

# Grants Committee

30 November 2022 : 10:30 am

## Agenda

Conference Suite, 59½ Southwark Street, London, SE1 0AL

**Labour Group:** Room 6 10:00 am  
(Political Adviser: 07970 018191)

**Conservative Group:** Room 5 10:00 am  
(Political Adviser: 07903 492195)

**Liberal Democrat** Room 3 10:00 am  
(Political Adviser: 07858 924941)

**Contact Officer:** Lisa Dominic [Lisa.dominic@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.dominic@londoncouncils.gov.uk) - 0207 934 9843

Lunch will be provided in Room 2

## Agenda item

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1. Apologies for Absence and announcement of deputies
  2. \*Declarations of Interest
  3. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 13 July 2022
  4. Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 14 November 2022 (for information)
  5. Performance of Grants Programme 2022-2026: April 2022 to September 2022
  6. London Funders (presentation)
    - London Funders' support to boroughs and the pan-London Grants Programme
    - Funder responses to the cost-of-living crisis
  7. Commissioning of refuge provision for the 2022-2026 Grants Programme: Requirements and next steps
  8. Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2022-23
  9. London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2023-24
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### **\*Declarations of Interests**

If you are present at a meeting of London Councils' or any of its associated joint committees or their sub-committees and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest\* relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

It is a matter for each member to decide whether they should leave the room while an item that they have an interest in is being discussed. In arriving at a decision as to whether to leave the room they may wish to have regard to their home authority's code of conduct and/or the Seven (Nolan) Principles of Public Life.

\*as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

**LONDON COUNCILS' GRANTS COMMITTEE AGM**  
**11am, 13 July 2022**

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Grants Committee held on 13 July 2022

**London Borough & Royal Borough:**

**Representative:**

Barnet	Cllr Sara Conway (attending virtually)
Bexley	Cllr David Leaf
Brent	Cllr Mili Patel
City of London Councils	Paul Martinelli
Croydon	Cllr Ola Kolade
Ealing	Cllr Jasbir Anand
Greenwich	Cllr Adel Khaireh
Hackney	Cllr Christopher Kennedy
Hammersmith and Fulham	Cllr Rebecca Harvey (attending virtually)
Haringey	Cllr Sarah Williams (attending virtually)
Harrow	Cllr Jean Lammiman (attending virtually)
Hillingdon	Cllr Martin Goddard (attending virtually)
Hounslow	Cllr Shivraj Grewal
Islington	Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Kensington and Chelsea	Cllr Sof McVeigh (attending virtually)
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Andreas Kirsch (attending virtually)
Lambeth	Cllr Donatus Anyanwu
Lewisham	Mayor Damien Egan
Merton	Cllr Eleanor Stringer
Newham	Cllr Charlene McLean (attending virtually)
Redbridge	Cllr John Howard (attending virtually)
Richmond upon Thames	Cllr Nancy Baldwin
Sutton	Cllr Marian James (attending virtually)
Tower Hamlets	Cllr Saied Ahmed (attending virtually)
Westminster	Cllr Nafsika Butler-Thalassis

Nazira Mehman (IKROW) and Tai Rosenzweig (Women and Girls Network) were present for item 12.

London Councils officers were in attendance.

*Members were informed of the hybrid meetings protocols for London Councils' Grants Committee and reminded that this meeting would be live-streamed for the press and public.*

## **1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Saima Ashraf (LB Barking and Dagenham), Nadia Shah (LB Camden), Cllr Vicky Ashworth (LB Waltham Forest) and Cllr Simon Hog (LB Wandsworth).

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 Cllr Martin Goddard declared his non-pecuniary interest as a retired Grant Thornton partner.

## **3. Acknowledgement of outgoing and new members**

- 3.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, London Councils, welcomed the new and returning members of the Grants Committee. She also expressed her team's appreciation to outgoing members for all their hard work on the Grants Committee.
- 3.2 Members asked for their thanks to the former members of the Grants Committee to be recorded.

## **4. Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year**

- 4.1 Mayor Damien Egan was nominated as the Chair of the Grants Committee by Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) and seconded by Cllr Nancy Baldwin (LB Richmond upon Thames)
- 4.2 There being no other nominees for the Chair, the Strategy Director declared Mayor Egan Chair of the Grants Committee and stepped down to allow the elected Chair to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

## **5. Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year**

- 5.1 The Chair called for nominations for the three Vice Chairs for 2022-23. He nominated the following members as Vice Chairs of the Grants Committee, seconded by Cllr Shivraj Grewal (LB Hounslow):

- Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington) as the Labour Vice Chair;
- Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) as the Conservative Vice Chair;
- Cllr Marian James (LB Sutton) as the Liberal Democrat Vice Chair.

5.2 There being no other nominees, the Chair declared Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Cllr Leaf and Cllr James as the Vice Chairs of the Grants Committee.

## **6. Election of the Grants Executive for the 2022-23 Municipal Year**

6.1 The following members were appointed:

- Mayor Damien Egan (LB Lewisham) – Chair (Lab)
- Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington)
- Cllr Eleanor Stringer (LB Merton)
- Cllr Stephanie Cryan (LB Southwark)
- Cllr Vicky Ashworth (LB Waltham Forest)
- Cllr Jean Lammiman (LB Harrow)
- Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley)
- Cllr Sof McVeigh (RB Kensington and Chelsea)
- Cllr Marian James (LB Sutton)
- Paul Martinelli (City of London)

## **7. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 16 March 2022**

7.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee held on 16 March 2022 were agreed.

## **8. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 14 July 2021 – for noting**

8.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 14 July 2021, which had been previously agreed, were noted.

## **9. Constitutional Matters:**

9.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report which proposed an amendment to London Councils' Standing Orders. The report also provided, for information, the most recent version of London Councils Scheme of Delegations, which

encompasses amendments to reflect the current officer structure of London Councils.

9.2 The Grants Committee:

- Noted the proposed amendments to London Councils Standing Orders
- Noted the proposed amendments to London Councils Scheme of Delegations to officers.

**10. Operation of Grants Committee 2022-2023**

10.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report, which informed members of the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive and set out dates for meetings in the municipal year 2022-23.

10.2 The Strategy Director added that funded organisations would be invited to future meetings of the Grants Committee to talk about their projects, and there would also be a number of partner visits organised for Grants Committee members. This would help the Grants Committee gain a better understanding of the funded partners' work, and they could then disseminate that information to their boroughs. In addition, the team would explore the possibility of inviting all partners to a meeting of the Grants Committee to showcase their work.

10.3 Members made the following comments:

- It would be helpful for members to receive written guidance for visiting funded organisations.
- It would be helpful if reports were page-numbered for future meetings, to make them easier to read.

10.4 The Grants Committee:

- Noted the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive;
- Noted the programme of meetings.

## **11. London Councils Grants Committee - Pre-Audited Financial Results 2021/22**

11.1 David Sanni, Director of Corporate Resources at London Councils presented this report, which detailed the provisional pre-audited final accounts for London Councils Grants Committee for 2021/22.

11.2 Director of Corporate Resources added that Grant Thornton LLP was due to audit the Grants Committee's accounts for 2021/22 in October 2022. The audited accounts would be presented to the Audit Committee, along with the annual audit report, for approval. The London Councils' Executive would then be asked to adopt the accounts at its November 2022 meeting. The audited accounts and annual audit report would also be circulated to all members of the Grants Committee.

11.3 Members were asked to note that the underspend on commissioned services were offset by overspends on staff and evaluation costs and that the provisional level of uncommitted reserves was c.£790,000.

11.4 Cllr Goddard requested that a formal conversation be held with the auditors regarding the pension liability fund and the minimum level of reserves, as this could have a significant effect on any decision-making with regards to future spending. The Director of Corporate Resources said that he would raise this with the auditors, but noted that the triennial valuation was a better measure of the pension deficit as it took into account a more realistic view of investments.

11.5 Grants Committee members:

- Noted the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £56,000 for 2021/22, the final year of the extended five-year programme of commissions;
- Noted the provisional level of reserves and the financial outlook.

## **12. Partner Presentation: Women and Girls Network (ASCENT Advice and Counselling Project) and IKWRO**

12.1 Tai Rosenzweig (Women and Girls Network) gave a presentation on the organisation's ASCENT project and said that:

- ASCENT Advice and Counselling Project provides support services for women and girls (aged 14+) who have been impacted by all aspects of violence against women and girls, including those who face multiple disadvantages and additional barriers, such as those with No Recourse to Public Funds status.
- The project has two London hubs and has spokes across all the London boroughs. ASCENT support workers speak a number of community languages including Arabic and languages commonly spoken in South-East Asia, South America, and Eastern Europe. They also have specialised translators for the languages not spoken by the ASCENT staff.
- The project helps service address issues with housing, legal matters, emotional well-being, child-related issues and counselling, amongst others. Relevant services such as social services and the police are contacted when appropriate.
- The project also helps with training legal professionals, who are taught to understand the dynamics surrounding violence against women and girls.
- Recent challenges include an increase in mental health issues, increase in sexual violence, the cost of living crisis, and housing issues.

#### 12.2 Nazira Mehman gave a summary of the work of IKWRO:

- IKWRO specialises in providing practical support and counselling to Middle Eastern, North African and Afghan women and girls living in the UK, who have experienced, or are at risk of “honour” based abuse, including; forced marriage, child marriage and female genital mutilation, or domestic abuse.
- Most of IKWRO’s clients would not be comfortable in going to mainstream organisations or the police for help, due to language and cultural barriers. The support workers speak a number of community languages and women are helped access services such as health, legal and housing services.
- The charity also operates a refuge for women who are victims of domestic abuse.



### **13. Performance of Grants Programme 2017-22: April 2017 to March 2022 (end of programme)**

13.1 FERIA Henry, Grants Manager, London Councils, summarised the main points in the report, which provided members with an update on the two priorities of the Grants programme, for the period April 2017 to March 2022. She said that all 13 projects have ended their cycle with a Green RAG-rating. Some of the highlights from the report were:

- Priority 1, Combatting Homelessness, performed five per cent above profile overall. Some of the notable successes included:
  - The STAR Partnership, where Praxis have made a significant impact with their immigration advice.
  - The London Youth Gateway's 'hub and spoke' model, which provided two clear building-based points of access in north London (the NHYC day centre) and south London (Depaul UK Endeavour Centre), together with satellite services, drop-ins, street and prison outreach, and community-based support across the capital.
  - St Mungo's has established and strengthened multi-agency partnerships through the Grants Programme, and have carried out some valuable work with the rehabilitation of people leaving prison. St Mungo's has also continued to provide support services for ex-offenders under 35, many of whom have complex needs.
  - Homeless Link's PLUS Project, has continued to focus on innovative and emerging practices.
- Priority 2, Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence, was nine per cent below profile overall. This was mainly due to the fact that the work of Tender Education and Arts was severely impacted by the pandemic due to school closures and schools prioritising core subjects post-lockdown. Some of the successes across Priority 2 included:
  - Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) worked with survivors on finding or retaining safe housing by making homelessness applications, applying non-molestation or occupation orders, working with women

experiencing harmful practices and the creation of sector wide innovations in harmful practices interventions and partnership work.

- The Ascent EHP partnership and report making small but important steps in reversing the longstanding inequalities faced by the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) specialist sector.
  - SignHealth's Domestic Abuse Service have been able to continue ongoing face to face support and delivering workshops to the Deaf community in London.
  - Galop as Lead Partner of the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP) were involved in a number of high-profile campaigns, such as the Home Office's You Are Not Alone campaign, as well as campaigns from Women's Aid, Hestia, and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)/MOPAC.
- Some of the challenges that applied across both priorities were working with councils to accept service users under various responsibilities including homelessness. Those experiencing the most barriers were young people, those weaving prison, and those with complex needs. There was also a significant increase in calls to helplines during the last two years of the programme due to the Covid19 pandemic. Projects had also experienced challenges to staffing and recruitment due to the added stress and pressure on staff during the pandemic. However, the partnership model meant that if an organisation was experiencing recruitment issues, other partners could step in to cover. In light of the staffing challenges experienced by a number of organisations, London Councils officers have asked partners to look at their budgets for the 2022-26 programme to see if they could allocate some resources for staff mental health.
  - Feedback from the funded partners, staff, stakeholders and service users on the impact of the projects has been very positive.
  - The Youth Homelessness Hub 12-month pilot, run by New Horizon Youth Centre and Depaul UK, working with Cardinal Hume Centre, was open to any young person aged 18-24 years of age who was rough sleeping or at immediate risk of doing so. Young people were then supported to move on into private rented properties, supported accommodation, local authority housing, accommodation projects run by New Horizon, and to return to their

families (where appropriate). By the end of April 2022, 185 young people had stayed as guests at Hotel 1824 with 132 of them having moved on positively. The Department for Levelling up Communities and Housing is currently considering a grant via the Rough Sleeping Initiative and if successful this will ensure longer term security for the provision.

#### **14. Grants Programme 2022-26: Implementation Update**

14.1 The Strategy Director introduced the report which provided an update on the implementation of the new Grants programme:

- At the November 2021 meeting, Grants Committee agreed recommendations for grant funding for Priority 1, Combatting Homelessness, and Priority 2, Tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence for the 2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme.
- Since then, the Grants team have been working with partners to get the grant agreements signed and there were only two outstanding agreements, which were due to be signed off shortly.
- The first quarter report would be out in November 2022. London Councils' Grants team were looking at allocating budgets more flexibly over the life of the programme, which would be particularly helpful when organisations encounter staffing problems. The Grants team were also conscious of the cost-of-living crisis and the impact it was likely to have on organisations and people accessing services.

14.2 Grants Committee members would be given the opportunity to be involved with the programme, in terms of visits, and being 'champions' for certain areas – this could include one-off work and ongoing involvement. Members were invited to get in touch with the Grants team if they wanted to champion a particular element of the Grants Programme.

14.3 In response to a question on the impact of rising inflation on the viability of projects, the Strategy Director replied that regular conversations were being held with funded organisations to ensure they could still deliver in the current challenging financial climate. There was also a possibility for the Grants Committee to ringfence some reserves.

14.4 In response to a question about carrying out a cost/benefit analysis of the Grants programme to all the boroughs, the Strategy Director said that the report in November 2021 showed the levy contribution that each borough made to the programme. However, a cost/benefit analysis is not done at borough level, as this was a pan-London programme.

14.5 Grants Committee members:

- Noted the activity to-date and continuing activity to implement the 2022-2026 pan-London Grants Programme;
- Noted the final awarded grant values to partners who are delivering the programme from April 2022.

**The meeting finished at 1pm.**

## **LONDON COUNCILS' GRANTS COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE – INFORMAL MEETING**

Minutes of the Informal Grants Committee Executive meeting held via Microsoft Teams on Monday 14 November 2022 at 10am

### **Members:**

Mayor Damien Egan (LB Lewisham) - Chair  
Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley)  
Cllr Marian James (LB Sutton)  
Cllr Stephanie Cryan (LB Southwark)  
Cllr Eleanor Stringer (LB Merton)  
Cllr Sof McVeigh (RB Kensington & Chelsea)  
Cllr Jean Lammiman (LB Harrow)  
Paul Martinelli (City of London)

### **London Councils officers were in attendance.**

The Chair welcomed Grants Executive members and London Councils officers to the meeting.

### **1 Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington) and Cllr Vicky Ashworth (LB Waltham Forest)

### **2 Declarations of Interests\***

2.1 No interests were declared.

### **3 Minutes of Grants Executive held on 2 March 2022 (for noting – to be agreed by Urgency)**

3.1 The minutes were noted with the following amendment: Cllr James to be added to the list of attendees.

#### **4 Minutes of Grants Committee AGM held on 13 July 2022 (for noting)**

4.1 The minutes were noted.

#### **5 Review of Agenda for Grants Committee 30 November 2022**

5.1 Strategy Director – London’s Communities introduced this item and said that:

- Items 1-5 – these were the standard items, including a report on the performance of the new Grants Programme from April 2022 to September 2022.
- Item 6 - James Banks, Chief Executive of London Funders, has been invited to speak at the next Grants Committee meeting on London Funders’ support to boroughs (London Councils pay £60,000 per annum on behalf of the boroughs for their services) and the Grants Programme. His presentation would also cover the cost of living crisis. One of the roles of London Funders was to consider issues such as how to fund projects in a more strategic way and how to ensure the reach of projects across London (for example through its project *Propel*). The Strategy Director was a Trustee of London Funders on London Councils’ behalf and it would be helpful for the Grants Committee to consider what else could be done to maximise the benefits of this role.
- Item 7 - *Deferred Commissioning of Refuge Provision for the 2022-2026 Programme* – the Grants Committee Executive would discuss this report at the present meeting, and then the Grants Committee would be asked to endorse the proposals at the meeting on 30 November.
- Item 8 - *London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2023-24*
- Item 9 - *Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2022-23*

5.2 In response to a question from a member on whether the breakdown of borough contributions would be included in the budget report for the benefit of new members, the Strategy Director confirmed that borough contributions and other data such as population shifts would be included in the report.

5.3 In response to a members' suggestion that since both London Funders and the Grants Programme were doing work on the cost of living crisis, it would be useful if the CEX of London Funders talked about how those two streams of work align in his presentation at the Grants Committee, the Strategy Director said that she would ask the CEX of London Funders to cover this in his presentation.

5.4 Grants Committee Executive members agreed the proposed agenda for the Grants Committee meeting on 30 November 2022.

## **6 Deferred Commissioning of Refuge Provision for the 2022-2026 Programme – Next Steps**

6.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item and said that in March 2021, Grants Committee agreed to delay this commission due to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which placed new duties on the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) with regards to commissioning provision for domestic abuse. The intention was to see what work the GLA and MOPAC would commission, in order to ensure there were synergies with the work of the Grants Programme. The existing grant agreement with Ashiana Network for provision of refuge services was extended to the end of March 2023. This delay to commissioning meant that the timescales would be quite tight; however, they were still achievable.

6.2 The Strategy Director introduced Rachel Buttrick, the London Councils lead on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) policy at London Councils, who has been liaising with the GLA and MOPAC as part of this work.

6.3 In response to a question from a member about how this work related to the existing borough provision for VAWG, the Strategy Director said that GLA and MOPAC, with involvement with London Councils, had undertaken a strategic review and the Grants Committee would be guided by what comes out of the reviews.

6.4 In response to a question about whether a spike in demand was expected due to the current economic circumstances, the Strategy Director said that demand continued to outstrip supply; however, it was not the level of funding that was the main consideration, but other issues, such as having sufficient 'move-on' provision from refuges. Rachel Buttrick added that the cost of housing in London was a major factor as to why women tended to stay in refuges in London for longer periods of time, than was the case outside the Capital. In addition, service providers were reporting an increase in complexity of needs – e.g. more people needing immigration advice, more people presenting with mental health issues, which led to additional case management, as working with individuals was now taking more time than it used to.

6.5 In response to a member's question about the possibility for providing 'move-on' accommodation outside London, the Strategy Director said that this was a possibility that could be looked into. However, this would not be an ideal solution, as it would put additional pressure on out of London boroughs, and it would be harder to put in place the necessary support arrangements.

6.6 In response to a question about the financial risk of inflation on the Grants Committee budget, the Strategy Director said that the financial pressures may have an impact on the volume of what is delivered.

6.7 In response to a question about overlap with the GLA/MOPAC work, the Strategy Director said that all commissions were undergoing similar demand pressures, especially in specialist provision (e.g. women who flee with adolescent boys were finding it hard to access provision as their sons were considered men). There was also a shortage of provision for women with disabilities (e.g. blindness, deafness) and also learning disabilities, both in terms of accommodation and support available. London Councils would be working with the GLA on this.

6.8 In response to a question about members getting access to borough by borough breakdown of information about instances of VAWG, the Strategy Director said that this data would be sent to members after the meeting. London Councils officers also had access to national statistics which they were happy to share with the Grants



Committee Executive members. However, caution must be exercised as DV incidences were still underreported. The Strategy Director agreed to send the draft service specification to members (with the proviso that this information needed to be kept confidential until the Grants Committee papers for 30 November meeting were published).

6.9 In response to a question about whether the Grants Committee were looking for a single provider or a consortium, the Strategy Director said that consortium proposals would be encouraged, partly because of the complexity of the issue and also because of the need to have access to niche provision.

6.10 The Strategy Director added that there would be a 'market warming' event the following week, where London Councils officers will give a presentation to the sector which would contain the key things that the Grants Committee was looking for in the specification and the key things that needed to be included in the application.

Action: Strategy Director to email members after the market warming event

Action: Strategy Director to email members information on VAWG statistics, broken down by borough, and email the draft specification

6.11 Members agreed Grants Committee Executive takes the decision to award the grant for refuge provision in late January 2023

The meeting ended at 10.30am

# Grants Committee

## Performance of Grants Programme 2022-2026

April - September 2022

Item: 5

**Report by** Feria Henry and Joanne Watson **Job title** Grants Managers

**Date** 30 November 2022

**Contact Officer** Feria Henry/Joanne Watson

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### Summary

At its meeting of 24 November 2021 Grants Committee agreed funding for 13 commissions under the following two priorities:

Priority 1 Combatting Homelessness

Priority 2 Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

In addition, the funding awarded under the 2017-22 programme to Ashiana Network to deliver the Specialist Refuge Network under Service Area 2.4 was extended to 31 March 2023 to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the Greater London Authority (GLA) following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act.

Funding was agreed for the period 2022 to 2026, subject to delivery, compliance with grant conditions and continued availability of resources.

