their ability to address particular issues faced by people from the equalities protected characteristics (Equalities Act 2010) in their service delivery. For example:

- Disability considerations around learning difficulties act as a barrier in disclosing abuse and this is the same for children and young people
- Age considerations have previously been highlighted with the need to work on education as early as possible with young people.
- In terms of gender the service needs to be work with young people on addressing unequal power relations.
- Information about sexual and domestic violence in relation to same-sex relationships should be covered.

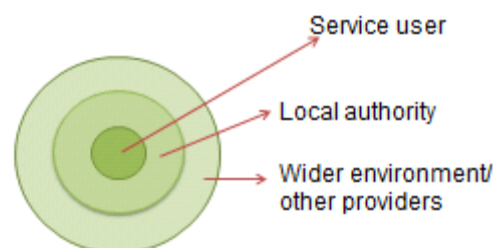
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It is anticipated that this service will operate as a rolling programme working in schools/ youth settings covering each of the 32 boroughs every 12 months.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.



Value for money

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate that their project offers value for money in the application and in the monitoring of the project.

Context: policy and other funding

In 2016 the Government published its refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. The aims of the refreshed strategy revolve around the following outcomes:

- A reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Increases in reporting, police referrals, prosecution and convictions for what can be hidden crimes.
- Earlier intervention and prevention so fewer women reach crisis point and every victim gets the support they need including for their children as well.

This service focuses on prevention which is in line with the emphasis of the strategy. The government is currently planning a campaign to raise awareness with men and boys as part of the wider work on prevention.

Prevention and early intervention is a key element of the London Partnership VAWG strategy⁵. MOPAC are developing a feasibility study for a whole school approach to prevention the results of which could inform the future direction of this service.

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Requirements

Applications will be assessed, and funding awarded subject to available resources (i.e. the package of applications can not total more than the budget available).

Applications will be recommended for funding based on a scoring matrix and to deliver a Pan-London service to meet the needs of protected groups.

⁵ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/vawg_strategy.pdf

Recommendation for funding will always be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

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The deadline for applications and any supporting documentation is **12 noon, x September 2016.**

Borough levels of indicative service provision

The following table provides indicative levels of service delivery per borough.

Please note that indicative service delivery levels are subject to change during the course of the grant.

Estimated Borough Residence of 5-16 years old		
Source: Office of National Statistics		
Borough	Estimated Population 2015	Indicative levels of service delivery
Camden	29,454	2.40%
City of London	629	0.05%
Hackney	37,745	3.08%
Hammersmith and Fulham	21,250	1.73%
Haringey	38,591	3.15%
Islington	24,724	2.02%
Kensington and Chelsea	18,160	1.48%
Lambeth	39,134	3.20%
Lewisham	41,624	3.40%
Newham	50,778	4.15%
Southwark	38,330	3.13%
Tower Hamlets	39,874	3.26%
Wandsworth	35,585	2.91%
Westminster	26,684	2.18%
Inner London subtotal	442,562	36.13%
Barking and Dagenham	37,831	3.09%
Barnet	57,262	4.68%
Bexley	36,634	2.99%
Brent	46,599	3.80%
Bromley	46,940	3.83%
Croydon	59,786	4.88%
Ealing	50,822	4.15%
Enfield	53,583	4.37%
Greenwich	40,801	3.33%
Harrow	36,337	2.97%
Havering	35,020	2.86%
Hillingdon	44,252	3.61%
Hounslow	38,075	3.11%
Kingston upon Thames	23,920	1.95%
Merton	28,076	2.29%
Redbridge	48,324	3.95%
Richmond upon Thames	28,552	2.33%
Sutton	29,495	2.41%
Waltham Forest	39,941	3.26%
Outer London subtotal	782,250	63.87%
Total	1,224,812	100.00%

Service specification

Priority: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence¹

Strand: 2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA² and target groups not accessing generalist provision)

Indicative Budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim: To increase the safety and wellbeing of people who have experienced sexual and domestic violence and support them towards safe choices and independent lives, through intensive support.

Types of service delivery we are looking for:

Delivered through a number of methods, such as access to accredited counselling, support, group work, advice, outreach, referral, housing advice and access to services. The service will include early intervention work and will support those affected to rebuild their lives and remove themselves from dangerous situations. It will include post-IDVA³ holistic care and support to groups not typically accessing general provision.

London Councils Grants Programme Principles

1. Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations.
2. Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services.
3. Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.
4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

¹Sexual and Domestic Violence' is defined as domestic violence, sexual violence, 'honour-based' violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, prostitution and trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment, coercion, sexual exploitation and gang-related sexual violence. London Councils aims to commission activities focused on supporting those who have been affected by one or more of these crimes.

² IDVA – independent domestic violence advocate

³ IDVA – as above

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved the following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis.

Service area	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
2.2: Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	What we want to achieve To increase the safety and wellbeing of people who have experienced sexual and domestic violence ⁴ through intensive support.	Reduced levels/ repeat victimisation of sexual and domestic violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced fear/ greater feelings of safety Reduced risk, reduced repeat victimisation, prevention of escalation
		Service users have improved self-esteem, motivation, confidence, emotional health and wellbeing and physical health and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence (using recognised models that track improvements over time such as outcomes star).
		Beneficiaries more able to make safe choices leading to a reduction in occurrence and/or effects of violence, sexual abuse and repeat victimisation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of service users with continuing support to sustain new lives No of service users with safety plan
		More informed life choices to enable users to rebuild their lives and move to independence: health (including sexual health, mental health, drug and alcohol support), employment, legal/ criminal justice system, immigration status, education,

⁴ Sexual and domestic violence includes, stalking, domestic violence and abuse, coercive control, sexual violence including rape, prostitution/sexual exploitation, 'honour' based violence, forced marriage, FGM, other harmful practices

⁵ IDVA – independent domestic violence advisor

	<p>Services should link to local authority services, housing services and health services and when necessary follow service users from borough to borough enabling access to appropriate services.</p> <p>Who this service should support.</p> <p>(1) Medium risk service users including those moving out of local IDVA care.</p> <p>(2) Target groups with low levels of access to generalist provision (culturally specific provision, LGBT, disabled, older people, children and young people, those with <i>No Recourse to Public Funds</i>, younger women with vulnerabilities due to child sexual exploitation and gang affiliations. Including specialist support, complementing current IDVA support.</p>	<p>training, housing, children's services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of tenancies secured • No. of tenancies sustained tenancies for 6 months • No. of service users entering employment, training, volunteering, education • No of service users accessing and <p>People from the protected characteristics have access to advice in a way that meets their needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example: LGBT service users increased reporting. <p>Local Authorities and local IDVAs are satisfied with the service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of women successfully referred onto the service • No of borough officers satisfied with the service <p>Service providers are better informed of beneficiaries' needs and service users are enabled to communicate their needs and views to service providers/decision makers. Links made to other provision to ensure the best outcome for service users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links made to ISVAs⁶, Havens • Links to health services • Links to housing departments, social housing providers, homelessness organisations • Housing providers report increased understanding of service users' needs
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⁶ ISVA – independent sexual violence advisor

Specific requirements of this strand:

- Counsellors are accredited and BACP registered
- Gender specific provision
- To be able to work and build links with local authorities, local voluntary sector organisations, health services, housing providers and other relevant stakeholders
- Work collaboratively to set up and maintain systems to monitor and track service users (in particular across a partnership of providers).
- Deliver non-statutory services which add value to but do not duplicate existing local provision
- Service provision should be adaptable in order to address the findings from key policy developments such as the finding from MOPAC's domestic violence needs assessment.
- Work in alignment with services funded by MOPAC to ensure maximum value for service users.
- For organisations applying to work with women with no recourse trapped in violent situations to be able to demonstrate that they have worked effectively with the target group previously.
- That services are regularly reviewed (and adapted) with input from service users.

Needs analysis**Domestic and Sexual Violence**

Domestic and sexual violence affects a large section of London. There were 74,502 domestic crimes, 5,625 rapes and 10,779 other sexual offences in London over the 12 months until April 2016⁷

Data suggests that the psychological impact of violence includes anxiety, depression, fear, panic attacks, helplessness, suicide, lowered sense of self-worth and self confidence. Survivors of sexual assault or harassment may experience post traumatic stress disorder. Survivors may feel the effects of trauma immediately after the assault, or even weeks or months later. There are also practical needs such as financial, legal and housing and, if relocating to another area, support to register with local services (GP, schools, mental health provision etc).

Prostitution/Sexual exploitation

Research highlights that 17,000 of the estimated 30,000 women involved in off-street prostitution in England and Wales were migrants. Of these women, 2,600 were deemed to have been trafficked and a further 9,200 were deemed vulnerable migrants who might be further victims of trafficking. However, some organisations, have argued that this figure is an underestimate⁸.

Experiences of people involved in prostitution include violence, drug addiction, abusive relationships, financial difficulties, lack of qualifications/ training, insecure housing, criminal convictions preventing employment, poor access to health care, trafficking, forced marriage, honour crimes and genital mutilation.

⁷⁷ Metropolitan Police Statistics, 2016, <http://www.met.police.uk/crimefigures/>

⁸ Human Trafficking: UK Responses, 2014
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN04324/SN04324.pdf>

The proposed service will make a difference by helping users to not return to dangerous situations, make safe choices, increase their knowledge of rights, improve confidence, self-esteem, empowerment and their ability to lead independent lives through providing counselling and psychotherapy support, promotion of safe choices. It will also provide information on a range of services, including the criminal justice system, health and housing as well as children's services where applicable. Specialist support also needs to be provided to women who are involved in substance misuse. The service will help users to improve their ability to lead independent lives and access statutory services.

Organisations can seek funding for services that combine the above provision, or that deliver services individually. The service should be available to both people who are experiencing violence or those who have left the situation (including those who have experienced sexual abuse in childhood).

Women with no recourse

There are over 600 women without recourse to public funds in London each year affected by domestic violence⁹. Overseas spouses/ partners of UK nationals or those with settlement rights in the UK are required to remain in a relationship for a probationary period of two years before they are eligible for indefinite/ permanent leave. Women who are reliant on their partner's immigration status are at risk of being trapped in a violent/abusive relationship. Research suggests that women trapped in these situations may also not be aware of the need to apply for indefinite leave to remain during this period, and that partners deliberately withhold this information to exert power over the women.

During the probationary period women have no recourse to public funds and are not entitled to welfare benefits, council housing or to use publicly funded facilities. This puts them in a vulnerable position, where they face a stark choice of remaining in a dangerous situation or becoming homeless with no support. The Domestic Violence Rule allows people affected by domestic violence Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. However, women in this situation face barriers in accessing this exemption. Refugees struggle to meet the costs of women with no recourse and may be unable to accept them

Promoting equality

Applicants will be asked how they will ensure their project addresses the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

Sexual and domestic violence cuts across all levels of society, age, race etc. Applicants should be able to demonstrate their ability to address particular issues faced by people from the equalities protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010) in their service delivery. For example:

- **Disability:** The report "Making the Links" found that disabled women often experience greater hurt and damage at the hands of abusers¹⁰. And that across

⁹ *No Recourse to Safety: The Government's Failure to Protect Women From Violence*, Amnesty International & Southall Black Sisters, 2008

¹⁰ *Making the Links, Disabled women and domestic violence*, Gill Hague, Ravio Thiara, Pauline Magowan and Audrey Mullender . PP 18

the country, domestic violence services for disabled women were patchy and sometimes minimal¹¹

- **Race:** For BAMER communities, there is a need for culturally specific provision. Research suggests that BME survivors are more likely to access BME specialist services and they are often a woman's first point of contact with any formal support provider, particularly for women who encounter multiple barriers to mainstream services¹².
- **Sexuality:** More than a third of gay and bisexual men have experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse in a relationship with a man. And, four in five gay and bisexual men who have experienced domestic abuse have never reported incidents to the police¹³.
- **Age:** Older women also experience incidences of domestic violence though are generally less likely to take up services in relation to their needs. Older survivors are said to be undoubtedly under-represented in the take-up of refuge places¹⁴

Pan London and complementing local and regional provision

London Councils is a membership organisation whose members are the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation. One of the key principles of the Grants Programme is services that are best delivered at a pan-London level and services that best complement local provision. A set of indicative levels of service per borough is contained at the end of this specification.

Women affected by sexual and domestic violence flee violence across borough boundaries. Anonymity is secured when liaising with an organisation which does not have strong links with her borough of origin. This can provide a single point of access for crisis care, ensuring clients do not fall between the gaps when crossing borough boundaries.

Specific cultural provision that understands women's specific cultural needs and provides services in a range of languages is essential to gain the trust of women from different BAMER backgrounds. Women with no recourse and trafficked women are particularly vulnerable and it is important that they are dealt with in a sensitive and confidential manner, which involves a high level of expertise which cannot be feasibly supported at a borough level. This is also the case for other equalities groups such as LGBT and disabled/ Deaf people who have expressed a preference, or who first enter into support through a specialist provider.

This service is expected to work closely with local IDVA services, either providing the specialist wraparound care or through providing holistic aftercare. Applicants will be

¹¹ Making the Links, Ibid. pp 26

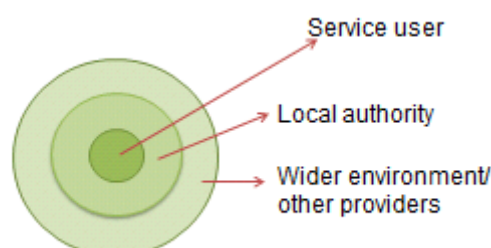
¹² State of the Sector: Contextualising the current experiences of BME ending violence against women & girls organisations. Nov 2025. Pp 8

¹³ Gay and Bisexual's Men's Health Survey, April Guasp, Stonewall, 2013. PP5

¹⁴ Help the Aged *Older Women and Domestic Violence*, March 2004

expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.



Value for money

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate that their project offers value for money in the application and in the monitoring of the project.

Context: policy and other funding

In 2016 the government published its refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. The aims of the refreshed strategy revolve around the following outcomes:

- A reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Increases in reporting, police referrals, prosecution and convictions for what can be hidden crimes.
- Earlier intervention and prevention so fewer women reach crisis point and every victim gets the support they need including for their children as well.
- A strong emphasis on partnership working to achieve the best outcomes.

MOPAC has a number of Violence against Women and Girls audits and assessments that were not finalised at the time of writing the service specifications. Service providers, however, should have a flexible approach so that any relevant findings can be used to inform/ adapt its service provision.

Timetable

Application round	
Assessment	
Grants Committee Decision	
Finalising grant agreement	
New commission starts	

Governance, monitoring and reporting

Successful commissions will be assigned to a Priority Manager/ Performance Manager at London Councils, who will review submissions from the commission and carry out monitoring visits. A grant agreement will be drawn up based on the application.

The commission is expected to submit annual audited accounts, quarterly and annual returns and respond to other ad hoc queries. Monitoring requirements can include an extensive reporting excel database, progress report and case studies, monitoring

visits. Officers will monitor the project based on the funding agreement and information provided in the application form.

A Red, Amber Green (RAG) score will be drawn up each quarter and this will be reported to the Grants Committee, along with any particular relevant issues. Continued funding is based on successful performance, adherence to grant conditions and London Councils annual budget setting. Applicants should ensure they provide for this within the project budget and have sufficient monitoring systems and IT capability to adhere to the requirements.

London Councils officers will report to London Councils Grants Committee on the progress of commissions.

Requirements

Applications will be assessed, and funding awarded subject to available resources (i.e. the package of applications can not total more than the budget available).

Applications will be recommended for funding based on a scoring matrix and to deliver a Pan-London service to meet the needs of protected groups.

Recommendation for funding will always be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

If you are aware that submitting an application may give rise to a potential conflict of interest please inform the London Councils. A conflict of interest may be where you are related to a member or staff officer of London Councils or you have privileged information about the organisation that places you at an unfair advantage over other competitors in the application process.

You should be aware that the information you submit may be subject to a request for information. London Councils is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and may be required to provide information to external parties.

Partnerships

Due to the range of target groups and geographical coverage required it is anticipated that many applications will be from partnerships. London Councils funds partnerships via a lead partner, however, all partners need to be eligible for funding under the London Councils eligibility criteria. Issues relating to the partners such as delivery, financial viability and eligibility are the responsibility of the lead partner to check. Service users that access services from more than one partner should be tracked across the partnership so that they are only counted once for monitoring/reporting requirements. Payments are made to the lead partner only.

The deadline for applications and any supporting documentation is **12 noon, x September 2016.**

Borough levels of indicative service provision

The following table provides indicative levels of service delivery per borough.