This report provides members with:

- The first performance report on the two priorities of the 2022-26 Grants Programme, for the period April 2022 to September 2022 (quarters one to two)
- A summary of the impact of the cost of living crisis on the funded groups and their beneficiaries
- The final annual equalities report for the 2017-2022 programme

### Recommendations

The Grants Committee is asked to **note**:

- a) outcomes at priority level to end of quarter two:
  - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness, overall is 14 per cent below profile

- ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is 13 per cent below profile
  - (1) Service Area 2.4 is five per cent above profile
- b) The number of interventions delivered in the relevant period:
  - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness – 3,866
  - ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence – 22,935
    - (1) Service Area 2.4 – 9,227
- c) Project level performance, using the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) performance management system (explained at Appendix 1):
  - i) Nine projects are rated Green
  - ii) Four projects are rated Amber
  - iii) One project has yet to start reporting (paragraph 3.34)
- d) A summary of the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the funded groups and their beneficiaries (section 4)
- e) The borough maps (Appendix 2)
- f) The project delivery information and contact details (Appendix 3), with up-to-date contact information, as well as an update on performance
- g) the final annual equalities report for the 2017-22 programme. (Appendix 4)

Appendix 1 RAG Rating Methodology

Appendix 2 Borough Maps

Appendix 3 Project Delivery Information and Contact Details

Appendix 4 The final annual equalities report for the 2017-22 programme

## 1 Background

1.1 The 2022 to 2026 Grants Programme focuses on the following priorities:

**Priority 1** - Combatting Homelessness

**Priority 2** - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

1.2 Grants Committee agreed funding for 13 projects for the period 2022 to 2026, subject to delivery, compliance with grant conditions and continued availability of resources.

1.3 In addition, the Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme under strand 2.4<sup>1</sup> was extended by the Grants Committee for a further year to 31 March 2023 to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the GLA, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act.

Grants (including Ashiana's extended year) are summarised in Table 1.

*Table 1: London Councils Grants Programme 2022-26 (Priority 1 and 2)*

Service Area <sup>2</sup>	Organisation	Agreed awarded amount
1.1	Shelter, The National Campaign for Homeless People Ltd	£3,706,718
1.1	St Mungo Community Housing Association	£1,315,749
1.2	St Mungo Community Housing Association	£413,021
1.3	New Horizon Youth Centre	£3,756,866
1.4	Homeless Link	£693,509
<b>Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness</b>		<b>£9,885,863</b>
2.1	Against Violence and Abuse	£944,987
2.2	Galop	£642,295
2.2	Women and Girls Network	£5,533,157

<sup>1</sup> Service area 2.4 - Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups

<sup>2</sup> See paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 for a brief description of the service areas

2.2	SignHealth	£1,047,148
2.3	Refuge	£1,139,673
2.3	Women's Aid Federation	£100,000 <sup>3</sup>
2.4	Ashiana Network	£840,000 <sup>4</sup>
2.5	Women's Resource Centre	£758,088
2.6	Asian Women's Resource Centre	£1,234,646
<b>Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence</b>		<b>£12,239,994</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>£22,125,857</b>

- 1.4 The London Councils Grants Programme enables boroughs to tackle high-priority social need where this is better done at pan-London level. The programme commissions third sector organisations to work with disadvantaged Londoners to make real improvements in their lives. This is the first report covering the performance of the 2022 to 2026 Grants Programme. Case studies of programme activity are available [here](#) on the London Councils website.

## 2 Priority 1: Homelessness

### Delivery

- 2.1 The Committee has allocated £9.9 million to five projects to Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness for 2022-26. Of these five:
- Two (with a total value of £1.2 million in year one) are delivering against specification 1.1: Prevention and Targeted Intervention
  - One (value of £0.1m in year one) is delivering against Specification 1.2: Prevention and targeted intervention for rough sleepers
  - One (value of £0.9 million in year one) is delivering against specification 1.3 Prevention and targeted intervention for young people

<sup>3</sup> This is the recommended figure, final budget/profile is still being negotiated, project has started at own risk

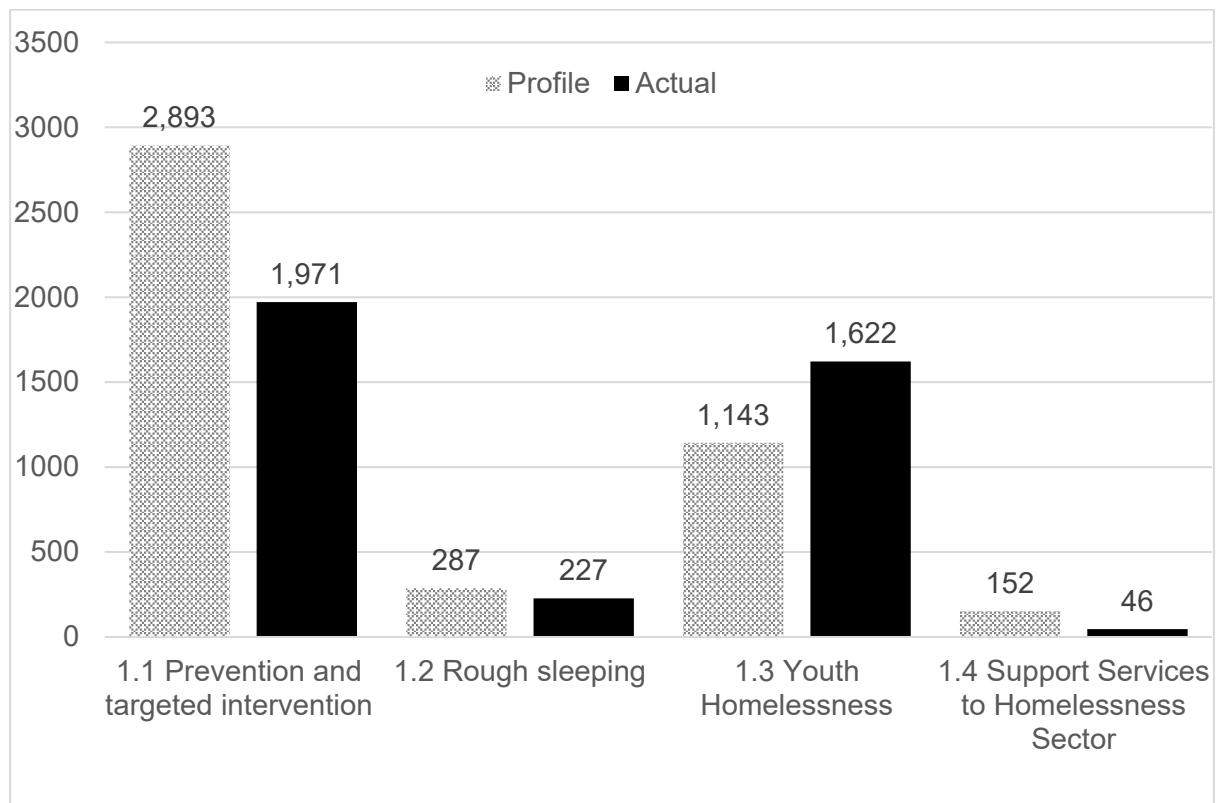
<sup>4</sup> This is for a one year extension (until 31 March 2023) of the Specialist refuge Service funded under the 2017-22 programme, to allow for the development of longer term arrangements across London following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act

- One (value of £0.2 million per year) is delivering against specification 1.4: Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals)
- 2.2 Over the first two quarters of the programme, performance was 14 per cent below profile. Outcome targets have been met or been surpassed in one out of the four service areas to quarter two. For the three service areas – 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 that have performed below target, all three, are outside of the -15 per cent performance tolerance. Figure 1 provides further detail across the service areas; specific information on achievement against outcomes at project level is available in Appendix 3 and performance issues from paragraph 2.35.
- 2.3 Service area 1.1, Prevention and Targeted Intervention: The commissions in this strand are Shelter and St Mungo, which are both outside the -15 per cent performance tolerance. Projects have reported that casework, including immigration cases are taking longer to resolve and some accommodation provided by partner project Stonewall Housing has not been accessible. St Mungo project, HARP also report late project start and staffing issues, impacting on outcomes. These issues have now been addressed, with delivery targets set to return to agreed levels, from quarter 3, 4 onwards.
- 2.4 Service area 1.2, Rough Sleeping: The sole commission in this strand, the Streetlink Project, delivered by St Mungo is outside the -15 per cent performance tolerance. The project has reported issues with recruitment which have negatively impacted the project's ability to achieve its outcomes in the first quarter. St Mungo have drawn on underspent resources to recruit locums, to ensure that the level of underachievement is reduced going forward.
- 2.5 Service area 1.4, Support Services to Homelessness Sector: The sole commission in this strand, the Plus Project, led by Homeless Link is well outside the -15 per cent performance tolerance. The project has been impacted by organisations registering for training and webinars and then not attending. The Project has also been heavily reliant on the Winter Transformation Fund being open for application to provide related training opportunities, but these were delayed as the Fund was not available in quarter 1. Officers have confirmed there

will be continued work, including rescheduled webinars, to ensure all outcome targets are met in quarters 3, 4 and onwards.

- 2.6 Service 1.3, Youth Homelessness: The youth homelessness commission is delivered solely through the London Youth Gateway (LYG) Project, led by New Horizon Youth Centre. LYG is delivering well above the 15 per cent tolerance at 42 per cent. LYG has reported that there continues to be increased demand for young people to be assisted with accommodation needs. Referrals of LGBTQ+ young people have also increased, with the introduction of the Stonewall Housing, Galop and AKT (Albert Kennedy Trust) new online chat facility as well as an increase in Nightstop referrals.

**Figure 1:** Priority 1 Delivery against Profile Aggregate Outcomes by service area 2022-26 Q1 to Q2



	<b>1.1 Prevention and targeted Intervention</b>	<b>1.2 Rough Sleeping</b>	<b>1.3 Youth Homelessness</b>	<b>1.4 Support Services to Homelessness Sector</b>
<b>Profile</b>	2,893	287	1,143	152
<b>Actual</b>	1,971	227	1,622	46
<b>Difference</b>	-922	-60	479	-106
<b>Variance</b>	-32 %	-21%	42%	-70%
<b>Year One Grant Value (£m)</b>	£1.22	£0.10	£0.94	£0.17
<b>Number of Providers</b>	2	1	1	1

2.7 As shown in Figure 1, performance is below profile in three service areas at the end of quarter 2.

2.8 Providers continue to support vulnerable and disadvantaged service users within the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. By end of quarter 2<sup>5</sup>:

- 33.7 per cent were female
- 30.7 per cent were under 25
- 6.7 per cent were over 55
- 64.5 per cent were ethnic minorities<sup>6</sup>
- 22.9 per cent declared a disability
- 13.9 per cent were LGBT<sup>7</sup>
- 190 people had no recourse to public funds (8.7 per cent)

2.9 London Councils funds organisations to deliver services across London and our monitoring returns include an assessment of equalities; the Grants team will report annually on the equalities performance of the 2022-26 programme.

2.10 A report assessing the 2017-22 programme's performance with reference to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 is attached in appendix 4 of this report.

<sup>5</sup> Based on self-declaration; users may declare more than one protected characteristic e.g. disability

<sup>6</sup> Includes Asian - all, Black - all, Chinese, Latin American, Middle Eastern, mixed ethnicity, white European, white Irish and white other

<sup>7</sup> Lesbian, gay, bisexual, identify as trans or a person with trans history or declared other



## **Policy and wider environment**

- 2.11 The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities has consulted on a new allocation methodology for the Homelessness Prevention Grant. The new methodology would apply to grant funding for 2023/24 onwards, with allocations expected to be calculated and announced in late 2022.
- 2.12 The consultation sets out two options for the new methodology, with indicative allocations showing a significant funding reduction for London local authorities of between 6 per cent and 32 per cent, with outer-London facing higher reductions in grant funding of between 15 per cent and 42 per cent. Figures are indicative at this stage, based on an assumption that funding remains at the same level as 2022/23, with the overall level of grant funding to be announced.
- 2.13 London Councils responded to the consultation strongly opposing the proposed changes and calling on the government to pause the implementation of new methodology to work with boroughs to develop a model that more accurately reflected homelessness pressures in London.
- 2.14 London is in the midst of a severe housing affordability crisis at a time when the financial pressures on low-income Londoners have never been greater. This crisis is driven by wider changes to the Private Rented Sector (PRS) in London, including a sharp reduction in the supply of accommodation alongside rents climbing to higher than pre-pandemic levels, but for low-income households the impact has been compounded by limits on the level of Local Housing Allowance (LHA). Increases in rent across London since April 2020 have resulted in an increasingly smaller pool of properties being affordable to households reliant on benefits to meet their housing costs. This has highly limited London boroughs' ability to prevent and relieve homelessness. Research commissioned by Capital Letters and carried out by Savills (based on analysis of Rightmove listings) has found that London rents have increased by an average of 15.8 per cent over the year to June 2022. In all London boroughs average rents are now higher than their pre-pandemic levels.
- 2.15 Projects have highlighted some concerns about winter provision for rough sleepers as some traditional night shelters in boroughs are not providing this resource due to reduced numbers of volunteers and costs of the shelters. Private

rented accommodation has also become harder to procure across London and there are reports of landlords leaving the property market. Accessing emergency accommodation has been impacted by the closure of several accommodation projects including Stonewall Housing accommodation, The Outside Project and Hotel 1824. However, as part of the GLA's Rough Sleeping Initiative funding recently announced, New Horizon Youth Centre and Depaul UK are working hard to re-open the Youth Hub emergency accommodation early in Quarter three.

2.16 The APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) for Ending Homelessness recently launched its Report: [\*Is the Westminster Government on track to meet its manifesto commitment to “end the blight of rough sleeping” in England by the end of this Parliament?\*](#) looking at the Government's progress on tackling rough sleeping, finding that without urgent and impactful action, the Government will not meet its target of ending rough sleeping by 2024.

2.17 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC)<sup>8</sup> most recent update on homelessness data for London has been delayed and is unavailable to report for this period.

### **Service Area 1.1**

2.18 Priority one projects have focussed on project promotion and establishing links with boroughs, key agencies and community groups at this early stage in the new commissioning period. They have highlighted challenges due to the lack of supply of accommodation. Obtaining suitable and affordable accommodation is becoming increasingly difficult and there are less opportunities in the private rented sector especially for under 35s and young people. Projects also report continuing barriers to accessing local authority services and will continue to work in partnership to address these and raise awareness.

2.19 STAR Partnership has noted that the demand for the project's Helpline remains extremely high. The project feel that this is due to the continued pressures and unavailability of council housing stock, including the demand for temporary accommodation 'outpacing supply'. The STAR Partnership highlight that this has resulted in more people being accommodated in hotels, and for longer, when they are offered accommodation under homelessness provisions. The project is

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<sup>8</sup> Formerly Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG)

seeing examples of homeless families waiting months in hotels before more suitable accommodation can be offered.

- 2.20 Staff across the STAR Partnership requiring support for clients facing immigration issues and barriers have heavily drawn on the immigration drop-in consultancy sessions offered by partner Praxis, provided by a specialist advisor. Shelter have also made contact with the Ukrainian Welcome Centre, set up for refugees seeking housing and related support. A referral pathway has been established and a housing rights workshop was delivered to Ukrainian Welcome Centre volunteers in Camden and to families4peace
- 2.21 The Partnership reports it is becoming more difficult to find legal aid representation. The number of firms that would normally have been approached to secure representation has changed from 4-8 firms last year, to potentially 20 firms currently.
- 2.22 The STAR Partnership has commenced delivery of their Enabling Assessment Service London (EASL) consultancy sessions, which is a new offer for Shelter. Assessments by an Approved Mental Health Practitioner provide caseworkers with greater depth of understanding, insight, and evidence to ensure clients get the right statutory support.
- 2.23 HARP Connect has highlighted that the probation system has been through a major restructure which has resulted in the dismantling of Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) and the reinstatement of a National Probation Service. Due to these significant changes, the Probation Service is adjusting to the implementation of new services and systems, staff retention and recruitment. This has had a significant impact on the supervision provided to service users and on voluntary sector agencies working within Criminal Justice services. Although a difficult transition, with several challenges, HARP now have access to the probation owned Refer and Monitor system which they believe will improve project referral pathways and access to project services.
- 2.24 HARP are aware that there have been very few referrals for women service users. The project believes this is being impacted by their access to the women's prison estate and HARP does not currently have direct access to Bronzefield women's

prison. HARP have added activity to encourage referrals for female service users to their project plan for the next quarter.

### **Service area 1.2**

- 2.25 Working with the Street Legal team at St Mungo's, Streetlink has formed new pathways into immigration and legal advice services and accommodation. Streetlink will be exploring a referral route into winter night shelters for clients who have unclear or limited entitlements, are not CHAIN<sup>9</sup> verified, and have no care and support needs.
- 2.26 Streetlink has worked to build positive relationships with many Local Authority Housing leads particularly to improve responses to child safeguarding concerns. This has led to an improved understanding of Streetlink's service, challenges faced by those who are vulnerable and seeking accommodation and the development of clear escalation routes. Streetlink is also involved in the Women's Life on the Streets subgroup chaired by London Councils and StreetLink London gave a presentation to the Minister for rough sleeping. Streetlink believe that support is also needed for clients who are outside of the legislative safety net (Housing Act 1996, Homeless Reduction Act 2017, Care Act 2014, Immigration and Asylum act 1999).
- 2.27 Streetlink's London Advice Line are working with the GLA and London Councils to evidence the challenges their clients' experience in acquiring their entitlements from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Recent feedback from frontline staff suggested issues with length of time for decision making, poor decision making, poor/inaccurate advice and at times discriminatory practices. Streetlink has passed this feedback on to the GLA and understand they are going to meet with the DWP to discuss further.
- 2.28 Streetlink contributed to Shelter's mystery shopper project. Findings are presented to local authorities, with the aim of reviewing the support provided to clients approaching Housing Options for support.

### **Service area 1.3**

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<sup>9</sup> CHAIN (Combined Homelessness and Information Network) is a multi-agency database recording information about people sleeping rough and the wider street population in London.

- 2.29 London Youth Gateway (LYG) has highlighted that young people who are clearly in urgent need are not always able to get GP appointments to enable referral to appropriate services, which can also mean they do not receive support from care coordinators. This also has a direct impact on their homelessness as these young people tend to struggle to evidence that they should be considered as having priority need under the Housing Act. Consequently, they tend to spend a long-time rough sleeping or sofa-surfing as they are not considered eligible for the relief duty or emergency accommodation. In addition, supported housing providers will not offer accommodation to these young people because of their higher support needs.
- 2.30 LYG worked with LB Haringey to organise the Tackling Youth Homelessness in London Together event in June (attended by boroughs and Voluntary and Community Services (VCS) providers, the Greater London Authority (GLA) London Councils and DLUHC. This will be followed by a series of communities of practice sessions throughout the year. Partners are also actively contributing to the Life Off the Streets young people's workstream, led by London Councils and the GLA, to prevent and improve outcomes for young people sleeping rough in the capital. LYG partner, Albert Kennedy Trust (akt) launched their Housing Report: ['building inclusive housing support for lgbtq+ communities'](#) on 23rd May at the Houses of Parliament.
- 2.31 LYG's LGBTQ+. Jigsaw partners have launched a new online chat function, particularly to engage young people that may not be in a safe position to make a phone call, fill in a form, or may find it anxiety-provoking to wait for email responses. Work has also focussed on mental health support to young people in housing need, particularly securing mental health assessments or diagnosis.
- 2.32 New Horizon Youth Centre (NHYC) have created strong links with the London Assembly Housing Committee and are also supporting its #StopTheBus campaign youth homelessness campaign to stop the equivalent of a bus load of young people being made homeless every day. New Horizon Youth Centre also met with the London Councils Rough Sleeping Director and the Chair of the Housing Group, to discuss how to better address youth homelessness in the Capital. NHYC also hosted a visit for the youth justice policy lead at the Ministry

of Justice, to learn more about NHYC's work with young people impacted by violence, criminal exploitation and the criminal justice system.

- 2.33 NHYC have also won the Try Something New award at the London Youth Awards for their Youth Hub pilot 'Hotel 1824', which New Horizon Youth Centre ran with Depaul UK. New Horizon Youth Centre highlight that the Award is a real tribute to youth work and thanked London Councils for its support with the Hotel 1824 project. LYG partners have also received external acknowledgement and celebration of their work and innovation: Stonewall Housing were nominated for two awards at the Rainbow Honours and New Horizon Youth Centre (NHYC) was runner up in the Charity Awards for their work supporting young people in the Criminal Justice System.

#### **Service area 1.4**

- 2.34 London Plus contributed to the creation of the Pan-London Homelessness Job Fare. Held at City Hall, 200 potential future employees attended to meet with homelessness organisation who were offering jobs, initial interviews and general information on working in the sector. 120 individuals attended with 14 organisations offering jobs and advice.

#### **Performance management**

- 2.35 2 Priority 1 projects are currently rated Green and 3 are rated Amber (see Table 2).
- 2.36 The STAR Partnership has been RAG rated amber for two quarters and delivery against profile percentage is 58 per cent. Capacity remains an issue for the project. The project is receiving a very high number of enquiries, and casework is taking longer to resolve, in part due to waiting longer for local authorities to respond to enquiries. Lead partner Shelter's helpline is facing high demand, with calls lasting an average of six minutes longer on the present commission, compared to the previous one. This is due to immigration cases taking longer to resolve, in part due to Home Office delays. This is expected to improve as immigration cases are starting to be decided.
- 2.37 The project reports clients are not yet job-ready and issues with recording improvements in skills and health have led to lower outcomes being reported.

Staff have also experienced difficulties with maintaining ongoing contact with clients to confirm tenancy sustainment. The Partnership envisage that outcome levels will increase in further delivery quarters. Officers will continue to monitor this closely.

2.38 St Mungo's HARP has been RAG rated amber for two quarters with the RAG improving in the second quarter, and delivery against profile is 68 per cent. The project report that a late project start and staffing issues have impacted outcomes. There are also fewer housing opportunities in the private rented sector for HARP's clients. Staffing issues have also affected mental health support for clients.

2.39 HARP also note that clients' primary focus has been housing support, rather than life skills improvement. Next steps will be to work with clients on life skills and employment referrals when clients are job ready. The project's staff team is new and management are supporting staff to ensure the team are knowledgeable, understand the goals and requirements and are delivering a service which offers clients the agreed outcomes. HARP have improved on the delivery figures from the last quarter as the team start to come together and do not anticipate variance for the next quarter. Officers will continue to monitor this closely.

2.40 The London Plus project, has been RAG rated amber for two quarters with similar performance in the second quarter, and delivery against profile percentage of 71 per cent. There have been lower than expected improvements in several outcomes partly due to registered attendees not undertaking training. Some webinars have therefore been rescheduled to quarters three and four. Work has continued to inform organisations of funding opportunities/applications and although these outcomes have not yet been reached, webinars and training, including on the Winter Transformation Fund are due to be delivered. London Plus will also contribute to a pan-London fundraising event in quarter four which should increase delivery against outcomes. Officers will continue to monitor this closely.

2.41 St Mungo's (Streetlink London Advice Line) RAG rating has moved from red in quarter one to green in quarter two. Several rounds of recruitment were required to fill the two Assessment Worker Posts. The delay in recruitment impacted

StreetLink's ability to meet its outcome targets in quarter one; the organisation, however, arranged locum cover to enable it to meet its cumulative targets.



### **3 Priority 2: Sexual and domestic violence**

#### **Delivery**

3.1 The Committee allocated £12.2 million to nine projects to Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence for 2022-26<sup>10</sup>.

- One (value of £0.2 million in year one) is delivering against specification 2.1: Prevention (working with children and young people).
- Three (total value of £1.8 million in year one) are delivering against specification 2.2: Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk, post - Independent Domestic/Sexual Violence Advocate (IDVA/ISVA) support and target groups not accessing general provision).
- Two (value of £0.3 million in year one) is delivering against specification 2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision).
- One (value of £0.84 million until 31 March 2023) is delivering against specification 2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups.
- One (value of £0.19 million in year one) is delivering against specification 2.5: Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals).
- One (value of £0.30 million in year one) is delivering against specification 2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices

3.2 At the end of quarter two, overall performance was 13 per cent below profile. Figures 2 ,3 and 4 provide further information at a service area level. Outcome targets have been met or been surpassed in four of the six service areas. For the two service areas 2.2 and 2.3, that have performed below target only service area 2.2 is outside of the +/-15 per cent performance tolerance.

3.3 Figure 4 shows performance for service area 2.4, which as explained in paragraph 1.3, the Specialist Refuge Network has been extended for a further year to 31 March 2023, this means that their performance is showing delivery for the previous five years from April 2017 to September 2022. Performance for

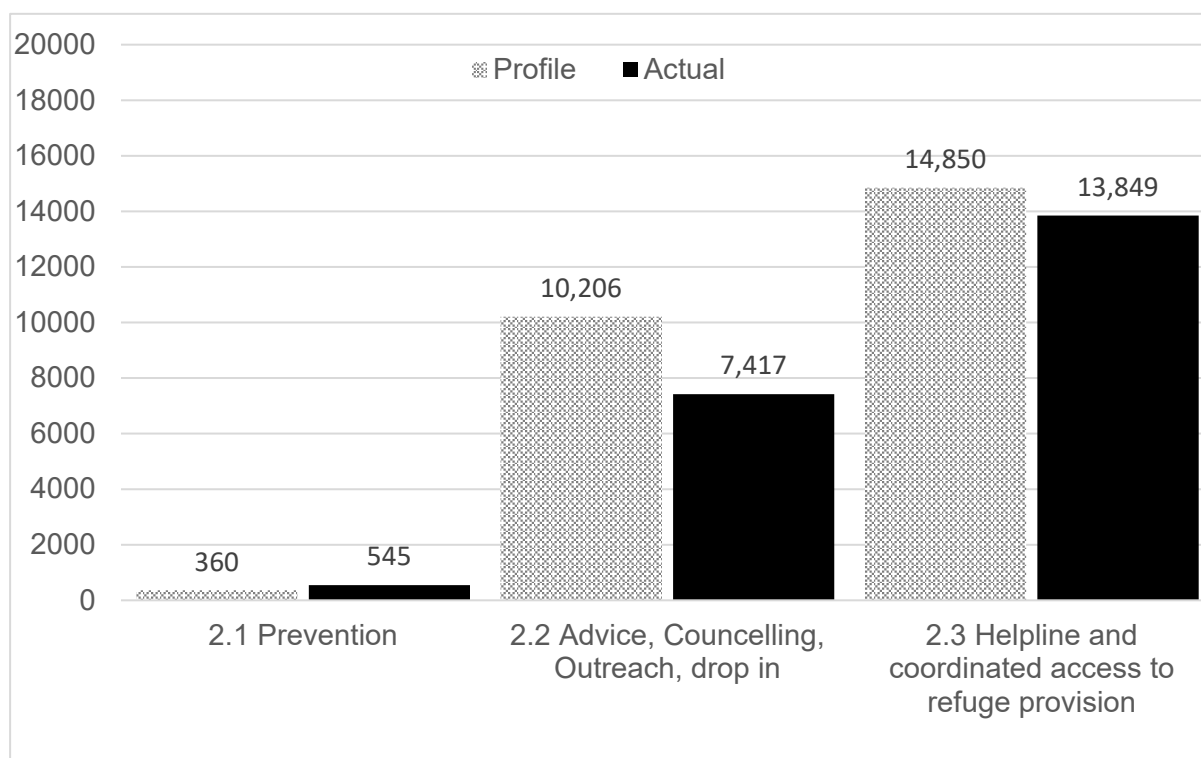
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<sup>10</sup> This figure includes service area 2.4 which has been extended for one additional year under the 2017-22 programme to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

service area 2.4 is 5 per cent above profile and within the +/-15 per cent performance tolerance.

- 3.4 Service area 2.1 has exceeded the + 15 per cent tolerance level because of training and outreach delivered by delivery partner Jewish Women's Aid (JWA). The group delivered training to a high number of professionals and young people (see para. 3.16) that resulted in overperformance of outcomes for professionals, reporting increased knowledge, awareness and commitment to ensure work is embedded and increased confidence in addressing issues with children and young people.
- 3.5 Service area 2.2 is below 15 per cent delivery tolerance due to difficulties meeting securing safe housing solutions and Women and Girls Network (WGN) having to offer a reduced counselling service, due to reduced capacity. Officers will continue to monitor this closely.
- 3.6 Service Area 2.6 has overdelivered due to the strong relationships forged by Ascent EHP partners with both statutory and third sector providers. Delivering training for frontline practitioners, together with attendance at VAWG Forums and work with MARAC's and social care teams, has resulted in increased referrals - which has in turn increased support work with beneficiaries and thus outcomes being exceeded.

**Figure 2:** Priority 2 Delivery against Profile Aggregate Outcomes by service area (2.1, 2.2, 2.3) 2022-26 Q1 to Q2:

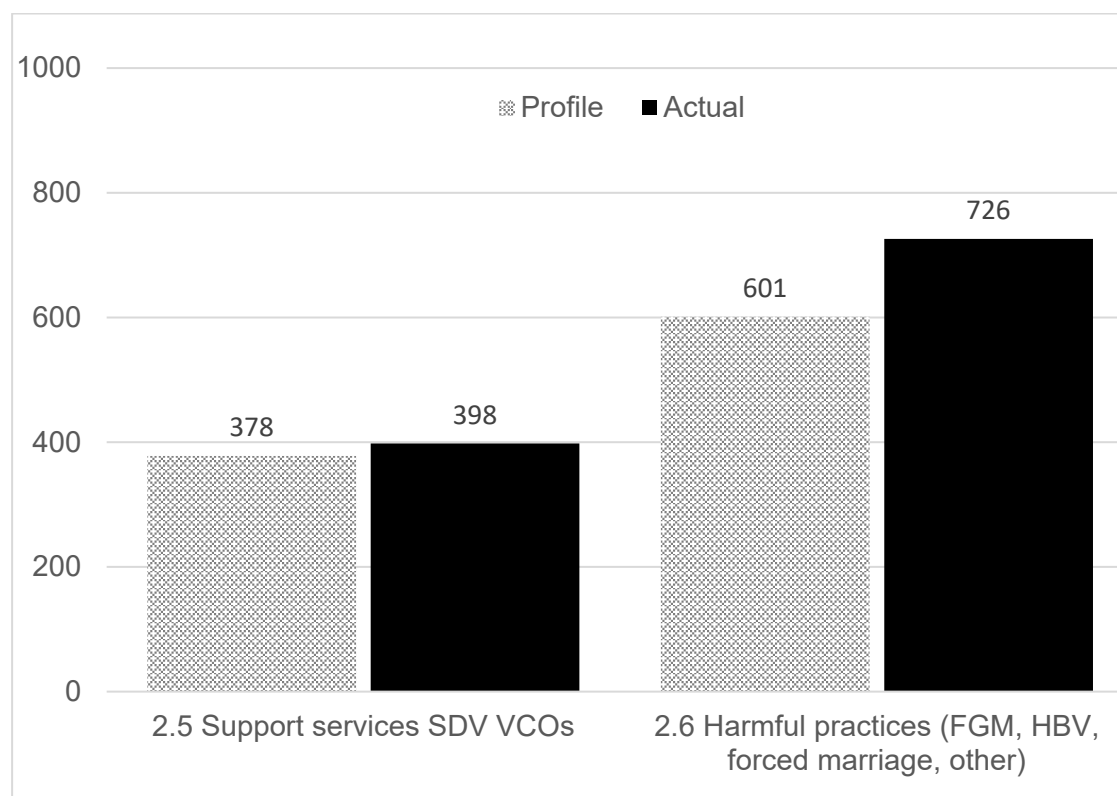


	2.1 Prevention	2.2 Advice, counselling, outreach, drop- in	2.3 Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision <sup>11</sup>
<b>Profile</b>	360	10,206	14,850 <sup>12</sup>
<b>Actual</b>	545	7,417	13,849
<b>Difference</b>	185	-2,789	-1,001
<b>Variance</b>	51%	-27%	-7%
<b>Year One Grants Value (£m)</b>	£0.24	£1.79	£0.32
<b>Number of Providers</b>	1	3	2

<sup>11</sup> Refuge records high numbers of callers where their borough of residence is unknown, or unreported. Due to the nature of the service, domestic and sexual violence helplines where callers may be unwilling or too distressed to give this information.

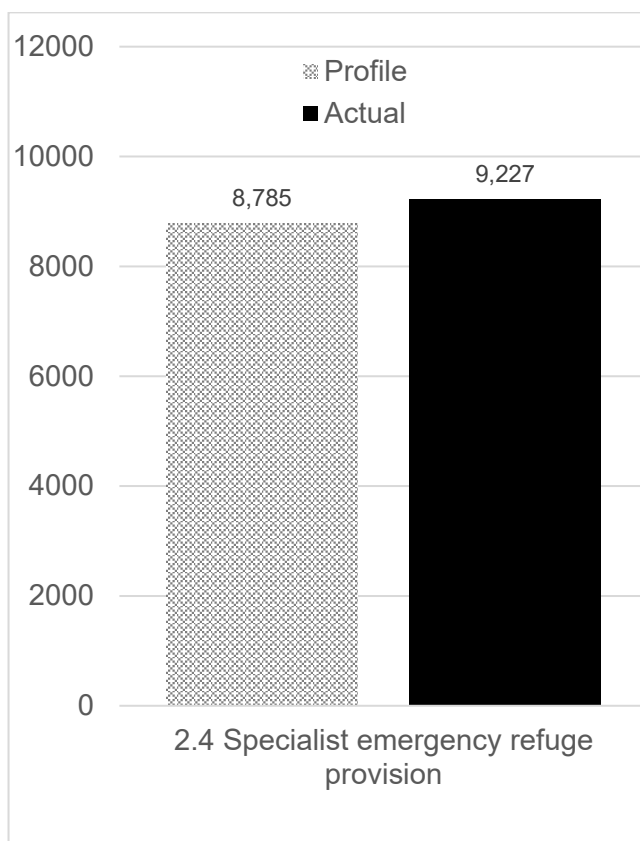
<sup>12</sup> Only one provider data – Refuge - is shown here as Women's Aid Federation is not yet in grant agreement, see paragraph 3.34

**Figure 3:** Priority 2 Delivery against Profile Aggregate Outcomes per service area (2.5, 2.6) 2022-26 Q1 to Q2:



	2.5 Support services SDV VCOs	2.6 Harmful practices (FGM, HBV, forced marriage, other)
Profile	378	601
Actual	398	726
Difference	20	125
Variance	5%	21%
Annual Grants Value (£m)	£0.19	£0.30
Number of Providers	1	1

**Figure 4:** Priority 2 Delivery against Profile Aggregate Outcomes per service area (2.4) 2017-2023, Year 1 to Year 6, Quarter 2:



Profile	8,785
Actual	9,227
Difference	442
Variance	5%
Annual Grants Value (£m)	£0.84
Number of Providers	1

3.7 Providers continue to support vulnerable and disadvantaged service users within the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. By end of quarter two<sup>1314</sup>:

- 75.3 per cent were female
- 11.1 per cent were under 25
- 11.3 per cent were aged over 55

<sup>13</sup> Based on self-declaration; users may declare more than one protected characteristic e.g., disability

<sup>14</sup> These figures also include Quarters 1 and 2 for the Specialist emergency refuge provision which has been extended for an additional year to 31 March 2023

- 69.3 per cent were ethnic minorities<sup>15</sup>
- 28.8 per cent declared a disability
- 22.8 per cent were LGBT<sup>16</sup>
- 473 people had no recourse to public funds (13 per cent)

3.8 London Councils funded organisations to deliver services across London and implemented a monitoring process that incorporated an assessment of equalities. A report assessing the programme's performance with reference to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 is included in this report in Appendix 4.

### **Policy and wider environment**

3.9 Draft Victims' Bill: The Justice Committee published their pre-legislative scrutiny report on the Draft Victims Bill on 30th September 2022. The Committee found that the draft bill in its current form will not achieve its aims due to the lack of enforcement powers and the need for additional resources. Key findings of the report relevant to violence against women and girls include:

- On the provision in the bill to enshrine the Victims' Code in statutory law, the Justice Committee raised concerns that the key principles of the code in the bill are not strong enough to drive change. The committee made recommendations for additions to the code and recommended that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) should be given power to escalate concerns about agencies' compliance with the code to relevant inspectorates and the Victims Commissioner.
- On the duty to collaborate on the provision of community-based support services for victims of crime (including sexual violence and domestic abuse), the Committee recommended that the duty be strengthened to require statutory agencies to collaborate to commission community-based services, and should be accompanied by an appropriate, multi- year funding package.

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<sup>15</sup> Includes Asian - all, Black - all, Chinese, Latin American, Middle Eastern, mixed ethnicity, white European, white Irish and white other

<sup>16</sup> Lesbian, gay, bisexual, identify as trans or a person with trans history or declared other

- The committee called for additional funding to support Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Advocacy services to accompany the proposal to create statutory definitions and guidance for advocates.
- 3.10 London Councils has contacted the Chair of the Justice Committee to raise concerns about the current wording of the duty to collaborate on the commissioning of support services, which does not currently include boroughs.
- 3.11 Serious Violence Duty: Under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, specified statutory agencies, including Local Authorities (London Boroughs); the police; and health commissioners have a legal duty to develop and implement a strategy to respond to Serious Violence. A consultation on the statutory guidance for the duty took place over the summer and the results are forthcoming. The duty will commence in early 2023.
- 3.12 Under current guidance, the duty allows local areas some flexibility in how serious violence is defined, with the inclusion of VAWG being left to local areas. London's Violence Reduction Unit is currently working with London boroughs to develop a consistent approach to the duty across London.
- 3.13 Domestic Abuse Commissioner - Early Mapping Findings: The Domestic Abuse Commissioner published early findings from their mapping of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services in England and Wales. The mapping found a disparity in services available across different areas and major gaps in support for victims and survivors. 'By and for' specialist services were found to be 5 times less likely to receive statutory funding than mainstream domestic abuse or violence against women and girl services. Major gaps in support identified for London include access to mental health support and access to support for children affected by domestic abuse.
- 3.14 Funding for Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence Services: In September 2022, the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice announced a dedicated, two-year funding pot for services to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls, with a focus on specialist and 'by and for' services. This announcement is part of the overall approach to funding services laid out in the Home Office's Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan and the Victims' funding strategy and is in addition to the three-year

funding for sexual abuse and domestic violence services announced in March 2022. The fund contains the following strands:

- 'By and For' Services Fund- £3 million per annum
- Specialist Services fund - £754,500 per annum
- Sexual Violence Support fund £400,000 per annum
- Employers Engagement Fund - £75,000 per annum

3.15 London Councils has commissioned AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) to deliver research mapping funding streams for VAWG services in London. This research will evaluate current funding arrangements in London and their impact on the ability of commissioners and service providers to deliver the right kind of support to victims and survivors and will provide recommendations on how to improve funding arrangements. The results of this research are planned to be published in early 2023.

### **Service Area 2.1**

3.16 Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR) held a virtual launch in September 2022, helping to increase engagement with and referrals to the HLHR programme. The HLHR Project had increased outcomes, this largely due to Jewish Women's Aid delivering their Healthy Relationships programme to large numbers of year eight students who reported that the Health Relationships programme had resulted in positive changes in attitudes about identifying components of health relationships.

### **Service Area 2.2**

3.17 The Ascent Partnership is working to improve VAWG commissioning. Lead partner Women and Girls Network (WGN) are leading LB Hammersmith and Fulham's consultation on the creation of survivors' participation and activism systems across the borough. The aim is to establish a Lived Experience Advisory Board which will guide and direct the borough's future commissioning and provision of VAWG support.

3.18 The Ascent Partnership has also been very active across the boroughs. For example, Rights of Women (ROW) have delivered a presentation about the legal



advice line and other Ascent services at LB Southwark's Women's Safety event, Jewish Women's Aid attended a specialist Charedi community Meeting: Talking to groups about the barriers to reporting in Hackney, and Ashiana attended a community meeting convened as a result of the murder of Zara Aleena, providing expert knowledge on ways LB Hackney can enhance women's safety.

3.19 The LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP), led by GALOP reported an increase in image-based sexual abuse (revenge porn) with the threat of posting images being used coercively as well as a lack of empathy from professionals in the criminal justice system towards their clients. GALOP also reported that there is little recognition of the difficulties faced by their clients navigating the police and court system.

3.20 The Deaf Domestic Abuse Service, led by SignHealth, advise that there has been an increase in mental health issues amongst its clientele and that many of them, who may not be aware of the severity of their condition, do not seek support from their GP.

3.21 SignHealth provided the following update on events:

- The Head of Domestic Abuse Services attended the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Domestic Abuse Networking Event on 7th July at New Scotland Yard; at which they gave a service presentation.
- It has been invited by the East London NHS Foundation Trust to deliver a talk on Domestic Abuse (DA) in the Deaf Community. It is hoped that attendance will increase awareness of its service in the NHS.

### **Service Area 2.3**

3.22 The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC), a partner of the Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project, report that the sexual violence helpline will now open 24-hours a day, adding significant value to the partnerships' pan-London helpline.

3.23 Respect advise that the Men's Advice Line has updated its website to include videos; new images representing a diverse group of men; and digital radio adverts. An Information Hub has also been launched to provide greater access

to information and links to enable access to support outside of the Men's Advice Line's opening times.

- 3.24 The Men's Advice Line will be moving away from email support and towards a secure online contact form. The form is specifically structured to gather information that will help Advisors better understand the risks and needs of those seeking support and help improve response times.
- 3.25 In response to the increase in wait time for Rape Crisis therapeutic support, Women and Girls Network (WGN), piloted emotional support care packages for survivors on WGN's counselling waiting list and those approaching the end of their counselling contract. Survivors received up to seven weekly phone-based support sessions. Those accessing the support reported that it was extremely impactful.

#### **Service Area 2.4**

- 3.26 The Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network report continued delays in the delivery of biometric residents permits (BRP's). Complaints to the Home Office about the delays are not often responded to. Similarly, there are Home Office delays in the issuing of Application Registration Cards (ARC), despite complaints, which leaves their clients in a position where they do not have much evidence of their asylum claim.
- 3.27 Nia report that Covid continues to present challenges; particularly around accessing NHS treatment, mental health support and immigration status support.
- 3.28 The partnership provided the following update on events:
- As part of wider partnership work and successes, the Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) joined a partnership meeting with HOG (Housing Operational Group) and other groups to discuss the wider needs of women's issues in the refuge. The aim of this meeting was to look at preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls and support victims/survivors to achieve their full potential in life.
  - BME Health Forum invited IKWRO to attend a meeting in September, for the report launch on loneliness and isolation among BME communities.

- Solace attended the Student Commission on Consent and Sexual Violence Showcase 2022; a project on addressing issues including sexual violence, consent and the promotion of healthy relationships.

## **Service Area 2.5**

3.29 The Ascent Support Services to Organisations Partnership, led by Women's Resource Centre, report an increase in requests for awareness training on domestic abuse. However, the increase in demand for frontline services has made it difficult for professionals to free up time to attend training during working hours.

## **Service Area 2.6**

3.30 The Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership led by Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) advise that it has been a struggle to find multilingual counselling services without long waiting lists for clients.

3.31 A marked rise in domestic abuse for women on spousal visas was reported; the women are being threatened with homelessness and or deportation by their spouse.

3.32 AWRC reported that accessing housing for clients is increasingly difficult; concerns raised in this regard include:

- That there is a lack of local authority emergency accommodation and when offered, it is often unsuitable. It was reported that clients, at times, are advised to accept a housing offer (even if unsuitable) to avoid making themselves "intentionally" homeless. Clients reportedly often end up remaining in unsuitable accommodations until they are offered permanent housing because challenging the situation, via judicial review, is complex and expensive.
- Women with pre-Settled status have reportedly been turned away without their right to reside being properly assessed.