Please note that indicative service delivery levels are subject to change during the course of the grant.

MPS Recorded Offences: Sexual and Domestic				
Source: MPS - 2014-2015 (two years)				
<i>Borough Name</i>	<i>Sexual offences (Rape and other sexual)</i>	<i>Domestic Abuse, homicides and incidents</i>	<i>Combined</i>	<i>Indicative levels of delivery</i>
Camden	760	108,127	108,887	2.79%
Hackney	908	181,016	181,924	3.86%
Hammersmith and Fulham	527	109,237	109,764	2.28%
Haringey	798	170,229	171,027	3.51%
Islington	681	148,490	149,171	3.02%
Kensington and Chelsea	425	66,937	67,362	1.63%
Lambeth	1218	202,654	203,872	4.77%
Lewisham	856	207,637	208,493	4.02%
Newham	1061	211,984	213,045	4.51%
Southwark	984	208,354	209,338	4.31%
Tower Hamlets	827	203,335	204,162	3.91%
Wandsworth	782	132,114	132,896	3.08%
Westminster	1081	107,510	108,591	3.49%
Inner London sub-total	10908	2,057,624	2,068,532	45.18%
Barking and Dagenham	595	178,733	179,328	3.14%
Barnet	664	152,280	152,944	3.03%
Bexley	400	116,433	116,833	2.07%
Brent	777	182,827	183,604	3.59%
Bromley	601	155,362	155,963	2.92%
Croydon	1016	261,944	262,960	4.92%
Ealing	832	192,560	193,392	3.81%
Enfield	712	181,023	181,735	3.43%
Greenwich	764	188,338	189,102	3.62%
Harrow	394	106,608	107,002	1.96%
Havering	644	127,391	128,035	2.73%
Hillingdon	642	168,520	169,162	3.14%
Hounslow	763	179,780	180,543	3.53%
Kingston upon Thames	357	65,316	65,673	1.46%
Merton	365	87,941	88,306	1.71%
Redbridge	728	153,945	154,673	3.18%
Richmond upon Thames	344	61,549	61,893	1.39%
Sutton	357	94,778	95,135	1.76%
Waltham Forest	684	189,249	189,933	3.45%
Outer London subtotal	11639	2,844,577	2,856,216	54.82%
London total	22,547	4,902,201	4,924,748	100.00%

Service specification

Priority: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence¹

Strand: 2.3: Helpline, access to refuge provision/ support and advice, data gathering on refuge provision and supporting regional coordination of refuge provision.

Indicative Budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim: People affected by sexual and domestic violence are able to access the help they need including advice, support and access to emergency refuge provision through a helpline service and refuge database updated daily. That commissioners and regional strategic leads are able to effectively coordinate refuge provision based on robust refuge data.

Types of service delivery we are looking for: Through providing a helpline service and database of refuge provision (updated daily) to ensure access to a full range of sexual and domestic violence services, including access to refuge provision and advice on other housing options. To support borough officers to access support for their residents. To collate data and work with key partners (including MOPAC, London Councils, London boroughs) to support the regional coordination of refuge provision.

London Councils Grants Programme Principles

1. Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations.
2. Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services.
3. Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.
4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

¹Sexual and Domestic Violence' is defined as domestic violence, sexual violence, 'honour-based' violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, prostitution and trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment, coercion, sexual exploitation and gang-related sexual violence. London Councils aims to commission activities focused on supporting those who have been affected by one or more of these crimes.

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved the following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis.

Service area	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
2.3: Helpline, access to refuge provision/ support and advice, data gathering on refuge provision and supporting regional coordination of refuge provision.	<p>What we want to achieve: People affected by sexual and domestic violence are able to access the help they need including advice, support and access to emergency refuge provision through a helpline service. That commissioners and regional strategic leads are able to effectively coordinate refuge provision based on robust refuge data.</p> <p>How you will achieve this: Through providing a helpline service and database of refuge provision (updated daily) to ensure access to a full range of sexual and domestic violence services, including access to refuge provision and advice on other housing options. To support borough officers to access support for their residents. To collate data and work with key partners (including MOPAC, London Councils, London boroughs) to support the regional coordination of refuge provision.</p> <p>To provide greater coordination of refuge provision. Produce and maintain a heat map of refuge need and provision across London to allow intelligence led use and interventions</p>	<p>Access to information, advice and emergency refuge accommodation for people experiencing/ escaping sexual and domestic violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of risk reduced • No of referrals to refuge • No of alternatives to refuge referrals to enable victims to exit domestic abuse e.g. reciprocal arrangements for secure tenancies. • No supported to move to a position of safety.
		<p>Improved data collection of service users and service provision resulting in increased information on sexual and domestic violence services in London and beneficiaries needs, and greater coordination of refuge provision in London. Origins of refuge need and refuge places provision across London (demand and supply data)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on refuge referrals (successful and non-successful) by local authority area, and particular categories including equalities • Data on housing status of service users on entry and exit • Other potential datasets to be confirmed through local authority input • Evidence of fewer delays, successful referrals, more women in safe places as result of heat map and linking work.
		Survivors of rape and sexual abuse able to access appropriate support.

	over time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number/ Percentage of successful referrals
	Who this service should support.	People with the protected characteristics (2010 Equalities Act) are able to access support that meets their needs.
	People seeking advice and emergency support on all forms of sexual and domestic violence, including victims and their families. Borough officers and wider stakeholders.	<p>London boroughs receive dedicated support in accessing refuge provision for service users affected by domestic violence. Statutory providers, friends, family and voluntary agencies are better able to support those experiencing domestic violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boroughs surveyed that find the service satisfactory
		Wider environment/ other provider outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links made with ISVA services in London.

Specific requirements of this strand:

- To provide support relating to all forms of sexual and domestic violence
- Provide risk assessment and safety planning
- Online crisis and safety planning
- Referral to emergency safe accommodation
- Promotion of services to London survivors and professionals/friends/family supporting them to enable take up.
- Dedicated support for London boroughs when trying to access refuge provision.
- Measures to ensure confidentiality of service users
- Information about legal, housing or welfare rights and options and referral to relevant services, sources of practical help and professions
- Support and enable the correlation of data to further improve domestic violence provision across London.
- Collection and analysis of data (both refuge spaces/ and housing status of service users).
- To work strategically with stakeholders to improve and provide effective and efficient domestic violence services across London with the data collected.
- Work with refuges and other relevant stakeholders to collect/ support the collection of data to track service users (The tracking of service users is a new initiative and flexible approach will be required)
- Service provision should be adaptable in order to address the findings from key policy developments such as the finding from MOPAC's domestic violence needs assessment.
- Deliver non-statutory services which add value to but do not duplicate existing local provision
- Work in alignment with services funded by MOPAC to ensure maximum value for service users.
- That services are regularly reviewed (and adapted) with input from service users.

Needs analysis

Domestic and sexual violence affects a large section of London. There were 74,502 domestic crimes, 5,625 rapes and 10,779 other sexual offences in London over the 12 months until April 2016². Every two days a woman is killed by a partner/ex-partner.

Data suggests that the psychological impact of violence includes anxiety, depression, fear, panic attacks, helplessness, suicide, lowered sense of self-worth and self confidence. Survivors of sexual assault or harassment may experience post traumatic stress disorder. Survivors may feel the effects of trauma immediately after the assault, or even weeks or months later.

This service should meet the immediate need of those in emergency and life-threatening situations through advice and access to emergency accommodation. The service should also be able to provide advice to people affected by sexual and domestic violence in terms of how to make changes to their life to increase their safety and re-build their lives (accommodation, access to services).

Prostitution/Sexual exploitation

Research highlights that 17,000 of the estimated 30,000 women involved in off-street prostitution in England and Wales were migrants. Of these women, 2,600 were

² Metropolitan Police Statistics, 2016, <http://www.met.police.uk/crimefigures/>

deemed to have been trafficked and a further 9,200 were deemed vulnerable migrants who might be further victims of trafficking. However, some organisations, have argued that this figure is an underestimate³.

Experiences of people involved in prostitution include violence, drug addiction, abusive relationships, financial difficulties, lack of qualifications/ training, insecure housing, criminal convictions preventing employment, poor access to health care, trafficking, forced marriage, honour crimes and genital mutilation.