3.33 The following update on events was provided:

- AWRC attended the Morden Community Islamic Centre and participated in the delivery of a presentation given by the Ethnic Minority Ambassador, Sabah Kaiser, about the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, with the aim of sharing learning and raising awareness.
- AWRC have developed a co-action hub project in partnership with Standing Together (funded by Esme Fairbairn) that aims to provide coordinated community responses to black and minoritized/global majority survivors of domestic abuse and harmful practices. It aims to create a BME led knowledge hub.

### **Performance management**

- 3.34 At the end of quarter two, six Priority 2 projects are rated Green, one is rated Amber (see Table 2). One project has not reported any data due to not being in grant agreement (see paragraph 3.34)
- 3.35 Women's Aid Federation: There is no performance data in this report for the London Refugees Data Collection project led by Women's Aid Federation, as the project is not yet in grant agreement. However, the project has started at their own risk and has continued to collate and distribute the Routes to Support data and provide portal access to boroughs and other stakeholders such as MOPAC. The delay to the grant agreement is due to a number of factors including internal and external pressures on capacity- however work with Women's Aid to agree acceptable outcomes for the project is ongoing, and the team expects the project to be in grant agreement shortly. It is expected that the project will, where necessary, to catch up on the agreed outcomes over the rest of the programme.
- 3.36 For the Healthy Lives, Healthy Relationships (HLHR) project, outcomes have been greatly impacted by ongoing recruitment, resulting in reduced staffing capacity for some partners. Collecting outcomes data has also been challenging across the newly established partnership, with people engaging in the programme but not completing feedback to evidence that the outcome has been achieved. All partners have been assigned Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to increase outcomes and take up of services by schools.

- 3.37 The RAG rating for the Women and Girls Network (WGN) led project Ascent Advice and Counselling Project remained rated green, however at the end of quarter two, delivery was under the 85 per cent tolerance. WGN highlighted that it is extremely challenging to secure safe housing solutions for survivors in London and particularly so for survivors with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) where local authority housing departments have no statutory duty to provide support. WGN report that Social Services often decline to act and provide Section.17 support<sup>17</sup>.
- 3.38 There has also been some underdelivery of outcomes related to sustaining new lives; moving to independence; having safety plans and having greater feelings of safety. These outcomes have been affected by reduced counselling capacity. Survivors receiving counselling had also not yet achieved the above outcomes. Counselling capacity issues should be redressed from quarter three onwards. Officers will keep this under review.
- 3.39 Ascent: Support Services to Organisations Partnership, led by Women's Resource Centre (WRC), is RAG rated green; its delivery, however, is under the 85% delivery buffer. WRC has advised that some of its quarter two scheduled events were postponed due to a number of factors such as a high dropout rate, more time being needed to develop course materials, or because the facilitator of the event requested it be postponed. Officers will continue to monitor with a view to ensuring that any postponed events are held in future quarters.

## **4 Impact of the Cost of Living Crisis**

- 4.1 As part of the quarter two monitoring return, the providers were asked to report how the increase in the cost of living has affected both their clients and their organisations.
- 4.2 Across both priorities, organisations reported that the crisis has merely exacerbated already existing problems such increased demand for services; steep increases in referrals to specialist benefit services; debt agencies and

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<sup>17</sup> The local authority's responsibility to provide accommodation and financial assistance to families with NRPF set out in the Children Act 1989. Such assistance can only be provided to a family where there is a child in need and the local authority determines that it must use its power under this act to provide accommodation and/or financial support to meet the child's assessed needs.

foodbanks; and issues of recruitment and staff retention. The increase in utility bills also includes WIFI and phone costs which are essential for people facing abuse, violence and/or homelessness, to access support and assistance and are often needed to apply for benefits.

- 4.3 Shelter and HARP reported that with rents increasing, they are seeing more people seeking support for food and energy costs and that universal credit payments are being stretched even further. HARP predicted this will begin to affect clients in accommodation with a service charge attached, as inability to pay the service charges could lead to arrears and ultimately eviction. Streetlink reported an increase of clients being made homeless as a result of their homes being repossessed which they attribute to a direct result of the cost of living crisis.
- 4.4 Another theme which came through strongly was the impact on young people. New Horizon Youth Centre's London Youth Gateway (LYG) reported that the increased cost of living was having a disproportionate impact on young people, particularly those who are already vulnerable or structurally disadvantaged due to the lower national living wage and lower universal credit monthly allowance. The [Resolution Foundation](#) reported that the number of universal credit claims aged 16-24 rose by one-third in July. The [Centrepoin's Food Insecurity report](#), published recently, highlighted that 1 in 4 homeless young people live on only 65 pence a day; 30 per cent go without food for a whole day, and 33 per cent cannot get the right food needed for a healthy lifestyle, impacting health.
- 4.5 With increasing costs, young people are becoming concerned about meeting housing costs and losing their home or being pushed back into homelessness. Accessing accommodation is also becoming increasingly difficult as they are required to pay large deposits to secure accommodation. [Student homelessness](#) is also on the rise due to the rise in living costs. Once young people have secured housing, they are often unable to furnish and equip their home due to lack of funds, this was also reported by GALOP.
- 4.6 LYG partners have reported that as young people struggle more financially there is heightened pressure for them to engage online sex work which can lead to exploitation, including modern slavery. This risk of exploitation was also reported by GALOP.

- 4.7 In response to the increasing cost of living, New Horizon Youth Centre (NHYC) have raised £25,000 in partnership with Greater Change, LandAid and The Progress Foundation. The scheme is open to the wider LYG Partnership, offering cash grants of up to £300 to young people to meet their increased cost of living and to ensure they are not pushed back into homelessness. However the group state that they feel this is a “sticking plaster”.
- 4.8 Our priority two groups echo the majority of the points made above, and in addition report that the cost of living crisis has made it even harder for survivors to leave perpetrators and they are increasingly concerned about financial hardship being used as a tool for coercive control. Many women have found access to money harder and are resorting to food and baby banks. Lack of funds to afford activities outside the home has also caused women to stay at home, increasing isolation, which in turn impacts on mental health. Women and Girls’ Network (WGN) have noticed a shift in the focus of therapeutic work from VAWG related trauma to survivors with rising anxiety about paying bills, keeping their children warm and the ability to afford essential items. They report this is beginning to impact on survivor’s wellbeing and their ability to move on from their experiences of trauma.
- 4.9 WGN also reported that fewer women have enough disposable cash to pay for legal services, but as the means test for Legal Aid does not take into account the rise in the cost of living, even greater numbers of women will be unable to access legal representation and this will likely increase demand on their services.
- 4.10 The cost-of-living crisis is also impacting on the ability of all funded services to meet the needs of beneficiaries, or even to manage to continue operating their service in a “business-as-usual” way. This is both due to increased demand for services and the higher costs to run services: For example, NHYC’s London Youth Gateway project (LYG) is concerned that it may be facing increased demand from young people who are finding it more difficult to access statutory services as local authorities increasingly restrict services by refusing support to homeless young people and domestic abuse survivors.
- 4.11 Many organisations commented that contracts and grants, both new and ongoing, have not taken the cost of living crisis into account which affects their

ability to cope with rising rent and utility costs and increase staff pay in line with inflation. Homeless Link report that supported accommodation and day centres are reporting being affected by the increase in utility costs. Contracts, which were in some cases, commissioned two years ago, do not reflect the rise in costs, but where possible individual agreements are being made. WGN are seeing a recent surge in staff wanting to be office based five days a week and no longer wishing to work on a hybrid basis: This has meant securing additional office space and incurring more rent and energy costs.

- 4.12 Ashiana is concerned about its refuges, which set budgets late last year which did not factor in the huge increase in fuel costs. They do not think that the price cap will make much difference to them. Long term stability is a concern and one of the refuges in the Specialist Refuge Network partnership is currently running at a deficit. The support from London Councils for women with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) does not cover the increase in demand, which they are now meeting from elsewhere. Ashiana is also concerned that their welfare fund for clients will deplete quite quickly.
- 4.13 Inability to pay inflationary increases to staff has created challenges for recruitment and retention. Most projects across the programme reported concern about staff retention: This includes reports of staff leaving for higher paid jobs in other sectors (e.g. NHS, where the pay is significantly higher; staff moving out of London due to the cost of living, or additional anxiety for workers on short term project-based contracts. WGN voiced concern that the talent pool in the women's sector is constantly shrinking as they are training women who then leave. AVA reported funding sustainability as a concern across their partnership. Refuge report some volunteers can no longer afford to volunteer during the day due to the need to take up paid work. Women's Aid were concerned that staff shortages mean that data collection is sometimes not prioritised or is wrongly inputted due to lack of staff training.
- 4.14 Women's Aid and AVA have awarded pay increases to help mitigate cost of living increases, but report that this has not been reciprocated by the majority of their funders. Signhealth are supporting their staff by increasing travel mileage



allowance and introducing two wellbeing days to all staff, on top of their annual leave, to help support their mental health and wellbeing.

## **5 Risk-based performance management (RAG rating) – Project level performance**

- 5.1 Project performance is measured using the programme-wide Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rating system. The RAG rating system forms part of the Funding and Performance Management Framework agreed in July 2021<sup>18</sup>. The methodology for the system is set out in **Appendix 1** of this report. The rating system shows whether a project's performance is going up, going down or is steady across quarters.
- 5.2 The RAG ratings to the end of quarter two (April to September 2022) are set out in the table below. The Committee will note that nine projects are rated Green, four are rated Amber and one has not submitted data due to not being in grant agreement. A number of groups had a slow start due to mobilisation or delays getting into grant agreement but most have been able to increase or stabilise their delivery and where they have not, officers are ensuring they have plans in place to show improvement by end of quarter three. Detailed information on the RAG scoring methodology is provided in **Appendix 1**.

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<sup>18</sup> Grants Programme 2022-26: Prospectus for the new programme, Item 14, 14 July 2021

**Table 2: RAG Results**

Service area	Organisation (lead)	Project	Partners	RAG Rating Q1	RAG Rating Q2
1.1	Shelter	STAR Partnership (Supporting Tenancies, Accommodation and Reconnections)	Thames Reach, Stonewall Housing, Praxis	Amber	Amber ↗
1.1	St Mungo Community Housing Association	HARP Connect (Housing Advice, Resettlement and Prevention Connect)	n/a	Amber	Amber ↑
1.2	St Mungo Community Housing Association	Streetlink London Advice Line	n/a	Red	Green ↑
1.3	New Horizon Youth Centre	London Youth Gateway	Depaul UK, Stonewall Housing, Galop, Albert Kennedy Trust, Shelter, Praxis	Green	Green ↗
1.4	Homeless Link	London PLUS	Shelter	Amber	Amber ↔
2.1	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR)	IMECE, Women and Girls' Network, The Nia Project, Solace Women's Aid, Latin American Women's Rights Service, FORWARD, Ashiana Network, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation	Amber	Amber ↘
2.2	Women and Girls' Network	Ascent: Advice and Counselling	Ashiana Network, Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), Chinese Information and Advice Centre, EACH (counselling and support), IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Jewish Women's Aid, Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Nia, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC), Rights of Women, Solace Women's Aid, Southall Black Sisters, Women's Trust	Green	Green ↓

Service area	Organisation (lead)	Project	Partners	RAG Rating Q1	RAG Rating Q2
2.2	Galop	The LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP)	Stonewall Housing, London Friend,	Green	Green ↗
2.2	SignHealth	Deaf Domestic Abuse Service	N/A	Green	Green ↔
2.3	Refuge	Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project	Women and Girls' Network, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC), Respect	Green	Green ↘
2.3	Women's Aid	London Refugees Data Collection Project	N/A	Not reported	Not reported <sup>19</sup>
2.4	Ashiana Network	Specialist Refugee Network	Ashiana Network, Solace Women's Aid, The Nia Project, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)	Green	Green ↔
2.5	Women's Resource Centre	Ascent: Support Services to Organisations	Respect (perpetrators), Imkaan, Rights of Women, Against Violence, Abuse and Women and Girls Network	Green	Green ↘
2.6	Asian Women's Resource Centre	Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership	Al-Aman (division of Richmond Fellowship), Ashiana Network, FORWARD, IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Southall Black Sisters, Women and Girls Network	Green	Green ↔

<sup>19</sup> See paragraph 3.34

## 6 Value for Money

6.1 London Councils Grants Programme administers public money on behalf of, and with, the London boroughs and therefore must ensure value for money - the optimal use of resources to achieve intended outcomes. The National Audit Office model of value for money focuses on three E's:

- **Economy:** minimising the cost of resources used or required (inputs);
- **Efficiency:** the relationship between the output from goods or services and the resources to produce them; and
- **Effectiveness:** the relationship between the intended and actual results of public spending (outcomes)

6.2 The *Funding and Performance Management Framework* (agreed by members in July 2021) sets out the controls used to ensure value for money for the programme. This includes checks on audited accounts and a review of annual budgets. As agreed by Committee, a full-cost-recovery-approach is being used for the 2022-26 programme. This will require a new approach to annual budgeting, with projects adjusting budgets annually to match changes in costs, within the four year budget envelope.

6.3 London Councils operates a robust monitoring system to ensure figures reported are verifiable; the work funded projects undertake has a far wider benefit and impact than is often shown through the figures. For example, a frontline organisation may support a person through multiple interventions across the whole partnership. A second-tier project may record work with one organisation but provide services to high numbers of their staff across separate departments or branches and so have a much greater reach in upskilling the voluntary and community sector than the figures indicate.

6.4 The team continues to work with IT contractor, Superhighways, to develop a more efficient reporting tool for the programme. The reporting portal went live in July 2022 and the funded projects have now submitted two quarterly reports via this medium. The team has undertaken significant work with Superhighways to design the platform and will continue to do so for the rest of the year.

- 6.5 Despite a number of challenges for some of the projects such as late starts due to delays in staff recruitment or grant agreements being finalised, most commissions have performed well against targets and by the end of quarter two, the majority have made progress against any performance deficits which occurred in quarter one. Where underdelivery remains, projects have plans in place to address this and officers will continue to work closely with the providers to ensure these are addressed and reported to committee throughout the programme.
- 6.6 The team will continue to improve partnership and cross priority working as it led to better outcomes for service users on the previous programme. Where relevant, funded projects work towards appropriate quality standards, and involve project participants in the design and adaptation of the projects.
- 6.7 Information and data provided through the programme has been used by the policy team at London Councils, and by other stakeholders, to inform the strategic response to these priority areas.

## **7 Recommendations**

### **7.1 The Grants Committee is asked to **note**:**

#### **a) outcomes at priority level:**

- i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness, overall is 14 per cent below profile to quarter two
- ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is 13 per cent below profile to quarter two

(1) Service Area 2.4 is five per cent above profile

#### **b) the number of interventions delivered in the relevant periods:**

- i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness – 3,866
- ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence – 22,935

(1) Service Area 2.4 – 9,227

- c) project level performance, using the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) performance management system (explained at Appendix 1):
  - i) nine projects are rated Green, four are Amber
  - ii) One project has yet to start reporting
- d) A summary on the impact of the cost of living crisis on the funded groups and their beneficiaries (Section 4)
- e) the borough maps (Appendix 2)
- f) the project delivery information and contact details (Appendix 3), produced as a separate resource to provide members with a directory of services, with up-to-date contact information, as well as an update on performance
- g) the final annual equalities report for the 2017-22 programme. (Appendix 4)

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Appendix 1 RAG Rating Methodology

Appendix 2 Borough Maps

Appendix 3 Project Delivery Information and Contact Details

Appendix 4 The final equalities report for the 2017-22 programme

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### **Financial Implications for London Councils**

The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2022-23 at its meeting in November 2021, and Leaders' Committee agreed a budget at its meeting in December 2021.

### **Legal Implications for London Councils**

None

### **Equalities Implications for London Councils**

London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and specific target groups highlighted as particularly hard to reach or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required

to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. The grants team reviews this annually.

### **Background Documents**

*Performance of Grants Programme 2017-22, Item 13, 13 July 2022*

*2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme - Implementation update, Item 14, 13 July 2022*

*2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme – Recommendations for award of grant, Item 8, 24 November 2021*

*Grants Programme 2022-26: Prospectus for the new programme, Item 14, 14 July 2021*

London Councils officers report quarterly to the Grants Committee on the performance of the grants programme, based on the Funding and Performance Management Framework agreed by Grants Committee in July 2021.

The cornerstone of this at project level is a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) rating of all projects:

Green	80-100 points
Amber	55-79 points
RED	0-54 points

The RAG rating is made up of:

- Performance – Delivery of outcomes and new users - 70 percent
- Quality - beneficiary satisfaction<sup>20</sup>, 10 per cent
- Compliance - timeliness and accuracy of reporting, responsiveness and risk management, 20 per cent.

The requirement to meet at least 80 points to achieve a Green rating was agreed at the March 2018 Grants Committee, following a review by officers to ensure that the RAG rating system was appropriately highlighting performance issues.

The framework also sets out a risk-based approach to monitoring in which levels of monitoring are varied dependent on the RAG score of the project.

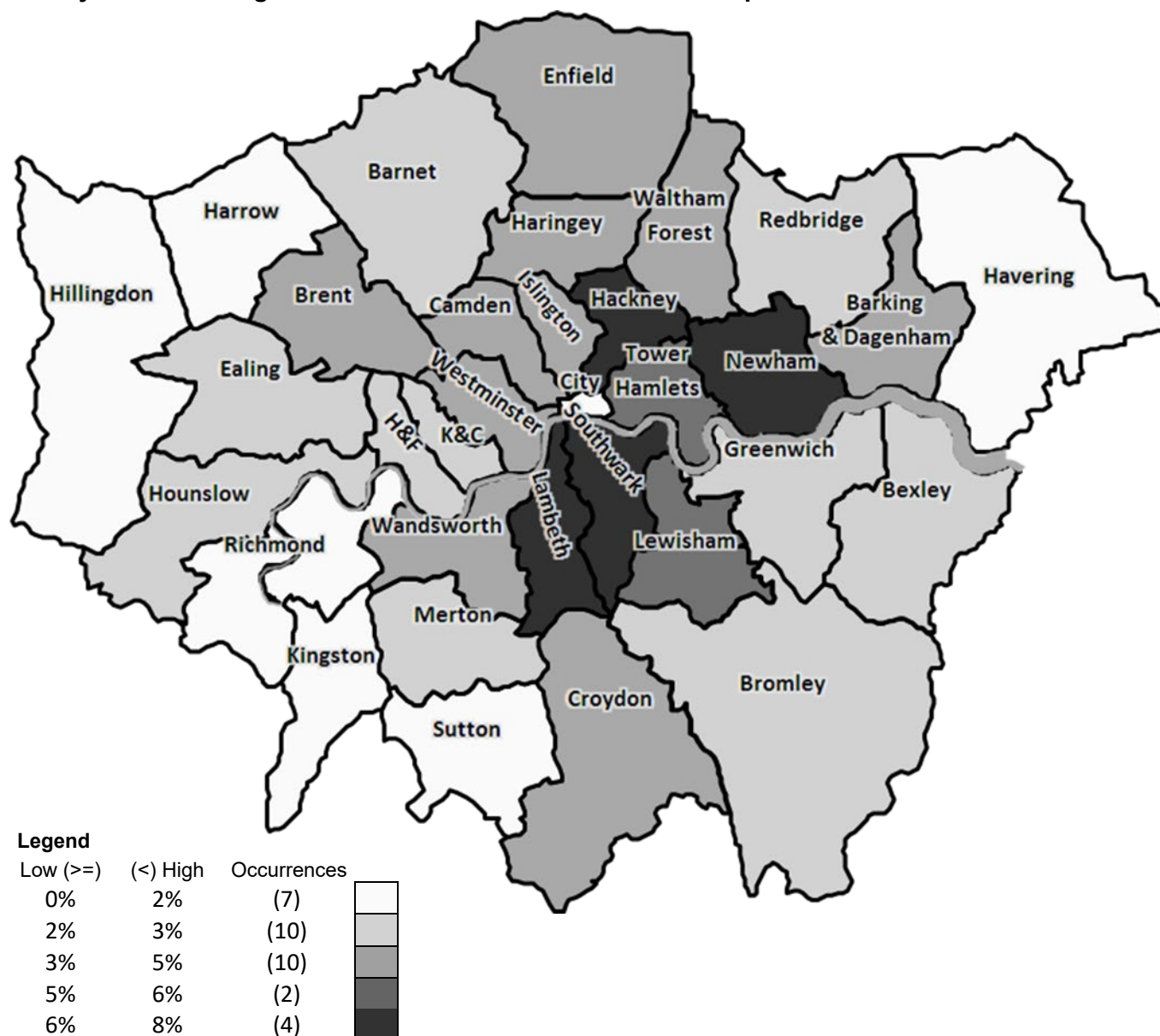
**Performance change indicators** (changes from one reporting quarter to the next)

↑	an increase of five or more percentage points
↗	an increase of more than two percentage points but less than five
↔	The score has remained relatively static with no significant change allowing for minor fluctuation between -two and +two percentage points
↘	a decrease over two percentage points but less than five
↓	a decrease of five or more percentage points

<sup>20</sup> This previously included a self-assessment but will now integrated into a monitoring visit.

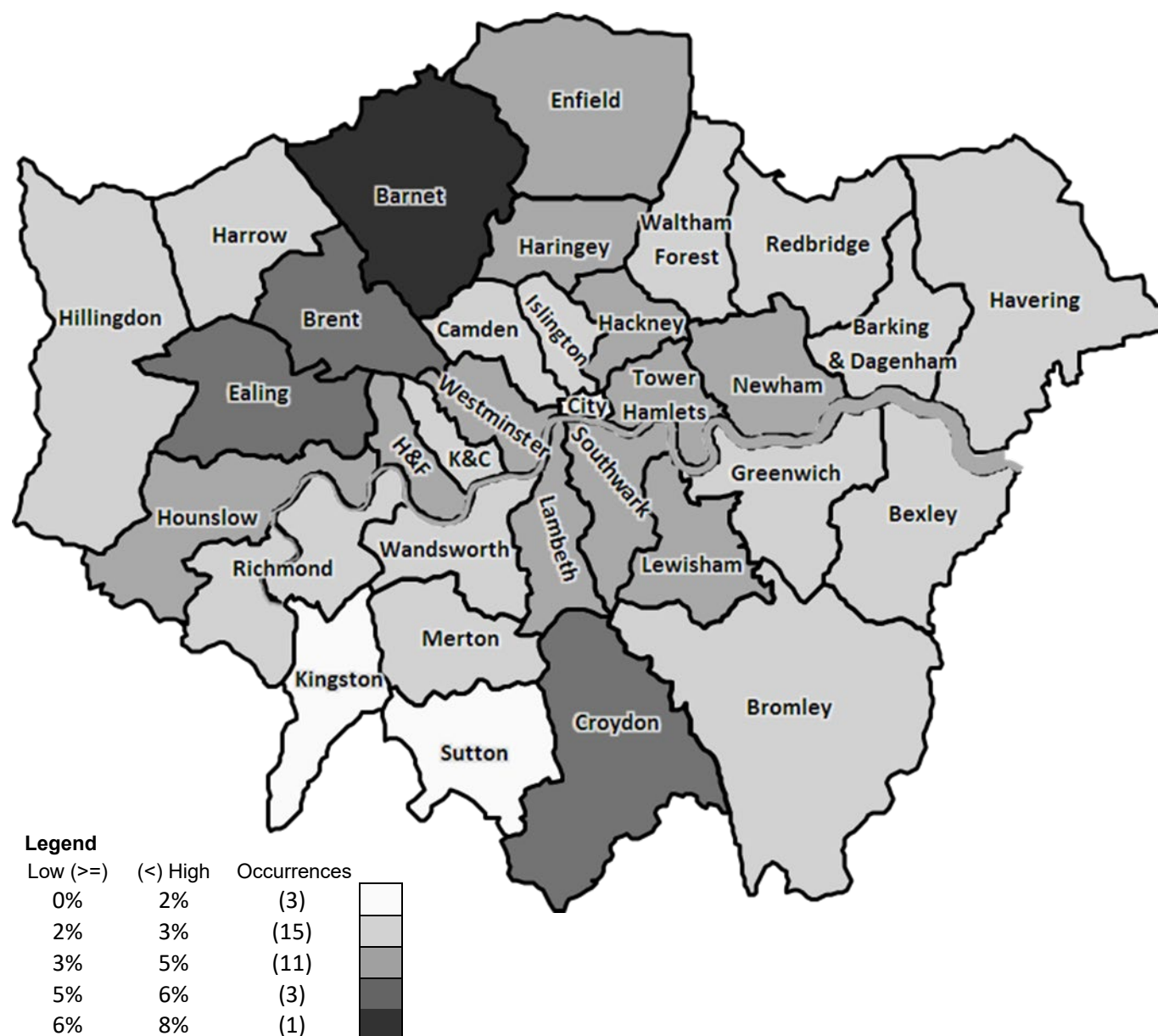


## Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness actual distribution to September 2022

**Boroughs**

City of London	0.71%
Barking & Dagenham	3.04%
Barnet	2.49%
Bexley	1.59%
Brent	3.83%
Bromley	2.08%
Camden	3.99%
Croydon	4.48%
Ealing	2.95%
Enfield	3.17%
Greenwich	2.00%
Hackney	6.43%
Hammersmith & Fulham	2.54%
Haringey	3.61%
Harrow	0.98%
Havering	0.98%
Hillingdon	1.15%
Hounslow	1.67%
Islington	3.99%
Kensington & Chelsea	2.13%
Kingston upon Thames	0.96%
Lambeth	7.08%
Lewisham	4.51%
Merton	2.27%
Newham	6.95%
Redbridge	1.70%
Richmond upon Thames	0.55%
Southwark	6.26%
Sutton	0.68%
Tower Hamlets	4.57%
Waltham Forest	4.29%
Wandsworth	3.01%
Westminster	3.36%

## Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence - actual distribution of delivery to September 2022

**Boroughs**

City of London	0.30%
Barking & Dagenham	2.59%
Barnet	7.64%
Bexley	1.88%
Brent	5.36%
Bromley	2.14%
Camden	2.87%
Croydon	4.62%
Ealing	4.69%
Enfield	3.43%
Greenwich	2.23%
Hackney	3.47%
Hammersmith & Fulham	3.21%
Haringey	3.50%
Harrow	2.84%
Havering	1.89%
Hillingdon	2.84%
Hounslow	3.43%
Islington	3.00%
Kensington & Chelsea	2.11%
Kingston upon Thames	1.15%
Lambeth	4.32%
Lewisham	4.23%
Merton	1.96%
Newham	3.52%
Redbridge	2.64%
Richmond upon Thames	1.66%
Southwark	4.00%
Sutton	1.13%
Tower Hamlets	3.15%
Waltham Forest	2.97%
Wandsworth	2.23%
Westminster	3.02%

**See separately produced Appendix 3**

## 1 Background

- 1.1 The London Councils Pan London Grants Programme enables boroughs to tackle high-priority social need where this is better done at pan-London level. The principles of the Grants Programme were agreed in 2012 and re-affirmed in 2016. Of the five programme principals, one is focused on contributing to the objectives of the 2010 Equality Act. Service specifications highlighted particular equalities groups to target, based on evidence of disproportionate impact, or because they are groups that do not typically go through the local authority route (or need support to do so).
- 1.2 This equalities report provides cumulative protected equalities figures (for new users surveyed) as provided by the funded projects in the 2017-22 programme; the examples of activities undertaken are taken from the fifth and final year of the programme, which ended delivery on 31 March 2022.
- 1.3 The Equality Act 2010 includes a public sector Equality Duty requiring public bodies and those carrying out public functions on behalf of public authorities, such as the London Councils Grants Programme, to have due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 1.4 The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:
  - Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
  - Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
  - Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
- 1.5 The Act specifies nine protected characteristics; these are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage or civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 1.6 London Councils, in aiming to meet its requirements under the act, completed an equality impact assessment as part of the 2015 review of the Grants Programme. The

outcomes of the impact assessment and review suggested that London Councils Grants Programme was and should continue to be an effective vehicle by which the boroughs come together to tackle high-priority, pan-London complex social needs, including the needs of those with the protected characteristics, which can often be difficult to address effectively as an individual borough.

- 1.7 In pursuance of its aims London Councils has funded organisations to deliver services across London and implemented a monitoring process, which incorporates an assessment of equalities. This report outlines, for Priorities one and two, two sections of the equality monitoring data received from funded organisations in order to consider the progress of the programme in adhering to the requirements of the Act.

## 2 Equalities Outcome Targets

- 2.1 Specific equalities outcomes form part of each funded organisation's targets to ensure that the core activity of each service has due regard to the requirements of the Act and to enable London Councils to meet the needs of vulnerable groups. Tables one and two below outline the equalities outcomes achieved over the period 2017-22.

*Table One: Equalities Outcomes achieved under Priority 1 for the period 2017-22*

Service Area & ID		Lead Partner	Outcome	Profile 2017-22	Actual 2017-22
1.1	825 2	Shelter – London Advice Services	Number with one/more protected equalities characteristic	1,906	3,670
			Number with improved physical health	1,000	1,586
			Number with improved mental health	2,300	2,729
	825 4	St Mungo Community Housing Association	Number with one/more protected equalities characteristic	750	1,149
			Number with improved physical health	1,920	1,628
			Number with improved mental health	1,050	1,054

Service Area & ID		Lead Partner	Outcome	Profile 2017-22	Actual 2017-22
1.2	8259	New Horizon Youth Centre	Number with one/more of the protected characteristics (excluding age)	2,830	2,266
			Number with improved mental health	6,225	6,518
1.3	8257	Homeless Link	Number of VCS able to demonstrate that they have adapted their services and increased their links (to local authorities, providers under Priority 1, 2 and 3, and other agencies) to deliver holistic solutions for service users	290	589
			Number of VCS aware of changing need in inner and outer London and able to adapt services accordingly.	405	576
	8258	Standing Together Against Domestic Violence	Number of frontline organisations with increased awareness of specialist/equalities needs of clients	400	406
			Number of frontline organisations adapting and or introducing services to meet the specialist/equalities needs of clients	200	341
			Number of VCS able to demonstrate that they have adapted their services and increased their links (to local authorities, providers under Priority 1, 2 and 3, and other agencies) to deliver holistic solutions for service users	200	366
			Number of housing organisations with increased awareness of	400	405

Service Area & ID		Lead Partner	Outcome	Profile 2017-22	Actual 2017-22
			specialist /equalities needs of clients		

Table Two: Equalities Outcomes achieved under Priority 2 for the period 2017-22

Service Area & ID		Lead Partner	Outcome	Profile 2017-22	Actual 2017-22
2.1	8262	Tender Education and Arts	Healthy Relationships Project participants in secondary schools and out of school settings can recall criminal statistics for different forms of sexual and domestic violence against protected groups	3,968	2,983
2.2	8269	Solace Women's Aid	People from protected characteristics report increased safety/knowledge of rights	12,460	13,070
			People from the protected characteristics report satisfaction with services	15,575	16,057
	8266	Galop	People from protected characteristics report increased safety/knowledge of rights	785	829
			People from the protected characteristics report satisfaction with services	400	438
	8268	SignHealth	People from the protected characteristics report increased safety/knowledge of their rights	750	1147
			People from the protected characteristics report satisfaction with services	750	1146

Service Area & ID		Lead Partner	Outcome	Profile 2017-22	Actual 2017-22
2.3	8275	Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid)	Quarterly report on refuge referrals (successful/non-successful) by London borough, with categories including equalities sent to all borough officers and other key stakeholders <sup>21</sup>	20	20
			People with the protected characteristics (Equalities Act 2010) able to access support that meets their needs	800	872
			Service users reporting their needs were adequately addressed when utilising the Helpline service (according to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).	2,000	2,090
2.4	8245	Ashiana Network	Removal of barriers in accessing services for people with the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equalities Act	425	741
			Number of users with disabilities accessing the service	365	411
2.5	8271	Women's Resource Centre	Frontline services/organisations with increased ability to meet the three aims of the Equality Act 2010	600	495
			Frontline organisations with increased diversification of boards of trustees	100	82
2.6	8276	Asian Women's Resource	Service users have an increased ability to communicate their needs and views to service providers	945	1362

<sup>21</sup> The Routes to Support reports are quarterly reports on refuge data across London provided to boroughs and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.



Service Area & ID		Lead Partner	Outcome	Profile 2017-22	Actual 2017-22
		Centre (AWRC)	Number of professionals with improved understanding of harmful practices and the barriers faced by BAMER women in accessing services	650	1734

2.2 Providers have made good progress delivering against equalities targets. Officers continue to work with organisations to monitor and support activity.

### 3 Data for number of service users with the protected characteristic

3.1 Priority 1 and 2 funded organisations collect data on the numbers of service users accessing services by protected characteristic, which can be considered according to the target groups outlined for the service. Tables three to ten below, aggregate data on the protected characteristics of service users supported by the grants programme's funded organisations.

*Table Three: Service Users according to Ethnic Background (Priority 1 and 2) and Target Groups*

Protected Characteristic - Race		
Ethnic Background	Priority 1 Percentage of service users by ethnicity 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>	Priority 2 Percentage of service users by ethnicity 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>
Asian – Bangladeshi	2.1%	2.1%
Asian – British	1.8%	1.7%
Asian – Indian	1.5%	2.8%
Asian – Pakistani	1.4%	2.3%
Asian – Other	2.2%	2.5%
Total Asian	9.1%	11.3%
Black – African	10.8%	4.8%
Black – British	8.4%	3.5%
Black – Caribbean	6.0%	2.5%

Black – Other	2.0%	1.7%
Total Black	27.3%	12.5%
Chinese	0.3%	0.6%
Latin American	0.5%	1.2%
Middle Eastern	1.7%	2.1%
White – British	17.5%	13.4%
White – Irish	1.7%	1.7%
White – European	6.1%	4.1%
White – Other	5.1%	2.6%
Total White	30.4%	21.8%
Mixed Ethnicity	5.5%	3.6%
Prefer not to say	25.1%	46.9%
Priority 1 Target Groups	The target groups outlined in the service specification were EEA <sup>22</sup> nationals (particularly CEE <sup>23</sup> ), BAMER <sup>24</sup> , Roma and Latin American. The service specifications noted that BAMER people are over- represented among London's homeless with over half of rough sleepers being non-UK nationals. They are more likely to face complex problems and additional barriers to accessing services compared to other homeless people.	
Priority 2 Target Groups	Target groups with low levels of access to generalist provision such as BAMER (including traveller). The service specifications for Priority 2 highlight the need for culturally specific BAMER services. Research indicates that BME survivors of domestic violence are more likely to access BME specialist services and are often a women's first point of contact with any formal support provider <sup>25</sup> . Findings suggest that women from	

<sup>22</sup> Member countries of the European Economic Area

<sup>23</sup> Central and Eastern European (CEE) – represent high levels of rough sleepers in London (Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia)

<sup>24</sup> Black Minority Ethnic and Refugee

<sup>25</sup> State of the Sector: Contextualising the current experiences of BME ending violence against women & girls organisations. Nov 2015.

	Black, Indian, Pakistani and other BAMER communities were likely to stay in abusive situations for longer <sup>26</sup> . Data from Women's Aid found that 51.4% of referrals to refuges for BAMER women were unsuccessful.
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*Table Four: Service Users according to Disability including Deaf and Hearing Impairment (Priority 1 and 2) and Target Groups*

Protected Characteristic - Disability		
Disability	Priority 1 Percentage of service users by disability 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>	Priority 2 Percentage of service users by disability 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>
Blind or Visual Impairment	0.2%	0.2%
Learning Difficulty	2.0%	0.9%
Mental health	8.5%	9.5%
Mobility	2.4%	1.8%
Other disability	4.8%	1.6%
Not disabled	55.7%	36.5%
Prefer not to say	26.3%	49.5%
<b>Deaf</b>		
Deaf or Hearing Impairment	0.3%	1.0%
Prefer not to say	17.0%	27.5%
Not Deaf	82.7%	71.5%
Total Deaf and Disabled	18.3%	15.0%
Priority 1 Target Groups	Disabled people, including people with mental health concerns and people with learning	

<sup>26</sup> Vital Statistics: The experiences of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic & Refugee women & children facing violence & abuse 2010.

	<p>disabilities, were amongst the target groups for Priority 1.</p> <p>The service specification advised that the poverty, inequality, discrimination and exclusion experienced by London's Deaf and disabled population mean they are more reliant on welfare benefits, legal aid etc.</p>
Priority 2 Target Groups	<p>All forms of disability including those with complex mental health needs.</p> <p>The report "Making the Links" found that disabled women often experience greater hurt and damage at the hands of abusers<sup>27</sup>. And that that across the country domestic violence services for disabled women were patchy and sometimes minimal<sup>28</sup></p> <p>Women with complex needs such as mental health are less likely to be successfully referred into a refuge.</p> <p>In 2015 12% of victims seen by the forced marriage unit had either a physical or learning disability.</p>

*Table Five: Service Users according to Sex and Gender Reassignment (Priority 1 and 2) and Target Groups*

Protected Characteristic - Sex and Gender Reassignment		
Gender/Identity	Priority 1: Percentage of service users by gender/ reassignment 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>	Priority 2: Percentage of service users by gender/ reassignment 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>
Female	43.1%	71.5%
Male	43.8%	8.9%

<sup>27</sup> Making the Links, Disabled women and domestic violence, Gill Hauge, Ravi K Thiara, Pauline Magowan and Audrey Mullender pp18

<sup>28</sup> Making the Links, Disabled women and domestic violence, Gill Hauge, Ravi K Thiara, Pauline Magowan and Audrey Mullender pp26

Intersex	0.0%	0.0%
Non-binary	0.4%	0.1%
Unsure / questioning	0.8%	0.0%
Other	0.4%	0.3%
Prefer not to say	9.7%	18.2%
Identify as trans or a person with trans history	1.5%	0.3%
Prefer not to say	0.3%	0.7%
Priority 1 Target Groups	<p>Target groups included women affected by domestic violence, trafficked women, young 'hidden homeless' women and transgender people.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Transgender people may not form part of local service priorities because they may not exist in large enough numbers locally and may need to flee to other boroughs to avoid harassment or abuse. Transgender people have higher incidents of suicide, homelessness and poverty than many other communities.</p>	
Priority 2 Target Groups	<p>Women will be the main beneficiary of service as they are more likely to be affected by domestic violence, repeat victimisation and homicide statistics.</p> <p>Providers should also consider men and ensure there is, at the least, referral mechanisms to appropriate services.</p> <p>London Councils consultation responses highlighted transgender people as vulnerable to domestic abuse.</p>	

	8.2% of women and 4% of men were estimated to have experienced domestic abuse in 2014/14. <sup>29</sup>
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*Table Six: Service Users according to Sexual Orientation (Priority 1 and 2) and Target Groups*

<b>Protected Characteristic - Sexual Orientation</b>		
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<b>Priority 1: Percentage of service users by sexual orientation 2017-2022<sup>i</sup></b>	<b>Priority 2: Percentage of service users by sexual orientation 2017-2022<sup>i</sup></b>
Bisexual	2.2%	1.3%
Gay Man	5.6%	1.1%
Heterosexual	51.0%	28.7%
Lesbian	1.9%	1.3%
Other	2.2%	1.0%
Prefer not to say	37.1%	66.6%
Priority 1 Target Groups	<p>Target groups included LGBT.</p> <p>LGBT people may not form part of local service priorities because they may not exist in large enough numbers locally. LGBT people may not approach mainstream advice services for fear that they may face discrimination.</p> <p>The 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 42% of the youth homeless population.</p>	
Priority 2 Target Groups	<p>Target groups included LGBT.</p> <p>More than a third of gay and bisexual men experienced at least one incident of domestic abuse in a relationship with a man. And, four in five gay and</p>	

<sup>29</sup> Domestic Violence in England and Wales, May 2016

	<p>bisexual men who have experienced domestic abuse have never reported incidents to the police.<sup>30</sup></p> <p>One in four lesbian and bisexual women 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.</p>
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*Table Seven: Service Users according to Religion or Belief (Priority 1 and 2) and Target Groups*

Protected Characteristic - Religion or Belief,		
Religion or Belief	Priority 1: Percentage of Service Users by religion or belief 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>	Priority 2: Percentage of service users by religion or belief 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>
Agnostic	1.0%	0.5%
Atheist	2.0%	1.0%
Baha'i	0.0%	0.0%
Buddhist	0.6%	0.4%
Christian	24.7%	9.8%
Hindu	0.6%	1.3%
Humanist	0.1%	0.0%
Jain	0.0%	0.0%
Jewish	0.4%	0.5%
Muslim	10.5%	7.6%
Rastafarian	0.2%	0.0%
Sikh	0.4%	0.5%
Zoroastrian	0.0%	0.0%

<sup>30</sup> Gay and Bisexual's Men's Health Survey, April Guasp, Stonewall, 2013

None	17.3%	10.2%
Other	2.0%	1.1%
Prefer not to say	40.3%	67.0%
Priority 1 Target Groups	No specific targets outlined. Provision should be sensitive to the needs of service users and their religious requirements.	
Priority 2 Target Groups	No specific targets outlined. Provision should be sensitive to the needs of service users and their religious requirements.	

Table Eight: Service Users according to Age (Priority 1 and 2) and Target Groups

Protected Characteristic - Age		
Age	Priority 1 Percentage of service users by age 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>	Priority 2 Percentage of service users by age 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>
Under 16	0.5%	8.2%
16-17	16.9%	1.1%
18-24	28.8%	7.0%
25-34	19.0%	14.3%
35-44	14.6%	11.6%
45-54	9.8%	7.0%
55-64	4.8%	2.6%
65+	2.2%	1.5%
Prefer not to say	3.3%	46.7%
Priority 1 Target Groups	<p>Targets groups include young people aged 18-24, the under 35's and 65+</p> <p>Research found that 50% of older people did not seek advice when threatened with homelessness. A combination of events such as bereavement, ill health, debts and problems with landlords can</p>	



	<p>lead to increased housing instability for this group.<sup>31</sup></p> <p>Older LGBT people face inequality of access to social care and wider provision.</p> <p>Young homeless people were adversely affected by the recession and social welfare reforms. The minimum wage is lower for young people under 21.</p> <p>Homeless Link advised that nearly half of temporary accommodation residents are young people aged 16-24.<sup>32</sup></p>
Priority 2 Target Groups	<p>Children and young people, younger women with vulnerabilities due to child sexual exploitation and gang affiliations. Older people.</p> <p>Older women are less likely to take up services in relation to their needs. Older survivors are said to be under-represented in the take-up of refuge places.<sup>33</sup></p>

*Table Nine: Service Users according to Pregnancy and Maternity (Priority 1 and 2) and Target Groups*

Protected Characteristic - Pregnancy and Maternity		
Pregnancy and Maternity	Priority 1: Percentage of service users by pregnancy and maternity 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>	Priority 2: Percentage of service users by pregnancy and maternity 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>
Pregnancy/maternity	0.4%	1.9%
Priority 1 Target Groups	No specific targets outlined. Providers consider and respond accordingly to all protected characteristics.	