The proposed service will make a difference by helping users to not return to dangerous situations, make safe choices, increase their knowledge of rights, improve confidence, self-esteem, empowerment and their ability to lead independent lives through providing the, promotion of safe choices. It will also provide information on a range of services, including the criminal justice system, health and housing as well as children's services where applicable, or signposting to relevant services. Specialist support also needs to be provided to women who are involved in substance misuse. The service will help users to improve their ability to lead independent lives and access statutory services.

The service should be available to both people who are experiencing violence or those who have left the situation (including those who have experienced sexual abuse in childhood).

Women with no recourse

There are over 600 women without recourse to public funds in London each year affected by domestic violence⁴. Overseas spouses/ partners of UK nationals or those with settlement rights in the UK are required to remain in a relationship for a probationary period of two years before they are eligible for indefinite/ permanent leave. Women who are reliant on their partner's immigration status are at risk of being trapped in a violent/abusive relationship. Research suggests that women trapped in these situations may also not be aware of the need to apply for indefinite leave to remain during this period, and that partners deliberately withhold this information to exert power over the women.

During the probationary period women have no recourse to public funds and are not entitled to welfare benefits, council housing or to use publicly funded facilities. This puts them in a vulnerable position, where they face a stark choice of remaining in a dangerous situation or becoming homeless with no support. The Domestic Violence Rule allows people affected by domestic violence Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. However, women in this situation face barriers in accessing this exemption. Refugees struggle to meet the costs of women with no recourse and may be unable to accept them

Promoting equality

Applicants will be asked how they will ensure their project addresses the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

Sexual and domestic violence cuts across all levels of society, age, race etc. Applicants should be able to demonstrate their ability to address particular issues faced by people

³ Human Trafficking: UK Responses, 2014

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN04324/SN04324.pdf>

⁴ *No Recourse to Safety: The Government's Failure to Protect Women From Violence*, Amnesty International & Southall Black Sisters, 2008

from the equalities protected characteristics (Equalities Act 2010) in their service delivery. For example:

- **Age:** Older women experience incidences of domestic violence though are generally less likely to take up services in relation to their needs. Older survivors are said to be undoubtedly under-represented in the take-up of refuge places⁵
- **Disability:** The report “Making the Links” found that disabled women often experience greater hurt and damage at the hands of abusers⁶. And that across the country, domestic violence services for disabled women were patchy and sometimes minimal⁷

Women with complex needs such as mental health are less likely to be successfully referred into a refuge. This service should ensure there are effective referral mechanisms to enable women to find provision that meets their needs and compile relevant data to enable service providers to better meet their needs.

Recent UKROL data has shown that 55.6% of referrals to refuge for women with disabilities were unsuccessful. This is likely to be an underestimate.⁸

- **Race:** For BAMER communities, there is a need for culturally specific provision. Research suggests that BME survivors are more likely to access BME specialist services and they are often a woman's first point of contact with any formal support provider, particularly for women who encounter multiple barriers to mainstream services⁹.

Recent UKROL data has shown that 51.4% of referrals to refuge for BAME women were unsuccessful. This is likely to be an underestimate.¹⁰

- **Religion:** Provision should be sensitive to the needs of service users and their religious requirements.
- **Sex:** Women will be the main beneficiary of this service as they are more likely to be effected by domestic violence, repeat victimisation and homicide statistics. The funded organisation/s should however, also provide a direct service for men or ensure there is a referral mechanism to appropriate alternative services. 8.2% of women and 4% of men were estimated to have experienced domestic abuse in

⁵ Help the Aged *Older Women and Domestic Violence*, March 2004

⁶ Making the Links, Disabled women and domestic violence, Gill Hague, Ravio Thiara, Pauline Magowan and Audrey Mullender . PP 18

⁷ Making the Links, Ibid. pp 26

⁸ Women may have been turned away from one refuge before going on to be placed in another therefore some women will be counted twice in the 100 instances of referral. It is expected that the turn-away level is higher because there is under-reporting from refuges in terms of the equalities data of unsuccessful referrals.

⁹ State of the Sector: Contextualising the current experiences of BME ending violence against women & girls organisations. Nov 2015. PP 8

¹⁰ Women may have been turned away from one refuge before going on to be placed in another therefore some women will be counted twice in the 100 instances of referral. It is expected that the turn-away level is higher because there is under-reporting from refuges in terms of the equalities data of unsuccessful referrals.

2014/15, equivalent to an estimated 1.3 million female and 600,000 male victims¹¹.

- **Sexuality:** One in four lesbian and bisexual women has experienced domestic violence. UK research into same-sex relationships showed over 40% reported experiencing physical abuse, a similar proportion sexual abuse and three-quarters emotional abuse at some time. Respondents stated that same-sex domestic abuse is more hidden, less talked about or reported due to societal prejudices¹². Services need to ensure that any barriers faced by LGBT people are challenged to ensure they are able to access the services they need

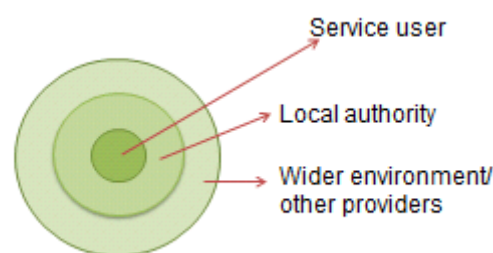
In addition to addressing the issues faced by particular equalities groups in accessing services. The successful applicant/s should be able to collate relevant data to identify trends and enable service providers to better meet their needs.

Pan London and complementing local and regional provision

London Councils is a membership organisation whose members are the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation. One of the key principles of the Grants Programme is services that are best delivered at a pan-London level and services that best complement local provision. A set of indicative levels of service per borough is contained at the end of this specification.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.



Value for money

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate that their project offers value for money in the application and in the monitoring of the project.

Context: policy and other funding

In 2016 the government published its refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. The aims of the refreshed strategy revolve around the following outcomes:

- A reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against women and girls.

¹¹Domestic Violence in England and Wales, May 2016,
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06337/SN06337.pdf>

¹² *Comparing Domestic Abuse in Same-Sex and Heterosexual relationships* Donovan, C, Hester M, Nov. 2006

- Increases in reporting, police referrals, prosecution and convictions for what can be hidden crimes.
- Earlier intervention and prevention so fewer women reach crisis point and every victim gets the support they need including for their children as well.
- A strong emphasis on partnership working to achieve the best outcomes.

MOPAC has a number of Violence against Women and Girls audits and assessments that were not finalised at the time of writing the service specifications. Service providers, however, should have a flexible approach so that any relevant findings can be used to inform/ adapt its service provision

Timetable (to be amended)

Application round	
Assessment	
Grants Committee Decision	
Finalising grant agreement	
New commission starts	

Governance, monitoring and reporting

Successful commissions will be assigned to a Priority Manager/ Performance Manager at London Councils, who will review submissions from the commission and carry out monitoring visits. A grant agreement will be drawn up based on the application.

The commission is expected to submit annual audited accounts, quarterly and annual returns and respond to other ad hoc queries. Monitoring requirements can include an extensive reporting excel database, progress report and case studies, monitoring visits. Officers will monitor the project based on the funding agreement and information provided in the application form.

A Red, Amber Green (RAG) score will be drawn up each quarter and this will be reported to the Grants Committee, along with any particular relevant issues. Continued funding is based on successful performance, adherence to grant conditions and London Councils annual budget setting. Applicants should ensure they provide for this within the project budget and have sufficient monitoring systems and IT capability to adhere to the requirements.

London Councils officers will report to London Councils Grants Committee on the progress of commissions.

Requirements

Applications will be assessed, and funding awarded subject to available resources (i.e. the package of applications can not total more than the budget available).

Applications will be recommended for funding based on a scoring matrix and to deliver a Pan-London service to meet the needs of protected groups.

Recommendation for funding will always be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

If you are aware that submitting an application may give rise to a potential conflict of interest please inform the London Councils. A conflict of interest maybe where you

are related to a member or staff officer of London Councils or you have privileged information about the organisation that places you at an unfair advantage over other competitors in the application process.

You should be aware that the information you submit may be subject to a request for information. London Councils is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and may be required to provide information to external parties.

Partnerships

Due to the range of target groups and geographical coverage required it is anticipated that many applications will be from partnerships. London Councils funds partnerships via a lead partner, however, all partners need to be eligible for funding under the London Councils eligibility criteria. Issues relating to the partners such as delivery, financial viability and eligibility are the responsibility of the lead partner to check. Service users that access services from more than one partner should be tracked across the partnership so that they are only counted once for monitoring/reporting requirements. Payments are made to the lead partner only.

The deadline for applications and any supporting documentation is **12 noon, x September 2016.**

Borough levels of indicative service provision

The following table provides indicative levels of service delivery per borough.

Please note that indicative service delivery levels are subject to change during the course of the grant.

MPS Recorded Offences: Sexual and Domestic				
Source: MPS - 2014-2015 (two years)				
<i>Borough Name</i>	<i>Sexual offences (Rape and other sexual)</i>	<i>Domestic Abuse, homicides and incidents</i>	<i>Combined</i>	<i>Indicative levels of delivery</i>
Camden	760	108,127	108,887	2.79%
Hackney	908	181,016	181,924	3.86%
Hammersmith and Fulham	527	109,237	109,764	2.28%
Haringey	798	170,229	171,027	3.51%
Islington	681	148,490	149,171	3.02%
Kensington and Chelsea	425	66,937	67,362	1.63%
Lambeth	1218	202,654	203,872	4.77%
Lewisham	856	207,637	208,493	4.02%
Newham	1061	211,984	213,045	4.51%
Southwark	984	208,354	209,338	4.31%
Tower Hamlets	827	203,335	204,162	3.91%
Wandsworth	782	132,114	132,896	3.08%
Westminster	1081	107,510	108,591	3.49%
Inner London sub-total	10908	2,057,624	2,068,532	45.18%
Barking and Dagenham	595	178,733	179,328	3.14%
Barnet	664	152,280	152,944	3.03%
Bexley	400	116,433	116,833	2.07%
Brent	777	182,827	183,604	3.59%
Bromley	601	155,362	155,963	2.92%
Croydon	1016	261,944	262,960	4.92%
Ealing	832	192,560	193,392	3.81%
Enfield	712	181,023	181,735	3.43%
Greenwich	764	188,338	189,102	3.62%
Harrow	394	106,608	107,002	1.96%
Havering	644	127,391	128,035	2.73%
Hillingdon	642	168,520	169,162	3.14%
Hounslow	763	179,780	180,543	3.53%
Kingston upon Thames	357	65,316	65,673	1.46%
Merton	365	87,941	88,306	1.71%
Redbridge	728	153,945	154,673	3.18%
Richmond upon Thames	344	61,549	61,893	1.39%
Sutton	357	94,778	95,135	1.76%
Waltham Forest	684	189,249	189,933	3.45%
Outer London subtotal	11639	2,844,577	2,856,216	54.82%
London total	22,547	4,902,201	4,924,748	100.00%

Service specification

Priority: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence¹

Strand: 2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups

Indicative Budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim: To reduce immediate danger to life for high risk victims. To support service users to rebuild their lives (including sustainable housing solutions).

Types of service delivery we are looking for: specialist emergency accommodation for service users with particular needs and delivering appropriate support to meet their particular needs. Activities to include access to services (legal advice, NHS services, unemployment support), risk assessments, safety planning, counselling, therapy, life skills (including budgeting). In addition the service should also include a housing element, working with social housing landlords, housing departments and other agencies to raise awareness of issues and support service users to access/ maintain tenancies and where appropriate prevent unnecessary refuge admissions.

London Councils Grants Programme Principles

1. Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations.
2. Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services.
3. Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.
4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

¹Sexual and Domestic Violence' is defined as domestic violence, sexual violence, 'honour-based' violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, prostitution and trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment, coercion, sexual exploitation and gang-related sexual violence. London Councils aims to commission activities focused on supporting those who have been affected by one or more of these crimes.

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved the following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis.

Service area	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups	<p>What we want to achieve To reduce immediate danger to life for high risk victims. To support service users to rebuild their lives (including sustainable housing solutions).</p> <p>How you will achieve this To provide targeted specialist emergency accommodation for service users with particular needs, experiencing sexual and domestic violence and delivering appropriate support to meet their particular needs. Supporting needs can be through support to access services (legal advice, NHS services, unemployment support), risk assessments, safety planning, counselling, therapy, life skills (including budgeting).</p> <p>The service should also include a housing element, working with social housing landlords, housing departments and other agencies to raise awareness of issues and support service users to access/ maintain tenancies and where appropriate prevent unnecessary refuge</p>	<p>Safety from immediate danger from perpetrators through specialist emergency accommodation and reduced risk of further violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers not returning to a perpetrator (partner, trafficker) Numbers with increased awareness of safety planning Decrease in fear/ increase in feeling of safety Risk reduction
		<p>Engagement with in-house and external specialist support and culturally specific provision (such as drug and alcohol support, support with mental health, support to exit prostitution, harmful practices, immigration and no recourse to public funds).</p>
		<p>Increased confidence, self-esteem, mental health and increased ability to deal with the effects of domestic violence</p>
		<p>Independent lives rebuilt whilst in refuge accommodation, through improved independent living skills, knowledge and access to benefits, entitlements, supported/ permanent housing and stabilised immigration status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of service users who moved on in a planned way No of tenancies maintained/ obtained No of service users with increased living skills (budgeting, etc.)

	<p>admissions.</p> <p>Who this service should support.</p> <p>Target groups: BAMER (including traveller), drug and alcohol misuse, disabled, women with no recourse, exiting prostitution, trafficked (including those leaving NRM safe houses²), mental health and complex and multiple needs, young women, those fleeing harmful practices including forced marriage</p> <p>A target of 15% service users with no recourse. A minimum 2 beds that accessible for service users with a mobility related disability.</p> <p>The service must demonstrate adherence to a specific quality standards framework (for example the Women's Aid National Quality Standard, Imkaan Quality Standard).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No with more stabilised immigration status • No of service users progressing to education, training, volunteering or employment opportunities <p>No of people prevented (where appropriate) from unnecessary refuge admission through support to alternative housing options that enable them to stay safe. Support provided to service users for whom specific refuge provision does not exist / scarce / do not wish to access(LGBT)</p> <p>Removal of barriers in accessing services for people with the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equalities Act</p>
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² NRM National Referral Mechanism the Government funded service that supports victims of trafficking in safe houses.

Specific requirements of this strand:

- Need to demonstrate effective delivery of specialist refuge provision previously.
- To be able to work with local authorities, civil society support providers, Strand 2.3 (the helpline service) and UKRoL to collate required data
- To be able to demonstrate understanding of local safeguarding frameworks
- Deliver non-statutory services which add value to but do not duplicate existing local provision
- Previous experience of successfully supporting, women with no recourse trapped in violent situations, women exiting prostitution/trafficking
- That services are regularly reviewed (and adapted) with input from service users.

Needs analysis

An average of over two women each week are killed by a current or former partner. Women's Aid UKRoL provides data on refuge provision in London. In a recent quarterly report of this data (January – March 2016) shows the percentage of successful referrals to a refuge in London is 36.2% (which means that 63.8% of women seeking refuge provision are turned away). The situation is worse for particular groups, for example those with substance misuse issues had a 32.1% rate of successful referrals, women with mental health support needs (25.8%) and women with no recourse (4.8%).

The Council of Europe and the Home Office Select Committee recommendation is for one family place in refuge per 10,000 population: for London population of 8.5million this equates to 850 bed-spaces. London currently has 812 bed spaces. It is anticipated that the shortfall is greater than this due to certain factors relating to London, such as the higher numbers of trafficked women entering the capital.

There are over 600 women without recourse to public funds in London each year affected by domestic violence. Overseas spouses/partners of UK nationals or those with settlement rights in the UK are required to remain in a relationship for a probationary period of 30 months (plus 30 months renewal) before they are eligible for indefinite/ permanent leave. Women who are reliant on their partner's immigration status are at risk of being trapped in a violent/abusive relationship.

During the probationary period women have no recourse to public funds and are not

entitled to welfare benefits, council housing or to use publicly funded facilities. This puts them in a vulnerable position, where they face a stark choice of remaining in a dangerous situation or becoming homeless with no support. The Domestic Violence Rule allows people affected by domestic violence Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. However, women in this situation face barriers in accessing this exemption. Refugees struggle to meet the costs of women with no recourse and may be unable to accept them, evidenced in the UKROL data above.

The service should also focus on women who have been trafficked into or around the UK and have been victims of sexual exploitation. The human trafficking foundation have highlighted concerns about the vulnerability of those leaving the government funded National Referral Mechanism safe house scheme for trafficked people ³.

Promoting equality

Applicants will be asked how they will ensure their project addresses the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Age: Domestic violence is underreported by older women, and refuge provision needs to reflect their particular needs.