<sup>31</sup> Causes of homelessness among older people, Sheffield Institute of Studies on Ageing (SISA) 2004

<sup>32</sup> Homeless Link, Evidencing and changing need of homelessness in London, 2016

<sup>33</sup> Help the Aged Older Women and Domestic Violence, March 2004

Priority 2 Target Groups	<p>No specific targets outlined. Providers consider and respond accordingly to all protected characteristics.</p> <p>The British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology reports that one in six pregnant women will experience domestic violence.</p>
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*Table Ten: Service Users according to Marriage or Civil Partnership (Priority 1 and 2) and Target Groups*

Protected Characteristic - Marriage or Civil Partnership		
Marriage/Civil Partnership	Priority 1: Percentage of service users by Marriage/Civil Partnership 2017-2022 <sup>i</sup>	Priority 2: Percentage of service users by Marriage/Civil Partnership 2018-2022 <sup>i</sup>
Marriage/Civil Partnership	6.0%	6.3%
Priority 1 Target Groups	No specific targets outlined. Providers will need to consider and respond according to all protected characteristics.	
Priority 2 Target Groups	No specific targets outlined. Providers will need to consider and respond according to all protected characteristics.	

#### 4 Equalities Progress Report

- 4.1 Funded organisations provide a written progress report on the work they undertake to ensure their services are accessible and meet the requirements of people with protected characteristics.
- 4.2 Activities employed by funded organisations to increase the take up of services by those with protected characteristics include delivering services in settings that are appropriate/accessible to users and employing targeted methods to advertise the service/ connect with service users. Examples of activities utilised by organisations funded via the Grants Programme are detailed as follows:
  - SignHealth report that it has a close relationship with other Deaf organisations such as Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD) and DeafPlus, to which they refer their clients for assistance with paperwork and phone calls regarding bills, benefits etc.

These organisations are preferred because they use sign language and have access to sign language interpreters.

- The Ascent: Advice and Counselling partnership attended a roundtable with Hourglass, the elder abuse helpline, to discuss how to better reach out to and support older women from BME communities. One of the key learnings from this event was that older women may not necessarily identify as older women and therefore, it is often more effective to produce publicity materials that can be shared in places that older women may visit, such as libraries or community centres. Consequently, mapping will be undertaken to better understand how and where partners promote the project to ensure that women and girls of all ages and backgrounds are able to access information about the project.
- Solace has been working with Wavemaker to begin offering a chatbot service that will enable initial advice and support to be offered to a wider range of survivors, particularly younger women. The chatbot can easily be upgraded to a webchat service.
- Solace advise that the hub has continued working closely with Solace's Irish Traveller Outreach Project and NRPF Project. The hub has also worked closely with the Silver Project, which supports women aged 55+, but the project is often at capacity and there is a lack of specialist service provision for older women experiencing VAWG.
- Solace's counselling service has recently created a process to capture the languages spoken by counsellors, as well as their understanding of cultural and religious backgrounds, gender, and other issues so counsellors can be allocated according to clients' needs. Solace has also been liaising with other agencies to create guidelines around using interpreters in therapeutic settings to enable service users to access counselling in their home language.
- The Ascent: Advice and Counselling partnership continue to access training to enhance the support it offers. For example, the advice team at Solace has accessed additional training to support disabled service users and service users experiencing multiple disadvantage.
- AWRC has successfully established links with Refugee & Migrant Forum of Essex and London (RAMFEL).
- Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) has reached out to the Service Manager at Transform Sutton to develop support in the borough for women from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and BAMER communities.
- The Ascent partnership continue to discuss how best to support Black and Minority Ethnic members of staff and are conducting their own work to embed anti-racist practice in all areas of their organisations.

4.3 Activities undertaken to shape services so that they meet the needs of those with protected characteristics include offering translation services, signposting to other providers to ensure holistic support is given, recruiting appropriately trained staff and

delivering training, etc. Examples where services were shaped to meet need have been detailed in monitoring returns as follows:

- The Helplines Partnership report that:
  - o Respect set up a Black Lives Matters working group that is reviewing diversity and inclusion throughout the organisation.
  - o Women's Aid launched Helpline web content in three additional languages: It introduced a language selector on the website so women can read vital information about their rights and options in Bengali, Polish and Spanish and transition smoothly between languages. Moreover, it offers translation services provided through Language Line/Big Word.
- Women's Aid callers with hearing difficulties are provided with a Type Talk service. Data is collected on the number of callers requesting these services, and whether these requests have been met. Callers with hearing difficulties are provided with Text Relay service. It also launched, in consultation with SignHealth, a BSL interpretation strand so Deaf women can receive support from Helpline Advisors via trained interpreters at the click of a button.
- SignHealth advise that it meets clients at their preferred safe venue or undertakes joint visits with social workers or police. Additionally, it updated its website to make sure that the information is presented in BSL first, it attends deaf clubs to deliver workshops where all information is in BSL, uses a dedicated mobile number and email so deaf people can text or email for advice and they are able to video call service users so they can use their preferred language.

4.4 Activities undertaken to ensure that services are flexible and responsive to the changing needs of London and those with the protected characteristics include developing/updating training, receiving and utilising feedback from service users, as well as forging partnerships. Examples of work undertaken by funded organisations were detailed in monitoring returns as follows:

- Galop advise that it has continued to liaise and refer to specialist groups for Black/minority LGBT+ people, for example, if beneficiaries prefer counselling in their home language or from another person of colour, it will seek advice/signpost to other specialist groups.
- SignHealth reports that all its workers use British Sign Language, some form of International Sign Language and other communication modes. It ensures communication matches the needs of the clients', using interpreters where necessary (including interpreters who are fluent in different spoken languages).
- Women's Aid report that all partners adhere to an Equal Opportunities Policy and collect monitoring information on the protected characteristics. The helplines try to ensure that they employ a cross representation of staff that reflects the cultural diversity within the local community and draws upon the different experiences and

backgrounds of all callers. It also monitors and evaluates the composition of its service user population to enhance service provision.

4.5 Activities undertaken by service providers that encourage those with the protected characteristics to take part in public life or activities where their participation is low include the following:

- Solace report that it has four new inclusion networks which cover: women of colour; LGBTQ+; diverse abilities; and allies. It has undertaken an ethnicity pay gap analysis and begun developing actions to address any disparities. Solace has also undertaken a co-production workshop with staff for its new tailored 'Courageous Conversations' which will support staff in challenging microaggressions and unacceptable prejudiced behaviour.
- SignHealth advise that on International Women's Day it offered a workshop on forced marriage, FGM and HBA.

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<sup>i</sup> Note: Data is derived from total number of users that responded to the question

**London Councils**

**Grants Programme 2022 to 2026**

**Performance of Commissions**

**April 2022 – September 2022**

**(Includes contact details for each project)**



## Priority 1 – Combatting Homelessness

Shelter	
<b>Project name:</b>	STAR Partnership
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
<b>Specification:</b>	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£923,512
<b>Delivery partners:</b> Praxis, Stonewall Housing, Thames Reach	
<p>Shelter is leading the specialist STAR (Supporting Tenancies, Accommodation and Resettlement) Partnership. Our aim is to prevent Londoners from becoming homeless, addressing underlying issues and barriers that put target groups at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>The STAR Partnership will deliver the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Referral into the service through multiple points of access, enabling pan-London reach.</li> <li>- London-wide targeted engagement and promotion, which is relevant and accessible to priority groups in all 33 boroughs.</li> <li>- Support to directly access accommodation, including crisis accommodation, social housing and the private rented sector.</li> <li>- Intensive support, including skills training, money management and practical help to enable families and individuals to maintain tenancies.</li> <li>- Personal resilience and independence planning to secure a long-term and healthy</li> <li>- Specialist provision for key target groups who face additional barriers to accessing housing, such as those with NRPF status, LGBTQ+ and minority ethnic communities.</li> </ul> <p>Our intended impact is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevent homelessness; through immediate housing advice, support to access crisis accommodation, advice, advocacy and casework to prevent eviction.</li> <li>- Help people find the right accommodation for them; through accommodation searches, accessing funds and tenancy brokerage, advice and advocacy to resolve any issues with accommodation and resettlement support.</li> <li>- Help people to maintain accommodation long-term; building financial resilience and providing advice and guidance to identify and resolve any issues arising in tenancy.</li> <li>- Address underlying issues that increase personal resilience and contribute to homelessness; through immigration advice and casework for people with NRPF, support to access the right local services to improve mental and physical health and improve confidence and ability to self-help.</li> </ul> <p>Shelter provides specialist housing advice and casework and resilience support for people who are facing additional barriers, e.g. mental health issues, disabilities.</p> <p>Thames Reach offers personalised, intensive face-to-face support particularly those with high complex needs and a gender-specific service to women who face multiple exclusions.</p> <p>Stonewall Housing provides tailored, specialist housing advice and support for LGBTQ+ people.</p> <p>Praxis provides specialist, accredited immigration advice and casework for people who have NRPF and/or insecure immigration status and are at risk of homelessness.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Karen Davey <a href="mailto:karen_davey@shelter.org.uk">karen_davey@shelter.org.uk</a> (London Hub Manager)</p> <p>Stanley Harvey (Service Manager) <a href="mailto:stanley_harvey@shelter.org.uk">stanley_harvey@shelter.org.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/local_services/london">https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/local_services/london</a></p> <p>STAR Video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT4Q-Z9yKnM&amp;list=PLrybnVaUKJhDptYtJlckblfN77mXMyIQT&amp;index=1">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT4Q-Z9yKnM&amp;list=PLrybnVaUKJhDptYtJlckblfN77mXMyIQT&amp;index=1</a></p>



Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	2024	1715
Number of people assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation	156	134
Number of people assisted to prevent eviction.	186	112
Number of people assisted to obtain suitable, stable settled accommodation by accommodation type - PRS, social housing, shared, family or friend accommodation	192	204
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for six months	124	76
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for 12 months	78	42
Number of people with landlord/property issues resolved (for example, disrepair, required adaptations) and/or able to maintain or supported to obtain alternative tenancy	319	299
Number of people with improved mental health	244	184
Number of people with improved physical health	122	72
Number of people with improved life skills	56	32
Number of people referred to employment support	76	26
People able to access immigration advice that will impact on their ability to access suitable accommodation	44	9
People supported through immigration casework to achieve recognised status that supports right to rent within the UK	44	8
People receiving immigration advice and casework are able to access complementary specialist advice and support from the partnership	50	5
<p><b>Immigration:</b> Cases are taking longer to resolve, including due to Home Office delays. There has also been reduced demand for support with EUSS applications. However, as immigration cases across London remain high, there will inevitably be increased support needs, as immigration cases are resolved and those with settled status require support to rent in the UK.</p> <p><b>Employment support:</b> STAR Partnership report that clients are not yet job ready.</p> <p><b>Lifeskills and mental health:</b> STAR Partnership will ensure that all partners are completing 'exit questionnaires' with clients to capture these changes and improve outcome recording.</p> <p><b>Tenancy sustainment:</b> Difficulties are reported with maintaining ongoing contact with clients to confirm status. The Partnership will work to resolve these difficulties through continuing use of telephone surveys. Stonewall Housing have also temporarily not had access to some units of accommodation in which they have placed clients in the past. This issue has now been resolved. The Partnership has continued to support some service users from the previous Grants Programme where accommodation had been secured. London Councils do not expect to see large numbers of transitional service users being counted against outcomes after year one.</p>		

St Mungo's	
<b>Project name:</b>	HARP Connect
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
<b>Specification:</b>	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£298,930
<b>Delivery partners:</b> N/A	
<p>HARP Connect supports prison leavers at all stages of their journey through the criminal justice system. Starting in prison to the day of release and in the community, we provide expert housing advice and trauma informed targeted interventions to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>Project Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify prison leavers aged 25+, who are serving short-term sentences (less than one year), on licence recalls or on remand, and who are at risk of homelessness.</li> <li>- Undertake thorough housing/need and risk assessments and provide comprehensive action plans to address them.</li> <li>- Provide interventions to save existing tenancies at risk.</li> <li>- Support to access temporary and long-term accommodation, including viewings and applications.</li> <li>- Offer of meet at gate on day of release where required.</li> <li>- Support with benefits, bills, furnishings and other essentials.</li> <li>- Work with housing providers, local authorities and private landlords to provide ongoing tenancy support.</li> <li>- Help service users gain personal resilience through referrals to other appropriate community services and wider St Mungo's services (including our specialist mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, financial advice, ETE (Education, Training and Employment) through our Recovery College and Employment team.</li> <li>- Provision of a service user Move on Fund to enhance settled accommodation outcomes among an often financially disadvantaged target group, to be used towards one-off essential accommodation expenses, including rental deposits.</li> <li>- Promote the service through existing relationships with prisons, probation teams, local authority teams and voluntary sector organisations.</li> </ul>	

Contact Details	Referrals
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Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	643	484
Number of people assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation	250	190
Number of people assisted to prevent eviction.	246	67
Number of people assisted to obtain suitable, stable settled accommodation by accommodation type - PRS, social housing, shared, family or friend accommodation	140	178
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for six months <sup>1</sup>	0	0
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for 12 months <sup>2</sup>	0	0
Number of people with landlord/property issues resolved (for example, disrepair, required adaptations) and/or able to maintain or supported to obtain alternative tenancy	106	82
Number of people with improved mental health	120	68
Number of people with improved physical health	120	69
Number of people with improved life skills	180	99
Number of people referred to employment support	40	15
<p><b>Under delivery:</b></p> <p>HARP report that late project start and staffing issues have impacted on outcomes for obtaining crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation and eviction prevention. Staffing issues have also affected support for clients to improve mental health. Now that the project is fully staffed, HARP will be having a number of meetings with newly recruited staff to check full understanding of outcomes and how to deliver the service successfully. HARP therefore do not anticipate a variance for the next quarter.</p> <p>HARP continues to work with clients to increase engagement with health services, by continuing to assess health needs, effectively taking notes of all clients' physical health issue and ensuring that appropriate health care follow up is actioned with GP's. HARP also ensure that clients are engaging with services they have been signposted or referred to, to ensure their physical health is being addressed and clearly evidenced.</p> <p>Clients primary focus in the first two quarters has been housing support, rather than lifeskills improvement. After working with clients on employment referrals, and conducting assessments of clients' 'job readiness', the team will continue to provide interventions that will support lifeskills improvements, to increase these outcomes, with variance being addressed in the next quarter.</p>		

<sup>1</sup> Reporting to start in Q3

<sup>2</sup> Reporting to start in Q5

St Mungo's	
<b>Project name:</b>	StreetLink London Advice Line
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
<b>Specification:</b>	1.2 Prevention and targeted intervention for rough sleepers
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£102,665
<b>Delivery partners:</b> N/A	
<p>The StreetLink London Advice line is a telephone advice service for people who are sleeping rough, or at immediate risk of doing so, in London. The service aims to support people to resolve their homelessness rapidly through advice and advocacy work, and by connecting people with services that can help. This includes referring them into accommodation.</p> <p>The service will reduce rough sleeping by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing advice to service users about routes out of rough sleeping</li> <li>- Providing housing options advice</li> <li>- Supporting reconnection with family and friends</li> <li>- Facilitating access to accommodation</li> <li>- Facilitating access to support services including mental and physical health, domestic and sexual abuse</li> <li>- Facilitating access to specialist advice around debt and finance (incl. benefits), legal and immigration issues</li> </ul>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Stephanie Ratcliffe, Head of Migrant and Advice services  <a href="mailto:stephanie.ratcliffe@mungos.org">stephanie.ratcliffe@mungos.org</a></p> <p>Ffion Eirug, StreetLink &amp; StreetLink London Advice Line Service Manager  <a href="mailto:ffion.eirug@mungos.org">ffion.eirug@mungos.org</a>            07714 699599            3 Thomas More Square, Tower Hill, London E1W 1YW  <a href="http://www.mungos.org">www.mungos.org</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:streetlinklondon@mungos.org">streetlinklondon@mungos.org</a></p> <p>(We do not accept referrals from external agencies/organisations)</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	134	77
Number of people assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation	46	37
Number of people assisted to obtain suitable, stable settled accommodation by accommodation type - PRS, social housing, shared, family or friend accommodation	10	4
People successfully referred to a support service that assists them to obtain accommodation i.e. Crisis, legal support, street outreach	8	4
People successfully connected to health support e.g. hospital homeless discharge team, Groundswell	1	4
People successfully connected to a rough sleeping street outreach team	10	10
People successfully referred to ongoing case work support i.e. Crisis case management, Stonewall	2	8
People successfully referred to benefits and debt support	14	13
People are better able to resolve their homelessness status via connection to the local authority	60	61
People with increased knowledge of the options available to prevent or end their rough sleeping	128	76
People successfully referred to risk of harm support services i.e. IDVA, Victim Support	2	5
People successfully referred to legal support	4	3
People successfully referred to immigration support	2	2
<p>Several rounds of recruitment were required before posts were successfully filled at StreetLink which negatively impacted the project's ability to achieve its outcomes in the first quarter. Locums were recruited with the underspent resources which enabled the project to either reduce the level of under achievement or overachieve some targets in the second quarter.</p> <p><b>Note on: People successfully referred to ongoing case work support i.e. Crisis case management, Stonewall</b></p> <p>The Crisis Case Management team received more referrals than anticipated/ profiled for the summer months. In response StreetLink increased its options for ongoing case work to ensure clients were supported to prevent future homelessness.</p>		

New Horizon Youth Centre	
<b>Project name:</b>	London Youth Gateway (LYG)
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
<b>Specification:</b>	1.3 Prevention and targeted intervention for young people
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£938,762
<b>Delivery partners:</b> akt, Depaul UK, Galop, Praxis, Shelter, Stonewall Housing	
<p>The London Youth Gateway (LYG) makes sure that young Londoners facing homelessness are safe and supported while we help them to achieve long-term stability in terms of housing, income, health and migration status.</p> <p>The LYG targets young people more likely to face homelessness but less likely to find the help they need, for whom boroughs do not have a main homelessness duty and/or for whom it is not cost-effective to commission local services.</p> <p>We offer a genuinely pan-London service, supporting young people through brief interventions or long-term support via in-person and remote delivery.</p> <p>Project activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our LYG portal functions as a central point of access that sits at the heart of our delivery. Young people can self-refer via an online referral form and free telephone line and are seamlessly linked to the most appropriate LYG partner or external agency.</li> <li>- Aside from the portal, we run a specialist LGBTQ+ entry point and a dedicated under-25s advice line for young people requiring help with landlord or tenancy problems, enabling us to deliver crucial interventions and support at scale.</li> <li>- Young people receive clear information, advice and advocacy to prevent homelessness, navigate complex systems, and/or access mainstream services</li> <li>- We offer an integrated, youth-specific package to young people needing longer-term support to access or sustain accommodation, especially where boroughs do not have a statutory duty, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Long-term housing advice/casework/advocacy</li> <li>o Comprehensive physical and mental health services</li> <li>o Life skills development and independent living skills</li> <li>o Employability support</li> <li>o Income maximisation and benefits support</li> <li>o Specialist immigration advice</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Responsive to London's diversity, the LYG tailors its services to young people most vulnerable to homelessness, including young people from minoritised communities, LGBTQ+ young people, young women, neurodiverse young people and those with no recourse to public funds.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Phil Kerry, CEO</p> <p><a href="mailto:phil.kerry@nhyouthcentre.org.uk">phil.kerry@nhyouthcentre.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>020 7388 5560</b></p> <p>68 Chalton St, London, NW1 1JR</p> <p><a href="http://www.nhyouthcentre.org.uk">www.nhyouthcentre.org.uk</a></p>	<p><a href="http://www.londonyouthgateway.org.uk/get-help/">http://www.londonyouthgateway.org.uk/get-help/</a></p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	1672	1658
Number of people assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation	174	255
Number of people assisted to obtain suitable, stable settled accommodation by accommodation type - PRS, social housing, shared, family or friend accommodation	177	203
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for six months <sup>3</sup>	0	0
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for 12 months <sup>4</sup>	0	0
Number of people with landlord/property issues resolved (for example, disrepair, required adaptations) and/or able to maintain or supported to obtain alternative tenancy	47	53
Number of people with improved mental health	238	362
Number of people with improved physical health	120	137
Number of people with improved life skills	192	439
Number of people referred to education and training opportunities	63	50
Number of people referred to employment support	107	83
Young people supported to resolve/better able to manage immigration issues	25	40
<p><b>Note on: Number of people referred to education and training opportunities/ referred to employment support.</b></p> <p>There have been pressures on specialist Employment, Education and Training (EET) staffing and recruitment, which has had an impact on performance. London Youth Gateway (LYG) will begin to focus on referring young people to employment support, as currently many young people are focussed on emergency housing/ crisis situations around homelessness and are often not feeling ready to engage with EET discussions.</p>		