Disability: As above women with mental health needs have lower successful referral rates into refuge. This service is specifically aimed at targeting particular groups including those with complex/mental health needs and those with other disabilities including mobility related disabilities. Recent UKROL data has shown that 55.6% of referrals to refuge for women with disabilities were unsuccessful. This is likely to be an underestimate. ⁴

Gender Reassignment - Consultation responses highlighted the fact that transgender people are particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse.

Pregnancy and maternity - The British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology reports that one in six pregnant women will experience domestic violence

RACE: Imkaan has undertaken research into BAMER women affected by violence in London. 87% of women stated that they preferred to be in BAMER specific refuge provision (including provision which reflects cultural and language needs). In the 12 months ending March 2015 733 BME women sought refuge spaces⁷ and only 154 were successful (UKROL data). Recent UKROL data has shown that 51.4% of referrals to refuge for BAME women were unsuccessful. This is likely to be an underestimate. ⁵

³ Life Beyond the Safe House, The Human Trafficking Foundation (funded by City Bridge Trust), 2015

⁴ Women may have been turned away from one refuge before going on to be placed in another therefore some women will be counted twice in the 100 instances of referral. It is expected that the turn-away level is higher because there is under-reporting from refuges in terms of the equalities data of unsuccessful referrals.

⁵ Women may have been turned away from one refuge before going on to be placed in another therefore some women will be counted twice in the 100 instances of referral. It is expected that the turn-away level is higher because there is under-reporting from refuges in terms of the equalities data of unsuccessful referrals.

Religion: Refuge provision should be sensitive to the needs of those with a religion and those without and their religious requirements.

Sex: It is anticipated that applications will be received to deliver women-only provision. However, applications are welcomed from separate provision for men. Women are more affected by violence, more highly represented in homicide statistics, more subject to serious injury, repeat attacks and more likely to feel the need to flee their home. Research and experience from within the sector indicates that women prefer to access women-only support spaces, feel safe and able to become independent again

Sexuality: One in four lesbian and bisexual women has experienced domestic violence. recent survey found that half of gay and bisexual men have experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse from a family member or partner since the age of 16 compared to 17 per cent of men in general. Services need to ensure that any barriers faced by LGBT people are challenged to ensure they are able to access the services they need

Pan London and complementing local and regional provision

London Councils is a membership organisation whose members are the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation. One of the key principles of the Grants Programme is services that are best delivered at a pan-London level and services that best complement local provision.

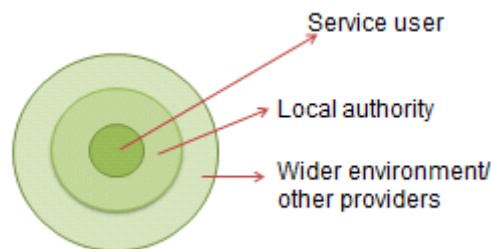
Women affected by sexual and domestic violence flee violence across borough boundaries. Anonymity is secured when liaising with an organisation which does not have strong links with her borough of origin. This can provide a single point of access for crisis care, ensuring clients do not fall between the gaps when crossing borough boundaries. Specific cultural provision that understands women's specific cultural needs and provides services in a range of languages is essential to gain the trust of women from different BAME backgrounds. Women with no recourse and trafficked women are particularly vulnerable and it is important that they are dealt with in a sensitive and confidential manner, which involves a high level of expertise which cannot be feasibly supported at a borough level.

Refuges will be expected to take referrals from all London boroughs and should work closely with borough officers and service provider of strand 2.3 to ensure the service is publicised and referrals pathways are clearly described.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of

referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.



Value for money

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate that their project offers value for money in the application and in the monitoring of the project.

Context: policy and other funding

Shortages in bed spaces in London may be further compounded by changes in housing benefit. Following the Spending Review in November 2015 there is a further potential threat to refuge provision in London. The proposed restriction of social housing rates of Housing Benefit to Local Housing Allowance levels (which will apply to supported housing) will mean that London local authorities will find it challenging to top up the shortfall and the likely result is a loss in the number of refuge beds in London.

In 2016 the government published its refreshed Violence against Women and Girls Strategy. The aims of the refreshed strategy revolve around the following outcomes:

- A reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Increases in reporting, police referrals, prosecution and convictions for what can be hidden crimes.
- Earlier intervention and prevention so fewer women reach crisis point and every victim gets the support they need including for their children as well.
- A strong emphasis on partnership working to achieve the best outcomes.

The government acknowledges the vital role that specialist accommodation-based services provide and are looking to local partnerships to strengthen provision in this area.

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime has commissioned a needs assessment which includes a housing audit which could inform this service as findings emerge.

Timetable (to be amended)

Application round	
Assessment	
Grants Committee Decision	
Finalising grant agreement	
New commission starts	

Governance, monitoring and reporting

Successful commissions will be assigned to a Priority Manager/ Performance Manager at London Councils, who will review submissions from the commission and carry out monitoring visits. A grant agreement will be drawn up based on the application.

The commission is expected to submit annual audited accounts, quarterly and annual returns and respond to other ad hoc queries. Monitoring requirements can include an extensive reporting excel database, progress report and case studies, monitoring visits. Officers will monitor the project based on the funding agreement and information provided in the application form.

A Red, Amber Green (RAG) score will be drawn up each quarter and this will be reported to the Grants Committee, along with any particular relevant issues. Continued funding is based on successful performance, adherence to grant conditions and London Councils annual budget setting. Applicants should ensure they provide for this within the project budget and have sufficient monitoring systems and IT capability to adhere to the requirements.

London Councils officers will report to London Councils Grants Committee on the progress of commissions.

Requirements

Applications will be assessed, and funding awarded subject to available resources (i.e. the package of applications can not total more than the budget available).

Applications will be recommended for funding based on a scoring matrix and to deliver a Pan-London service to meet the needs of protected groups.

Recommendation for funding will always be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

If you are aware that submitting an application may give rise to a potential conflict of interest please inform the London Councils. A conflict of interest maybe where you are related to a member or staff officer of London Councils or you have privileged information about the organisation that places you at an unfair advantage over other competitors in the application process.

You should be aware that the information you submit may be subject to a request for information. London Councils is subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and may be required to provide information to external parties.

Partnerships

Due to the range of target groups and geographical coverage required it is anticipated that many applications will be from partnerships. London Councils funds partnerships via a lead partner, however, all partners need to be eligible for funding under the London Councils eligibility criteria. Issues relating to the partners such as

delivery, financial viability and eligibility are the responsibility of the lead partner to check. Service users that access services from more than one partner should be tracked across the partnership so that they are only counted once for monitoring/reporting requirements. Payments are made to the lead partner only.

The deadline for applications and any supporting documentation is **12 noon, x September 2016**.

Service specification

Priority: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence¹

Strand: 2.5: Strengthening support for frontline sexual and domestic violence (working with voluntary sector organisations, local authorities, and other agencies)

Indicative Budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim: To support voluntary and community organisations working in the sexual and domestic violence sector to be more sustainable and resilient. To develop better working between voluntary and community organisations, local authorities, health services, and supporting links between Priority 1 and Priority 2

Types of service delivery we are looking for:

Activities could include organisational health checks, training, support to diversify income streams and fundraise, advice on changing policies, best practice briefings, quality standards training, webinars, maintaining a directory of contacts for borough champions on key areas (for example FGM), training to borough officers and health professionals on key issues (such as older people and domestic violence), supporting the addressing of local needs including local demographics.

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3. Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.
4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

¹Sexual and Domestic Violence' is defined as domestic violence, sexual violence, 'honour-based' violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, prostitution and trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment, coercion, sexual exploitation and gang-related sexual violence. London Councils aims to commission activities focused on supporting frontline providers who support those who have been affected by one or more of these crimes.

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved the following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis.