<sup>3</sup> Reporting to start in Q3

<sup>4</sup> Reporting to start in Q5

Homeless Link	
<b>Project name:</b>	PLUS Project
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
<b>Specification:</b>	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals)
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£170,871
<b>Delivery partners:</b> Shelter	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The PLUS Project aims to strengthen the sector through enhanced collaboration, particularly through improved two-way relationships between LAs and local VCSs, bring related sectors (e.g., health, social care, housing) together to better understand, define and identify their role in preventing homelessness, support providers and commissioners to be responsive to changing patterns of need, policy, legislation and equalities issues and providers to recognise differing needs. To build capacity of providers to be more sustainable, improve pathways between statutory and VCS and improve sector staff wellbeing and resilience, to avoid burn-out and retain expertise in the sector.</li> </ul> <p>Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In-depth support to boroughs delivered through a consistent learning pathway model. This will including an initial systematic review and analysis of the LA and local VCS sector to identify current processes, practice, collaborations and gaps, informing an evidence-based bespoke development plan of support and training</li> <li>- Rapid review and assessment of organisations, to obtain baseline data on support needs, to guide programme and assess progress towards programme aims</li> <li>- Linking boroughs with similar needs and challenges to facilitate shared learning, peer network development, peer support, and economies of scale</li> <li>- Providing specialist advice, support, training and information, at the pan-London, sub-regional and local level to meet the range of needs</li> <li>- Supporting and improving working relationships between the VCS, boroughs and landlords through targeted and tailored activities</li> <li>- Improving collaboration and communication between the homelessness, employment, domestic/sexual violence, substance use, and health sectors through relationship brokerage, bespoke support and peer networks</li> <li>- Provision of policy, law and research information</li> <li>- Responsive special initiatives responding to changing needs for the duration of the grant</li> <li>- Targeted wellbeing and resilience support through collaboration events and bespoke training.</li> </ul>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Chris Dutton - London Strategic Lead  <a href="mailto:chris.dutton@homelesslink.org.uk">chris.dutton@homelesslink.org.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:London.Plus@homelesslink.org.uk">London.Plus@homelesslink.org.uk</a>  07958 135 840  Homeless Link, 2-5 Minories, London EC3N 1BJ</p>	<p>Contact <a href="mailto:London.Plus@homelesslink.org.uk">London.Plus@homelesslink.org.uk</a> or call Chris Dutton on 07958 135 840 to discuss any specific queries and sign-up to contact list for all training and events. In depth borough support will be dependent on an Expression of Interest process and advertised to all boroughs via key contacts.</p>



Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new organisations	82	132
Organisations with increased knowledge of housing and homelessness legislation, specifically the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021	33	7
Number of organisations with increased knowledge of policy and best practice in service delivery	35	0
Number of organisations with improved working relationships with local authority statutory services.	0	0
Number of voluntary sector organisations able to demonstrate increased working relationships (with landlords, housing professionals, other local services)	0	9
Number of landlords/housing professionals with increased knowledge of housing and equalities law	0	9
Number of landlords/housing professionals with increased knowledge of housing and homelessness legislation, policy and best practice in client support	0	9
Number of organisations with an increased understanding of funding opportunities and application procedures	54	0
Number of organisations with improved ability to evidence and demonstrate the impact of their services	0	0
Number of organisations with improved ability to develop partnerships/collaborations to improve services.	0	0
By the end of year 1, VSC and community organisations report improved mental health, wellbeing, and greater resilience	30	12
Local Authority / organisations offer improved homelessness and housing advice services following a systemic review	0	0
<p><b>Under delivery:</b> There have been lower than expected improvements in mental health, wellbeing, and greater resilience for organisations and increased knowledge of housing and homelessness legislation due to registered attendees not turning up for training. This will be addressed with the provision of webinars and training in the next quarter and the rescheduling of some webinars in quarter four.</p> <p>Outcomes to increase understanding of funding opportunities/application processes were due to be met in quarters 1 and 2, including through training on the Winter Transformation Fund. This Fund however was not available in quarter 1. In quarter 2, the Plus Project advertised the Fund to homeless organisations, and the training is now due to be delivered in the next quarter. London Plus will also contribute to a pan-London fundraising event in quarter four. Information on new policy and best practice continues to be provided via the London Plus newsletter, in forums and at pan-London strategy meetings. Delivery of proposed training and targeted information dissemination will help to ensure that all outcome targets going forward, are met.</p>		

## Priority 2 – Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	
<b>Project name:</b>	Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR)
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.1 Prevention (children and young people)
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£240,638
<b>Delivery partners:</b> FORWARD, IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Jewish Women's Aid, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Women and Girls Network	
<p>The 'Healthy London, Healthy Relationships' (HLHR) project aims to prevent VAWG against/amongst Children and Young People (CYP), empower both professionals and young people to develop sustainable organisational structures and cultures that embed the importance of healthy relationships and tackle attitudes and beliefs that cause VAWG. This will be done through a system wide, multi-agency approach that focuses on safeguarding, capacity building and learning.</p> <p>This project will consist of a hybrid online/face-to-face offer focused on a holistic, whole schools approach, aims to allow flexibility in delivery to increase its potential reach (and allow scalability) and focus the intensive, bespoke support to children and areas with the most need. Included are materials and tools allowing for its use in non-school settings such as community and faith groups. Our tiered model consists of four key activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development and maintenance of accessible London specific HLHR Hub based on existing "Ask AVA" resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive prevention toolkit including age-appropriate resources for school settings (5-18)</li> <li>Co-produced resources and tools with experts by experience</li> <li>Lesson plans, activities for a comprehensive RSE (in-line with Gov guidelines)</li> <li>Localised referral pathways, signposting for support for children who disclose.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Training and learning for schools/youth organisations including interactive training, specialised e-learning, networking/troubleshooting.</li> <li>3. Bespoke support for schools which will be assigned through a triaged system according to need based on the key priorities and vulnerabilities. Applications will be allocated to partner organisations based on specialism, capacity and community connections.</li> <li>4. Outreach work for all the above including whole school approach Champions to promote the work through borough pathways and networks; and foster new partnerships such as with the National Education Union, other trade unions, wider community leaders</li> </ul>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Donna Covey, CEO <a href="mailto:donna.covey@avaproject.org.uk">donna.covey@avaproject.org.uk</a> <b>020 3752 5536</b> The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR	Referrals for the programme can be made centrally via our website or email address below Website: <a href="https://avaproject.org.uk/hlhr/">https://avaproject.org.uk/hlhr/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:HLHR@avaproject.org.uk">HLHR@avaproject.org.uk</a> Information on the services our partners provide can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	100	566
Number of people who can identify the components of healthy relationships	35	136
Number of people who can identify at least one warning sign of domestic or sexual abuse	35	20
Number of people enabled to make positive choices for themselves	35	27
Number of people who know where to get support	35	9
Number of people who communicate with their peers in a way that reflects a change in knowledge and attitudes about healthy relationships	70	0
Number of professionals reporting increased confidence in addressing issues with children and young people	100	151
Number of professionals reporting increased knowledge, awareness and commitment to ensuring the work is embedded	50	202
Number of schools with the learning incorporated into policies and procedures.	0	0
<p><b>Over Delivery:</b> Training and outreach delivered by Jewish Women's Aid (JWA) has contributed to exceeding outcomes for professionals reporting increased knowledge, awareness and commitment to ensure work is embedded, and increased confidence in addressing issues with children and young people. JWA has drawn on existing relationships and arrangements in building capacity amongst professionals in the Jewish community to achieve increased outcome figures.</p> <p><b>Under Delivery:</b> Outcomes have been greatly impacted by ongoing recruitment, resulting in reduced staffing capacity for some partners within the Healthy Lives, Healthy Relationships (HLHR) project. Collecting outcomes data has also been challenging across the partnership, with people engaging in the programme but not completing feedback to evidence that the outcome has been achieved. There have been technical issues with the online survey used, which will be addressed going forward. All partners have been assigned Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to increase outcomes and take up of services by schools. Outcomes for people who communicate with their peers in a way that reflects a change in knowledge and attitudes about healthy relationships, identification of warning signs of domestic or sexual abuse and support services should increase in subsequent quarters.</p>		

Women and Girls Network	
<b>Project name:</b>	Ascent Advice and Counselling Project
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.2 Specialist advice, counselling and support (for medium risk survivors (including post-IDVA/ISVA) and target groups not accessing general provision)
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£1,368,470
<b>Delivery partners:</b> Ashiana Network, Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), Chinese Information and Advice Centre, EACH, IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Jewish Women's Aid, Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Nia, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre, Rights of Women, Solace Women's Aid, Southall Black Sisters, Women's Trust	
<p>The Ascent Advice and Counselling project aims to provide pan-London wrap-around support services for self-identified women, girls and non-binary people surviving the continuum of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through individually tailored advice, information, casework and therapeutic services. The overall aim of the project is to enhance survivors internal and external resources, enabling them to better cope and heal from their experiences of violence &amp; abuse, and move to independence.</p> <p>Our activities •</p> <p>At the heart of our pan-London partnership project will be two holistic advice hubs offering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- emotional support</li> <li>- information/advice &amp; immediate advocacy support</li> <li>- needs &amp; risk assessments</li> <li>- safety planning</li> <li>- seamless access to ongoing support services.</li> </ul> <p>These will be surrounded by the spokes of specialist services to complement the hubs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Targeted 1-1 casework services for, Black and Global Majority women /young women and girls/ women who are sexually exploited and/or faced multiple disadvantages).</li> <li>- A specialist focus on providing housing support/access to safe accommodation, including emergency accommodation funding for single women with NRPF.</li> <li>- 1:1 BACP accredited counselling delivered across London and in over 20 languages.</li> <li>- London legal advice line- providing specialist family law and immigration legal advice</li> <li>- Survivor group work<sup>5</sup> to promote recovery and increase understanding of abuse</li> <li>- Training and awareness raising to up skill professionals and staff</li> </ul>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Gurpreet Virdee, Director of Operations and Development <a href="mailto:gurpreet@wgn.org.uk">gurpreet@wgn.org.uk</a></p> <p>CAN Mezzanine, 7-14 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YR</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.wgn.org.uk">www.wgn.org.uk</a> and <a href="https://www.thelondonvawgconsortium.org.uk">https://www.thelondonvawgconsortium.org.uk</a></p>	<p>East London (Solace Women's Aid): 0808 802 5565; <a href="mailto:advice@solacewomensaid.org">advice@solacewomensaid.org</a></p> <p>West London (Women and Girls Network): 0808 801 0660; <a href="mailto:advice@wgn.org.uk">advice@wgn.org.uk</a></p> <p>London Legal Advice (Rights of Women): 0207 608 1137</p>

<sup>5</sup> Delivery in year one only. WGN will signpost to alternative provision where available from year two onwards.

Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	3077	3217
Number of people experiencing greater feelings of safety	2788	1682
Number of people with a safety plan	2145	1552
Number of people with continuing support to sustain new lives.	2767	1851
Number of people who can rebuild their lives and move to independence	1219	900
Number of tenancies secured	547	325
Number of tenancies sustained for six months <sup>6</sup>	0	0
Number of people accessing health services	135	211
Number of people accessing employment support.	18	29
Local authority officers and local IDVAs/ISVAs can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service	176	371
<p><b>Tenancies secured:</b> The Ascent partnership has highlighted that it is extremely challenging to secure safe housing solutions for survivors in London. This is particularly for survivors with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), where local authority housing departments have no statutory duty to provide support, and Ascent state that Social Services often refuse to provide Section.17 support.</p> <p><b>People experiencing greater feelings of safety</b></p> <p>Outcomes have been affected by a reduced counselling service during this quarter, as the project's East Hub has had reduced capacity, which impacted on the number of service users supported for counselling. Many survivors receiving counselling have also not yet reached the outcome for experiencing greater feelings of safety. Ascent do not envisage capacity issues to continue into the next quarter.</p> <p><b>Overdelivery:</b> The partnership has well established referral pathways with all local IDVA providers as well as with local authority officers. This has contributed to increased outcomes for additional support to wrap around existing services and making referrals. Employment support outcomes have also been exceeded with Women's Trust delivering employment support services for survivors. There have also been increased numbers of survivors requiring support around their mental health.</p>		

<sup>6</sup> Reporting to start in Q3

Galop	
<b>Project name:</b>	The LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP)
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.2 Specialist advice, counselling and support (for medium risk survivors (including post-IDVA/ISVA) and target groups not accessing general provision)
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£158,753
<b>Delivery partners:</b> Stonewall Housing, London Friend	
<p>The London LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) is specialist service for LGBT+ survivors of domestic abuse. It is open to any LGBT person experiencing domestic violence living or working in London. This is a service run by, and for, LGBT+ people.</p> <p>The DAP provides services to survivors of domestic abuse, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helpline: email, phone and live chat support to all LGBT+ survivors, giving information and support 5 days a week, including signposting to ongoing specialist services and contributing to the overall national helpline service, supporting survivors in London.</li> <li>• Advice and safety planning</li> <li>• Housing advice, including options on finding safe accommodation</li> <li>• Emotional support</li> <li>• Free one-to-one Counselling</li> <li>• Support and assistance with dealing with the police</li> <li>• Help reporting incidents and finding solicitors</li> <li>• Legal advice on civil or criminal protection (e.g., non-molestation orders)</li> <li>• Support through civil and criminal court system</li> <li>• Advice on child safety and child contact issues</li> <li>• Specific support around sexual abuse</li> <li>• Interpreter service available to those who do not have English as a first language</li> <li>• Awareness raising sessions/ consultancy services to multi agency staff at borough level to increase understanding of LGBT+ people's experiences of domestic abuse and the work of the partnership.</li> </ul> <p>The partnership is made up of three LGBT+ voluntary organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galop specialising in supporting LGBT+ victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, and other forms of abuse including honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and so-called "conversion therapies".</li> <li>• Stonewall Housing providing safe accommodation, housing advice, mental health advocacy and support for people fleeing domestic abuse.</li> <li>• London Friend offers counselling and support around issues such as same-sex relationships, sexual and gender identity and promotes personal growth and self-confidence.</li> </ul> <p>More information is available on the partnership website: <a href="http://www.lgbtdap.org.uk">www.lgbtdap.org.uk</a></p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Gavin Stafford – <a href="mailto:Gavin@galop.org.uk">Gavin@galop.org.uk</a>	Survivors and professionals can refer through the online referral form on <a href="http://www.galop.org.uk/make-a-referral/">www.galop.org.uk/make-a-referral/</a> or by calling the National LGBT DV Helpline 0800 999 5428

Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	150	159
Number of people experiencing greater feelings of safety	50	56
Number of people with a safety plan	30	27
Number of people with continuing support to sustain new lives.	50	52
Number of people who can rebuild their lives and move to independence	25	25
Number of tenancies secured	20	18
Number of tenancies sustained for six months	6	16
Number of people accessing health services	10	13
Number of people accessing employment support.	8	5
Local authority officers and local IDVAs/ISVAs can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service	10	10
LGBT+ victims/survivors of domestic abuse are better able to access additional support from local/specialist support services	30	34
LGBT+ victims/survivors of domestic abuse have improved emotional health/wellbeing	16	19
<p><b>Number of people accessing employment support</b> -This is not an employment project per se, therefore it only expects a limited number of clients to request employment support where it is needed.</p> <p><b>Number of tenancies sustained for six months</b> - There was an over performance because the data for some of the service users who had joined the project at the end of the last programme had completed their six month tenancy in this programme.</p>		

SignHealth	
<b>Project name:</b>	Deaf Domestic Abuse Service
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.2 Specialist advice, counselling and support (for medium risk survivors (including post-IDVA/ISVA) and target groups not accessing general provision)
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£269,304
<b>Delivery partners:</b> n/a	
<p>This service aims to educate, empower, encourage and protect Deaf people from all forms of domestic abuse using their preferred language, British Sign Language (BSL).</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preventative education: work with the Deaf community to raise awareness about unhealthy relationships, different types of abuse, consent and to empower Deaf people with tools to keep themselves safe.</li> <li>- Supporting independence: Deaf IDVAs will support Deaf adults and their families to lead a life free from violence by minimising risk, ensuring safety, and developing skills for independence thus reducing the likelihood of clients returning to abusive relationships or resuming old behaviours. The IDVA support for Deaf people is offered either remotely over online video platforms or face to face.</li> <li>- Accessible resources in BSL: video resources in BSL give Deaf people fair access to the same vital information as their hearing peers. Watch videos here: <a href="https://signhealth.org.uk/video-category/domestic-abuse/">https://signhealth.org.uk/video-category/domestic-abuse/</a></li> <li>- Provision of training and resources for mainstream/hearing providers to improve access to services. Also Deaf awareness training to the police and other external agencies.</li> <li>- Work in collaboration with a range of mainstream providers, who signpost Deaf service users to us.</li> <li>- In-person advocacy where necessary (supporting clients to navigate the family courts, criminal justice, and welfare systems).</li> <li>- Referrals to SignHealth's Psychological Therapy service for anxiety, depression and/or trauma.</li> </ul> <p>Freedom Programme workshops and facilitation of Deaf-led support groups</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Marie Vickers – Head of Domestic Abuse Services  <a href="mailto:mvickers@signhealth.org.uk">mvickers@signhealth.org.uk</a></p> <p>SignHealth, CAN Mezzanine Ltd, 7-4 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YR (registered address)  <a href="https://signhealth.org.uk/with-deaf-people/domestic-abuse/">https://signhealth.org.uk/with-deaf-people/domestic-abuse/</a></p>	<p>Deaf people can self-refer through our email <a href="mailto:da@signhealth.org.uk">da@signhealth.org.uk</a> or our SMS number 07800 003421</p> <p>Professionals can email <a href="mailto:da@signhealth.org.uk">da@signhealth.org.uk</a> to make a referral</p>



Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	26	29
Number of people experiencing greater feelings of safety	26	21
Number of people with a safety plan	26	21
Number of people with continuing support to sustain new lives.	26	22
Number of people who can rebuild their lives and move to independence	26	18
Number of tenancies secured	10	8
Number of tenancies sustained for six months <sup>7</sup>	0	0
Number of people accessing health services	4	10
Number of people accessing employment support.	4	4
Local authority officers and local IDVAs/ISVAs can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service	12	10
Number of Deaf people reporting greater awareness of Domestic Abuse and how to get help	0	22
Number of professionals reporting greater awareness of Deaf Domestic Abuse and where to go for appropriate services	22	85
<p><b>Number of people accessing health services; Professionals reporting greater awareness of Deaf Domestic Abuse and where to go for appropriate services.</b></p> <p>Sign Health have supported increased numbers of clients to access health services for either service users or their children. The project has also provided three workshops to professionals throughout this quarter that has attracted increased numbers of professionals and Deaf people, resulting in profile targets being exceeded.</p> <p><b>Number of people who can rebuild their lives and move to independence.</b></p> <p>SignHealth have reported that some clients, who engaged with the project at the end of the quarter, do not yet feel that they have achieved this outcome in their journey. There should be improvements in this outcome figure in subsequent quarters.</p>		

<sup>7</sup> Reporting to start in Q3

Refuge	
<b>Project name:</b>	Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.3 Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£290,436
<b>Delivery partners:</b> Women and Girls Network (WGN), Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) and Respect	
<p>This project is a partnership between four specialist providers, the pan-London domestic and sexual violence helpline provides access to confidential, non-judgmental support and advice for anyone in London subjected to domestic or sexual violence, current or historic, including referrals to emergency safe accommodation and support for friends, family and professionals.</p> <p>Support includes: emotional support, risk assessment, safety planning, referrals and information on rights and options, including legal rights, housing rights, child contact rights and pathways into other services; also a refuge referral line for women fleeing domestic abuse, run by Refuge as part of the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (NDAH), with enhanced support for women facing particular barriers to accessing refuge, providing critical insight to London Boroughs.</p> <p>Support can also be accessed via digital channels, including online Live Chat, email support and web content – informed by partner expertise around the ways in which perpetrators track victims’ activity online and misuse technology to abuse. To ensure the needs of all Londoners can be met, our helplines include accessible pathways to support: British Sign Language interpretation, Language Line interpreters; Helpline Advisers and volunteers who speak multiple languages; and translated web content.</p> <p>The partnership will raise awareness of its services across the capital, including an online offer for local authorities and targeted communications where there is low borough engagement, facilitated by a project support officer at Refuge. The partnership will bolster London’s specialist VAWG sector by sharing expertise with each other, including mutual training sessions and regular meetings to share best practice, identify emerging needs particular ‘pain points’ for survivors., as well as smooth referral pathways between partner Helplines.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Lucy Snow, Senior Transformation Manager, Refuge</p> <p><a href="mailto:Lucy_Snow@refuge.org.uk">Lucy_Snow@refuge.org.uk</a></p>	<p>The Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: <b>0808 2000 247</b> or contact via secure webform, online live chat (weekdays, 3pm – 10pm) or British Sign Language interpretation (weekdays, 10am – 6pm) <a href="https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/">https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/</a></p> <p>National Sexual Violence Helpline: <b>0808 802 9999</b> (24/7), or access support via live chat here: <a href="https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/want-to-talk/">https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/want-to-talk/</a></p> <p>Women and Girls Network Sexual Violence Helpline: Freephone: <b>0808 801 0770</b> Mon- Fri 10am-12.30pm, 2.30pm-4pm. Late opening on Wednesdays 6pm-9pm. <a href="http://wgn.org.uk">Home   Women and Girls Network (wgn.org.uk)</a></p> <p>Respect Men’s Advice Line: Telephone support: <b>0808 801 0327</b> (Mon to Fri 10am – 8pm), Email support: Monday to Friday – 9am – 8pm, Webchat support: Wednesdays – 10-11.30am and 2.30-4pm <a href="http://DomesticAbuseHelplineforMen.com">Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men   Men's Advice Line UK (mensadvice.org.uk)</a></p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	7838	6309
Number of people referred to a refuge	190	199
Number of people referred to alternatives to refuge e.g. reciprocal arrangements for secure tenancies	90	16
Number of people referred to other general services (welfare, housing, legal rights)	1760	1255
Number of people referred to other specialist services (specialists in supporting victims of domestic and sexual abuse, counselling).	1510	2580
Borough professionals report being able to respond to service users' needs	56	144
Borough professionals indicate satisfaction with the service.	56	146
Survivors provided with information to enable self-referral to refuge accommodation	600	759
Survivors of domestic and sexual abuse have improved understanding of risk and steps they can take to increase safety, both physical and emotional	2162	2056
Professionals are empowered with information on responding to domestic and sexual abuse, increasing the likelihood of positive interventions with survivors they're concerned about.	588	459
Survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and those supporting them experience reduced isolation, increased sense of hope and increased understanding of survivor rights and options	7838	6235
<p><b>Over delivery:</b> The National Domestic Abuse Helpline's introduction of a dedicated refuge support line aimed at reducing wait-times for women who already know they need a refuge has resulted in an increase in the number of women supported.</p> <p>WGN's feedback questionnaire, related to borough professional, is now part of its call-log rather than being a separate form; this has increased the number of professionals asked monitoring questions.</p> <p>Refuge believes that the initial targets, for the number of people referred to other specialist services, may be an under-estimation which it will review and if appropriate discuss increased target figures.</p> <p><b>Underdelivery:</b> Some of the partnerships outcomes are below target because it has not been able to utilise data from RASASC following the implementation of its new database. The new database doesn't currently allow identification of London callers which RASASC is working towards amending.</p> <p>In quarter 1 Refuge was slightly below target because of job vacancies. Staff have now been appointed to the vacant roles. Moreover, Refuge believe that the target figures, for the number of people referred to alternatives to refuge, have been under reported because of its current data collection method which relies on manually finding women with specific housing need. It has been working on an enhanced data collection method which is scheduled for introduction in November.</p>		