Service area	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
2.5: Strengthening support for frontline sexual and domestic violence (working with voluntary sector organisations, local authorities, and other agencies)	<p>What we want to achieve To support voluntary and community organisations working in the sexual and domestic violence sector to be more sustainable and resilient including,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved practice and quality provision • financial sustainability and efficiency • increased knowledge of policy • partnerships/ consortiums formed (including with LGBT providers) • effective monitoring, evaluation and adaption of services to demonstrate impact. <p>To develop better working between voluntary and community organisations, local authorities, health services, and supporting links between Priority 1 and Priority 2.</p> <p>How you will achieve this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisational health checks, training, support to diversify income streams and fundraise, advice on changing policies, best practice briefings, quality standards training, webinars • maintaining a directory of contacts for borough champions on key areas (for example FGM) • training to borough officers and health professionals on key issues (such as older people and domestic violence) 	Frontline providers are effective, efficient and sustainable organisations (financial management, governance, recruitment/ workforce, ICT, premises, fundraising/ tenders/contracts, recruitment or board members).
		Frontline providers are able to develop effective partnerships/consortiums with other VCS and are better able to work in partnership with local authorities, health services, housing providers and homelessness provision (including Priority 1 providers) to ensure joint working to enable the best solutions for survivors of sexual and domestic violence.
		Frontline organisations able to deliver improved services to meet their clients' needs and in line with relevant quality standards (deliver, monitor, evaluate and adapt)
		Frontline organisations better able to gather data, demonstrate impact, ensure they are up to date with policy changes and represent their service users' needs.
		Borough officers, health professionals, social housing landlords , housing officers, homelessness/hostel staff and other key professionals more aware of key issues, services available and referral pathways.
		Frontline organisations better able to achieve the three aims of the 2010 Equality Act.

- supporting the addressing of local needs including local demographics

Who this service should support.

Small/ medium voluntary sector organisations working to tackle sexual and domestic violence including perpetrator projects and LGBT frontline organisations. Local authority officers in London boroughs and other relevant agencies.

Specific requirements of this strand:

- To be able to demonstrate that services are relevant and desired by VCOs through their engagement in planning activities and monitoring of how useful activities have been.
- The service will support voluntary and community organisations in London (both those funded by London Councils and not).
- To be able to demonstrate past experience of supporting the development of consortia/partnerships
- To be able to demonstrate successful working with local authorities or other similar agencies (NHS, housing providers, MPS).
- Deliver non-statutory services which add value to but do not duplicate existing local provision
- That services are regularly reviewed (and adapted) with input from service users.

Needs analysis

There is a widely held view, evidenced through consultation responses and a letter received from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime that the sexual and domestic violence voluntary sector is in a very precarious position. There have been a number of high profile projects that have recently gone into administration. There has been a tendency towards generic provision through commissioning which has meant that specialist domestic violence provision has missed out to larger generic contracts. Other factors that have disadvantaged small specialist organisations are payment by results models (which require significant reserves) and commissioning models that focus predominantly on value for money (favouring larger providers that can absorb overhead costs, and ignoring the additional costs of specialist provision such as translators).² This is compounded by an increase in incidents and for some people a reduction in the options available to exit violent situations. This has also put a strain on this sector.

The Grants Review established a need to support small and medium organisations to become more flexible, resilient and financially sustainable. There are particular needs for small specialist VCOS such as those supporting providing BAME specialist support. Other emerging roles that were drawn out through the consultations and subsequent work with boroughs and other stakeholders was the need for this service to support a link between Priority 1 and Priority 2 (acknowledging the significant housing issue relating to cases of domestic violence). Also that the service should play a key role in linking local authorities and the VCS.

Promoting equality

Applicants will be asked how they will ensure their project addresses the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. Applicants should ensure that their service is accessible to all frontline organisations working in this sector and address challenges that some organisations may face in accessing services.

This service will support the development and sustainability of organisations that focus on one/ more specific equalities characteristic (such as women's organisations, BAME organisations, LGBT organisations) ensuring that support reflects the specific issues that affect organisations working in that area. BAME organisations have been highlighted as facing additional challenges as outlined above.

² Capital Losses: the state of the specialist BME ending VAWG sector in London, Imkaan, 2016

The service will also support organisations to meet equalities goals for equalities characteristics that are not the main focus of the organisation (such as adherence to legislation, accessibility, breaking down barriers of access)

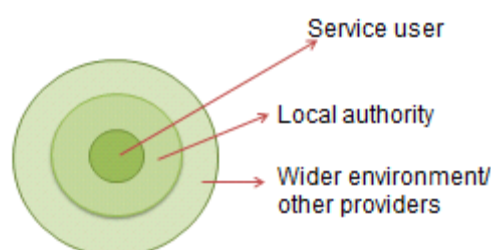
Pan London and complementing local and regional provision

London Councils is a membership organisation whose members are the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation. One of the key principles of the Grants Programme is services that are best delivered at a pan-London level and services that best complement local provision. Services should be available to frontline providers based in all 33 boroughs.

Successful applicants will be asked to record the borough base of supported frontline providers and the geographical area that they support.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.



Value for money

All applicants will be expected to demonstrate that their project offers value for money in the application and in the monitoring of the project.

Context: policy and other funding

The Government has recently published its refreshed Violence against Women and Girls Strategy. The aims of the refreshed strategy revolve around the following outcomes:

- A reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Increases in reporting, police referrals, prosecution and convictions for what can be hidden crimes.
- Earlier intervention and prevention so fewer women reach crisis point and every victim gets the support they need including for their children as well.
- A strong emphasis on partnership working to achieve the best outcomes.

In order to achieve these aims there needs to be a strong voluntary sector in London that makes effective links to other relevant service providers to ensure the best outcomes. This service should work to achieve this as outlined above.

Timetable (to be amended)

Application round	
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Assessment	
Grants Committee Decision	
Finalising grant agreement	
New commission starts	

Governance, monitoring and reporting

Successful commissions will be assigned to a Priority Manager/ Performance Manager at London Councils, who will review submissions from the commission and carry out monitoring visits. A grant agreement will be drawn up based on the application.

The commission is expected to submit annual audited accounts, quarterly and annual returns and respond to other ad hoc queries. Monitoring requirements can include an extensive reporting excel database, progress report and case studies, monitoring visits. Officers will monitor the project based on the funding agreement and information provided in the application form.

A Red, Amber Green (RAG) score will be drawn up each quarter and this will be reported to the Grants Committee, along with any particular relevant issues. Continued funding is based on successful performance, adherence to grant conditions and London Councils annual budget setting. Applicants should ensure they provide for this within the project budget and have sufficient monitoring systems and IT capability to adhere to the requirements.

London Councils officers will report to London Councils Grants Committee on the progress of commissions.

Requirements

Applications will be assessed, and funding awarded subject to available resources (i.e. the package of applications can not total more than the budget available).

Applications will be recommended for funding based on a scoring matrix and to deliver a Pan-London service to meet the needs of protected groups.

Recommendation for funding will always be subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

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Partnerships

Due to the range of target groups and geographical coverage required it is anticipated that many applications will be from partnerships. London Councils funds partnerships via a lead partner, however, all partners need to be eligible for funding under the London Councils eligibility criteria. Issues relating to the partners such as delivery, financial viability and eligibility are the responsibility of the lead partner to check. Service users that access services from more than one partner should be

tracked across the partnership so that they are only counted once for monitoring/reporting requirements. Payments are made to the lead partner only.

The deadline for applications and any supporting documentation is **12 noon, x September 2016.**

Service specification

Priority: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence¹

Strand: Specifically targeted services for those affected by harmful practices (FGM, Honour based violence (HBV), forced marriage and other harmful practices)

Indicative Budget:

Duration: 2017-21 (completion date 31 March 2021). Funding is subject to annual renewal based on delivery, adherence to grant conditions and continuing availability of resources.

What we want to achieve:

Service aim: To support those at risk/ affected by harmful practices and raise their awareness of the choices available to them, help them to make safer choices and exit violent situations. Also rebuilding confidence, health, emotional well being and independence through culturally specific services.

Types of service delivery we are looking for: These outcomes will be achieved through culturally specific services including, 1:1 support, group work, peer mentoring, advocacy, counselling, advice and information, risk assessments. MARAC referrals.

London Councils Grants Programme Principles

1. Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations.
2. Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services.
3. Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety.
4. Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level.
5. Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.

¹Sexual and Domestic Violence' is defined as domestic violence, sexual violence, 'honour-based' violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriages, prostitution and trafficking, stalking, sexual harassment, coercion, sexual exploitation and gang-related sexual violence. London Councils aims to commission activities focused on supporting frontline providers who support those who have been affected by one or more of these crimes.

Strand activities and outcomes

London Councils monitors its funded projects through outcomes. Outcomes demonstrate the change in the service user as a result of your work with them.

If you are successful you will need to demonstrate how you have achieved the following **outcomes or changes in the user** on quarterly basis.

Service area	Objective and target groups	Outcome Indicators
2.6: Specifically targeted services for those affected by harmful practices (FGM, Honour based violence (HBV), forced marriage and other harmful practices)	<p>What we want to achieve To support those at risk/ affected by harmful practices and raise their awareness of the choices available to them, help them to make safer choices and exit violent situations. Also rebuilding confidence, health, emotional well being and independence through culturally specific services.</p> <p>How you will achieve this These outcomes will be achieved through culturally specific services including, 1:1 support, group work, peer mentoring, advocacy, counselling, advice and information, risk assessments. MARAC referrals.</p> <p>Who this service should support. Those affected by harmful practices, in particular those not accessing mainstream support or in need of additional support whilst accessing mainstream support.</p>	Service users have improved self-esteem, confidence and emotional health and well being
		Service users have a better understanding of the support options available to them and are more aware of their rights and entitlements
		Service users have an increased ability to communicate their needs and views to service providers
		Service users are able to make safe choices and exit violent situations/ service users have enhanced coping strategies through risk assessment and safeguarding
		Service users have improved life skills to help them rebuild their lives and move to independence
		Local authority officers are able to access support to wrap around existing support or make referrals into the service.
		<p>Wider environment/ other provider outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links made with ISVA services in London. (The independent advisor service for sexual abuse). • targeted health sector referrals/ health IDVAs • work with providers in 2.4 to ensure holistic service provision.

Specific requirements of this strand:

- Intensive support to a vulnerable client group.
- To be able to work and build links with local authorities, local voluntary sector organisations, health services, housing providers and other relevant stakeholders
- Deliver non-statutory services which add value to but do not duplicate existing local provision
- Service provision should be adaptable in order to address the findings from key policy developments such as the finding from MOPAC's Female Genital Mutilation pilot and Harmful Practices Prevention pilot.
- Work in alignment with services funded by MOPAC, and adapting services based on findings from MOPACs' pilot to ensure maximum value for service users.
- For organisations applying to work with women with no recourse trapped in violent situations to be able to demonstrate that they have worked effectively with the target group previously.
- That services are regularly reviewed (and adapted) with input from service users.

Needs analysis**Female genital mutilation (FGM)**

London has the highest national prevalence for any city with an estimated 2.1% of women affected by FGM.² • The physical and psychological affects include severe pain and shock, infection, urine retention, fatal haemorrhaging, damage to the reproductive system, complications in pregnancy and child birth and have long term implications.

Honour based violence (HBV) and Forced Marriage

In 2015 the UK region with the greatest number of cases was London (263 cases).³ Forced marriage is linked to rape, forced pregnancy, forced child-bearing and other forms of violence. There is anecdotal evidence, which suggests that as many as 10 per cent of those affected by forced marriage have learning difficulties.⁴ UK police forces recorded more than 11,000 cases of "honour" crime between 2010 and 2014.

Gender based violence results in mental and physical health problems, such as anxiety, self-harm, lowered sense of self-esteem, depression and suicide. Providing support to organisations working with the target group will help women to make safer choices, exit violent relationships.

No recourse to public funds

There are over 600 women without recourse to public funds in London each year affected by domestic violence⁵. Overseas spouses/ partners of UK nationals or those with settlement rights in the UK are required to remain in a relationship for a probationary period of two years before they are eligible for indefinite/ permanent leave. Women who are reliant on their partner's immigration status are at risk of being trapped in a violent/abusive relationship. Research suggests that women trapped in these situations may also not be aware of the need to apply for indefinite leave to remain during this

² Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales, City of London University, 2015

³ Forced Marriage Unit Statistics, 2015, Home Office

⁴ Rights of Women (2010) Measuring Up? UK Compliance with International Commitments on Violence Against Women in England and Wales. A Report by Rights of Women, London: Rights of Women

⁵ *No Recourse to Safety: The Government's Failure to Protect Women From Violence*, Amnesty International & Southall Black Sisters, 2008

period, and that partners deliberately withhold this information to exert power over the women.

During the probationary period women have no recourse to public funds and are not entitled to welfare benefits, council housing or to use publicly funded facilities. This puts them in a vulnerable position, where they face a stark choice of remaining in a dangerous situation or becoming homeless with no support. The Domestic Violence Rule allows people affected by domestic violence Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. However, women in this situation face barriers in accessing this exemption. Refugees struggle to meet the costs of women with no recourse and may be unable to accept them.⁶

Promoting equality

Applicants should be able to demonstrate their ability to address particular issues faced by people from the equalities protected characteristics (Equalities Act 2010) in their service delivery. For example:

Race: The service will need to ensure it is accessible to women for whom English is not their first language. Imkaan has undertaken research into BAMER¹ women affected by violence in London. Over 40% of women had been in the abusive relationship for five years or more. Findings suggest that women from Black, Indian, Pakistani and other BAMER communities were likely to stay in abusive situations for longer before seeking help⁷. Two thirds of cases in the study involved a partner, however, in over half of the cases the perpetrators included other family members. 21% of women in the study reported that they had faced forced marriage. 87% of women stated that they preferred to be in BAMER specific refuge provision.

Disability: The service needs to be delivered in a way that is accessible to all disability groups and women experiencing mental health problems. In 2015 12% of victims seen by the forced marriage unit had either a physical or learning disability

Religion or Belief: The service will also need to ensure it is sensitive to cultural and faith based barriers that may exist in accessing the service.

Pan London and complementing local and regional provision

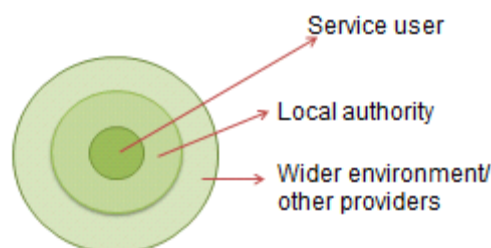
London Councils is a membership organisation whose members are the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation. One of the key principles of the Grants Programme is services that are best delivered at a pan-London level and services that best complement local provision. A set of indicative levels of service per borough is contained at the end of this specification.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant. The following diagram helps to illustrate this.

In measuring the impact of the service outcomes measurement will focus on the service user, the experience of the local authority (for example their experience of referring into the service), and the wider environment (how well the project has linked into existing local provision. The service user is always central to this and sits within a wider context.

⁶ *The Way Forward: Taking action to end violence against women and girls, Final Strategy 2010-13* Mayor of London, March 2010

⁷ *Vital Statistics: The experiences of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic & Refugee women & children facing violence & abuse*, Imkaan, 2010



Value for money

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Context: policy and other funding

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- A strong emphasis on partnership working to achieve the best outcomes.

MOPAC has a number of Violence against Women and Girls audits and assessments, including the Female Genital Mutilation pilot and Harmful Practices Prevention pilot, that were not finalised at the time of writing the service specifications. Service providers, however, should have a flexible approach so that any relevant findings can be used to inform/ adapt its service provision.

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Borough levels of indicative service provision

The following table provides indicative levels of service delivery per borough.

Please note that indicative service delivery levels are subject to change during the course of the grant.

Estimated numbers of women with FGM by local authority area, permanent residents of London		
Source: ONS via City University London		
Borough	Number of Women	Indicative levels of service delivery
Camden	2,923	3.36%
Hackney & City of London	3,292	3.79%
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,983	3.43%
Haringey	3,425	3.94%
Islington	2,857	3.29%
Kensington and Chelsea	1,644	1.89%
Lambeth	4,902	5.64%
Lewisham	3,539	4.07%
Newham	4,761	5.48%
Southwark	6,900	7.94%
Tower Hamlets	2,401	2.76%
Wandsworth	2,560	2.94%
Westminster	2,619	3.01%
Inner London	44,807	51.53%
Barking and Dagenham	2,642	3.04%
Barnet	2,880	3.31%
Bexley	1,389	1.60%
Brent	6,024	6.93%
Bromley	973	1.12%
Croydon	2,594	2.98%
Ealing	5,114	5.88%
Enfield	3,491	4.01%
Greenwich	3,810	4.38%
Harrow	1,755	2.02%
Havering	522	0.60%
Hillingdon	2,573	2.96%
Hounslow	2,383	2.74%
Kingston upon Thames	323	0.37%
Merton	942	1.08%
Redbridge	1,748	2.01%
Richmond upon Thames	277	0.32%
Sutton	426	0.49%
Waltham Forest	2,273	2.61%
Outer London	42,140	48.47%
LONDON	86,947.17	100.00%