Women's Aid	
<b>Project name:</b>	London Refuges Data Collection Project
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.3 Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£25,000 <sup>8</sup>
<b>Delivery partners:</b> N/A	
<p>The London Refuges Data Collection project provides an evidence base on the availability and use of domestic abuse refuge provision in London. It aims to inform stakeholders about these services and support the commissioning of services.</p> <p>The data collection for this project uses Routes to Support (RtS), the UK VAWG service directory which Women's Aid Federation of England run in partnership with our sister federations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.</p> <p>Data in London on referrals and women's journeys is collected through RtS as part of refuge services routine work. That means that when London-based staff update refuge vacancies on the system they are required to enter additional information about the women using their services.</p> <p>Women's Aid share quarterly data reports with London Councils, MOPAC<sup>9</sup> and Borough officers including VAWG leads, Commissioners and Community Safety Officers. These stakeholders also have access to an interactive Data Dashboard which is on a password-protected area of the Women's Aid website.</p> <p>Women's Aid present the data at various fora in London and also produce an annual data summary which is shared with all London refuge providers.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Nikki Bradley, Director of Services</p> <p><a href="mailto:n.bradley@womensaid.org.uk">n.bradley@womensaid.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.womensaid.org.uk">www.womensaid.org.uk</a></p>	<p>For queries about the data collected through this project please contact: <a href="mailto:routestosupport@womensaid.org.uk">routestosupport@womensaid.org.uk</a></p> <p>Services who are interested in joining Routes to Support can find more information here: <a href="https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/i-work-with-survivors/routes-to-support/">https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/i-work-with-survivors/routes-to-support/</a></p>

<sup>8</sup> Annual amount still to be confirmed

<sup>9</sup> Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
To be agreed		
Please paragraph 3.34 in the main report		

Ashiana Network	
<b>Project name:</b>	Specialist Refuge Network
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.4 Emergency refuge accommodation that offers services to meet the needs of specific groups
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£840,000 (extended for one year only to 31 March 2023) <sup>10</sup>
<b>Delivery partners:</b> Ashiana Network, Solace Women's Aid, Nia project, Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)	
<p>London Specialist Refuge Network seeks to continue to provide a unique and innovative Pan-London service through specialist refuge accommodation and targeted support to high-risk women/children affected by domestic and sexual violence (DSV) with complex needs. The Network will provide specialist refuge, targeted support and outreach and second stage accommodation. The project works intensively with women to assess/address needs, improve safety/health/wellbeing enabling women to exit violent/abusive relationships/situations.</p> <p>The services comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of group-work/workshops to enhance health/wellbeing/living-skills/resilience</li> <li>- Resettlement programme to support independence/longer lasting outcomes</li> <li>- Outreach service supporting/enabling women to access alternative refuge accommodation/be supported in independent living</li> <li>- Training/awareness raising workshops for professionals to remove barriers/widen access</li> <li>- Housing advocacy securing/maintaining referral pathways with housing providers to secure alternative accommodation for women at risk and unable to access refuge</li> <li>- 38 specialist 24-hour refuge and second-stage accommodation bed spaces and package of intensive targeted support to enhance safety and remove barriers:</li> <li>- 6 (24-hour) bed spaces: Problematic substance use</li> <li>- 5 (24-hour) bed spaces: Sexually exploited women (including prostitution and trafficking)</li> <li>- 8 (24-hour) bed spaces: Women with mental health/problematic substance use</li> <li>- 7 second-stage bed spaces: Trafficked women</li> <li>- 6 bed spaces: Middle Eastern and North African women fleeing harmful practices</li> <li>- 6 bed spaces: South Asian, Turkish and Iranian women with NRPF experiencing DV/SV and harmful practices</li> </ul> <p>Within the existing 38 bed spaces, the project will allocate an additional 3 bed spaces for women with NRPF<sup>11</sup>, particularly for trafficked women and 2 bed spaces for women with mobility related disabilities.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Ashiana Network  Shaminder Ubhi, Director  <a href="mailto:shaminder@ashiana.org.uk">shaminder@ashiana.org.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:info@ashiana.org.uk">info@ashiana.org.uk</a>  020 8539 0427  <a href="http://www.ashiana.org.uk">www.ashiana.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Nia Project - 07590 712872 (24 hours); 0207 683 1270  <a href="mailto:info@niaendingviolence.org.uk">info@niaendingviolence.org.uk</a> The Emma Project: 07590 712872 (24 hours)  Solace Advice Line: 0808 802 5565- <a href="mailto:advice@solacewomensaid.org">advice@solacewomensaid.org</a>  Amari Project: 07483014434- <a href="mailto:amari@solacewomensaid.org">amari@solacewomensaid.org</a>  Refuge Referrals Coordinator: 07483025192  Complex Needs refuge: 07483014436  <a href="mailto:fhreferrals@solacewomensaid.org">fhreferrals@solacewomensaid.org</a>  IKWRO – 07846 275 246 (Arabic/Kurdish) 24hrs  07846 310 157 (Farsi/Dari/Turkish) 24 Hours  020 7920 6460- <a href="mailto:info@ikwro.org.uk">info@ikwro.org.uk</a> 07496111963 - Neriman Adiyaman  Senior Refuge officer</p>

<sup>10</sup> Extended for one year only to 31 March 2023 to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the GLA following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act

<sup>11</sup> No recourse to public funds

Outcome	2017-2023 Yr. 6, Q2 <sup>12</sup>	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	4,373	4849
Numbers not returning to a perpetrator	203	241
Numbers with increased awareness of safety planning	1072	934
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 NRPF	852	841
Numbers supported to successfully apply for indefinite leave to remain under the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession or refugee status under an asylum application	176	239
Numbers of women that demonstrate reduced harmful substance use	274	206
Number of women involved in prostitution and trafficking reporting increased awareness of options to exit prostitution and with personalised action plans	203	144
Numbers demonstrating an increased understanding of sexual and domestic violence/prostitution/trafficking as a form of violence against women	770	900
Number of users demonstrating an increased understanding and stabilisation in their mental health	401	387
Number of users with increased understanding of impact of mental health and substance misuse on their children	93	92
Service users moved on in a planned way	159	222
Service users with increased living skills	368	358
Service users with more stabilised immigration status	247	365
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)	274	235
Number of referral pathways agreed with registered social landlords and other housing providers	32	31
Number of service users gaining/maintaining tenancies	181	193
Number of professionals with increased knowledge of sexual and domestic violence aimed at increasing clients' access to services	2612	2491
Removal of barriers in accessing services for people with the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equalities Act	467	879
Number of users with disabilities accessing the service	401	469
There was underdelivery in outcomes for women involved in prostitution/trafficking and women impacted by harmful substance use. Partners will ensure they continue to engage with these women and provide the necessary advice and support required in order to meet cumulative outcomes.		

<sup>12</sup> These performance figures include delivery from 1 April 2017 to date

Women's Resource Centre	
<b>Project name:</b>	Ascent: Support Services to Organisations
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals)
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£189,868
<b>Delivery partners:</b> RESPECT (perpetrators), Imkaan, Rights of Women, Against Violence and Abuse and Women and Girls Network	
<p>The Ascent Support Services to Organisations (SSO) project aims to increase access to support and help for people affected by domestic and sexual abuse, by improving the quality and expertise of frontline domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals in London. The aim will be achieved by the annual provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainability Training</li> <li>- Expert Led Training</li> <li>- Accredited Training</li> <li>- Bespoke Training</li> <li>- Specialist Briefing Sessions</li> <li>- Special Events</li> <li>- One to One Support Sessions</li> <li>- Webinars</li> <li>- Knowledge Hub</li> <li>- Needs Analysis</li> <li>- Case Studies</li> <li>- Fact Sheets, Best practice briefings,</li> <li>- E- newsletters</li> </ul> <p>These activities will provide best practice guidance and advice and inform and educate on a variety of topics, including policy and legislation, immigration, violence against women and girls (VAWG), organisational development, funding and fundraising, perpetrator work, trauma-informed work, and evidencing and demonstrating impact.</p> <p>Ascent SSO aims to increase the cross-sector awareness of services available and cross-sector collaborations; increase the resilience and sustainability of frontline voluntary sector organisations, increase the wellbeing of staff of frontline organisations, and increase awareness and knowledge about intersectionality and the diverse needs of service users.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Ms Vivienne Hayes, CEO <a href="mailto:vivienne@wrc.org.uk">vivienne@wrc.org.uk</a> <b>020 7697 3451</b> Project Lead – Nour Gazarin United House, North Road, London, N7 9DP <a href="http://www.wrc.org.uk">www.wrc.org.uk</a>	<a href="http://www.imkaan.org.uk">www.imkaan.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.respect.uk.net">www.respect.uk.net</a> <a href="http://www.avaproject.org.uk">www.avaproject.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.wgn.org.uk">www.wgn.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk">www.rightsofwomen.org.uk</a>



Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new organisations	110	90
Number of organisations with increased knowledge of legislation, specifically the Domestic Abuse Act 2021	20	31
Number of organisations with increased knowledge of policy and best practice in service delivery	55	65
Number of organisations with improved working relationships with local authority statutory services.	30	27
Number of voluntary sector organisations able to demonstrate increased working relationships (with health professionals, housing professionals, other local services)	20	25
Number of professionals with increased awareness of the signs of domestic and sexual abuse and knowledge of domestic and sexual abuse services available to their clients	50	45
Number of professionals with increased knowledge of domestic and sexual abuse legislation, policy and best practice in clients support.	50	62
Number of organisations with an increased understanding of funding opportunities and application procedures	8	0
Number of organisations with improved ability to evidence and demonstrate the impact of their services	14	6
Number of organisations with improved ability to develop partnerships/collaborations to improve services.	16	24
Organisations with increased ability to improve the wellbeing of staff and volunteers	15	7
Organisations with increased awareness of intersectionality and structural inequality in the context of domestic and sexual abuse	50	48
Organisations with improved ability to meet the diverse and intersectional needs of service users	50	58
<p><b>Under delivery:</b> Various events were rescheduled due to high dropout rates; more time being needed to develop materials or at the request of the facilitator.</p> <p><b>Over delivery:</b> Overdelivery occurred where attendance at events and training sessions was very high and where a number of the events delivered contributed to the achievement of an outcome.</p>		

Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	
<b>Project name:</b>	Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership
<b>Priority:</b>	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
<b>Specification:</b>	2.6 Services for people affected by harmful practices
<b>Amount (1 year):</b>	£304,041
<b>Delivery partners:</b> Ashiana Network, Latin American Women's Rights Service, IKWRO Women's Centre, IMECE Women's Centre, Southall Black Sisters Trust, Women and Girls Network, Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD) and Al-Aman (Division of Richmond Fellowship)	
<p>The Ending Harmful Practices Partnership (EHPP) aims to improve service provision for those affected by sexual and domestic abuse, specifically, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), "so called" honour based abuse (HBV), forced marriage (FM) and other harmful practices<sup>13</sup> through the provision of high quality frontline services as well as support services to voluntary and statutory organisations. The EHPP will provide specialist services including intensive support to Women and Girls from BME communities, as well as raising awareness to increase early identification of those at risk and improve institutional responses.</p> <p>Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1:1 advice and information on rights and entitlements:</li> <li>- casework and advocacy support which will include accompanying women to meetings with police, housing and social services departments and courts</li> <li>- therapeutic support groups and a counselling provision to 50 women</li> <li>- raising awareness of the impact of HBV, FM and FGM within communities and other voluntary and statutory agencies (not only BME communities) through delivering workshops, training and presentations</li> <li>- specific work with young women on FGM through the delivery of workshops to support peer mentoring and youth advocacy.</li> </ul> <p>The project aims to improve safety and reduce risks for BME women experiencing harmful practices; and present them with options so that they are in a stronger position physically, mentally and emotionally. The intended impact of the combined activities they participate in, will help them achieve greater social and economic independence, enabling them to integrate into and contribute towards their local communities and wider society.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Sarbjit Ganger, Director <a href="mailto:sarbjit@awrc.org.uk">sarbjit@awrc.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:info@awrc.org.uk">info@awrc.org.uk</a> <b>020 8961 6549</b> <a href="http://asianwomencentre.org.uk/">http://asianwomencentre.org.uk/</a> Twitter: @AWRCofficial Instagram: @AsianWomenResourceCentre	Ascent: <b>0208 961 6549</b> <b>0208 961 5701</b> <a href="mailto:referrals@awrc.org.uk">referrals@awrc.org.uk</a>

<sup>13</sup> Faith Based Abuse, and some of the lesser known harmful practices such as acid attacks, menstrual huts, "corrective" rape, dowry and caste abuse.

Outcome	2022-2023 Q2	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	224	278
Number of people who have a better understanding of the options available to them and are more aware of their rights	225	280
Number of people who increased their ability to communicate their needs and views to service providers	18	18
Number of people with enhanced coping strategies through risk assessment and planning	188	203
Number of people who have improved life skills, helping them to rebuild their lives and move to independence	21	21
Number of people with improved mental health	80	80
Number of professionals with improved understanding of harmful practices and the barriers faced by Black, Asian and minority ethnic women in accessing services	40	93
local authority officers can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service	13	15
IDVAs/ISVAs, GPs/hospitals and sexual health clinics can make referrals into the service.	16	16
<p><b>Number of professionals with improved understanding of harmful practices and the barriers faced by Black, Asian and minority ethnic women in accessing services.</b></p> <p>Due to the strong relationships forged by Ascent EHP partners with both statutory and third sector providers, the profile of the Ascent EHP project has increased. As a result of the delivery of presentations, training to frontline practitioners, attendance at VAWG Forums, work with MARAC's, and social care teams, referrals have increased. This has enabled increased support work with service users, and outcomes being exceeded.</p>		

# Grants Committee

## Commissioning of refuge provision for the 2022-2026 Grants Programme: Requirements and next steps **Item: 7**

**Report by** Rachel Buttrick **Job title** Principal Project and Policy Officer

**Date** 30 November 2022

**Contact** Rachel Buttrick

**Telephone** 020 7934 9972 **Email** [rachel.buttrick@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.buttrick@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

### Summary

In March 2021, Grants Committee agreed that the commissioning of refuge provision for the 2022-2026 Grants Programme should be deferred to 2022, due to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which placed new duties on the Greater London Authority, as a Tier 1 authority for the provision of safe accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse

To proceed with the call for proposals, the service specification for emergency specialist refuge provision is presented at this Grants Committee meeting for discussion and agreement.

### Recommendations

Grants Committee members are asked to:

- discuss, comment on and, subject to any proposed amendments, agree the Requirements (the service specification) for emergency specialist refuge provision for the London Councils 2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme (Appendix 1)
- note the next steps and timetable for implementing the emergency specialist refuge provision (Application Process and Schedule, page 20 of Appendix 1).

# **Commissioning of refuge provision for the 2022-2026 Grants Programme: Requirements and next steps**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Two consultations were undertaken prior to the commissioning of the 2022-2026 Grants Programme (February/March of 2020 and January/February of 2021), which showed a high level of support (95.7 per cent of respondents<sup>1</sup>) for continuing to fund refuge provision as part of the 2022-2026 Grants Programme.
- 1.2 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed new duties on the Greater London Authority (GLA), as a Tier 1 authority, for the provision of safe accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse. Since November 2020, the GLA has been consulting with local authorities (Tier 2 authorities in London) and providers on these new duties and has developed a needs assessment to consider the number and needs of those fleeing domestic abuse, and a strategy to consider how services should best be delivered across London. The GLA has undertaken some commissioning to secure support for those fleeing domestic violence.
- 1.3 In response to the consultation findings and being mindful of the new arrangements across London for commissioning services for those fleeing domestic abuse, Grants Committee agreed to defer the call for proposals for refuge provision to 2022 and roll over the existing grant for refuge services to 2022-23, to give time for the new arrangements to develop.
- 1.4 Provision for refuge services within the 2022-2026 programme was included in budget proposals, which were considered and agreed by Leaders' Committee in December 2021 (£840,000 per annum).

## **2 Developing the service specification**

- 2.1 The Requirements (Appendix 1) for emergency specialist refuge provision have been developed based on the findings from the consultations noted above, along with expert input from the London Councils policy lead for Violence against Women and Girls and the findings from the [Mayor's Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Combined rate for both consultations

2.2 Several key needs have driven the development of the specification:

- longer-term, on-going support, for example, longer-term counselling support for survivors of domestic abuse
- joined up/multi-agency working, particularly, the need for the successful applicant(s) to build relationships with Safe Accommodation services commissioned by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) under Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act
- support for increasing mental ill health
- support for increasing multiple and complex needs

2.3 Several key target groups that emerge from the needs assessment were also focussed on when developing the specification:

- people who are disabled or have a learning disability
- people with no recourse to public funds and/or insecure immigration status
- people who are LGBTQI+
- people who are Black or from a global majority community

### **3 Market warming**

3.1 Two market warming events were scheduled for 25 November and 1 December. As these events will take place following distribution of this report, a verbal update on levels of interest, and feedback from the first session, will be provided at the committee meeting.

### **4 Funding available through Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act**

4.1 Refuge provision commissioned through the Grants Programme, will deliver alongside services that have been (and will be) commissioned as part of the Mayor's statutory duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This section sets out key information about that funding.

4.2 The additional funding made available through Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act is exclusively for revenue spending on support services within safe accommodation, and cannot be used for capital purposes, such as purchasing new accommodation. It is explicitly prohibited to use this funding for support services for victims and survivors in temporary accommodation (this restriction

has proved challenging due to lack of physical bed spaces and accommodation in which to deliver support).

- 4.3 Additionally, the funding cannot be used to support people with no recourse to public funds.
- 4.4 The Greater London Authority and MOPAC held a commissioning round in late 2021/early 2022 to commission services to provide support in safe accommodation on a pan-London basis. The funding was for new services and/or service expansion only and included a dedicated commissioning lot for support delivered by specialist led-by-and-for services. The following categories of provision were funded through this round (not all services have been published):
- expanding housing Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and other pathway support to assist victims and survivors navigating the housing system
  - enhancement of support available in existing accommodation (e.g., counselling, and therapeutic support, support for children in refuge)
  - additional funding for support for survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage
  - creation of new refuge provision
  - funding for Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation/training for housing providers to improve their response to domestic abuse.
- 4.5 The requirement to avoid duplication across commissioners needs to be considered alongside evidence of acute and chronic demand pressures. Findings from the [pan-London Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment](#) included the need to expand provision of refuge accommodation across London to better meet the demand from victims and survivors and enable freedom of movement between boroughs as needed. Demand pressures were echoed in both the London Councils' consultations (see paragraph 1.1) and feature in the needs assessment for emergency refuge accommodation.
- 4.6 When considering demand pressures, and the less restrictive nature of Grants Programme funding, there are opportunities for London Councils and MOPAC to maximise both funds to provide support for more people who need it and work with sector specialists to develop higher-quality services over the coming years.

## **5 Requirements for emergency specialist refuge provision**

- 5.1 The requirements document provides an overview of the full grants programme, a needs analysis setting out the current picture regarding domestic and sexual abuse across London, the specification for emergency specialist refuge provision and the application schedule and process.
- 5.2 A series of general requirements that cut across the entire programme are set out for potential applicants, alongside the specific requirements for emergency specialist refuge provision
- 5.3 The proposed outcomes (page 18 of the Requirements (Appendix 1)) are targeted and express the key impacts for that London Councils expects to see for people receiving support. In turn, these outcomes offer high returns for boroughs as people gain/recover their confidence to act independently and support themselves.
- 5.4 The requirements for monitoring and reporting (page 15 of the Requirements, (Appendix 1)) were agreed by Grants Committee at the July 2021 AGM as part of agreeing the full prospectus for all other services areas for the 2022-2026 Grants Programme.
- 5.5 As noted at paragraph 2.2, the successful applicant(s) will need to build relationships with Safe Accommodation services commissioned by MOPAC under Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act throughout the life of the grant. MOPAC commissioned services will also develop and mature during the life of the London Council grant. Through Part 4 duties funding, we expect to see an increase in pathway support and co-ordination, as well as specialist services to address multiple and complex needs. As the services covered by these funds are either to be commissioned, or are in the pre-mobilisation phase, we do not yet fully understand the impact of these services on the domestic abuse support landscape. The successful applicant(s) will need to adapt and work with new services as they are mobilised over the next few years and work closely with those services to support referrals and pathways into safe accommodation. Some flexibility on prioritisation and investment for the support elements of the service will also be needed over the three-year period of the grant.



## **6 Next steps and on-going Grants Committee involvement**

- 6.1 Subject to any amendments and agreement from Grants Committee, the requirements will be published, along with the application form, on Thursday 1 December. The application window will be open for six weeks.
- 6.2 As the service needs to be up and running by 1 April it is recommended that the decision to award the grant is taken by Grants Committee Executive so the grants team can undertake necessary actions prior to the service start date (Application Schedule and Process, page 20 of Appendix 1).

## **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 Grants Committee members are asked to:
  - 7.1.1 discuss, comment on and, subject to any proposed amendments, agree the Requirements (the service specification) for emergency specialist refuge provision for the London Councils 2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme (Appendix 1)
  - 7.1.2 note the next steps and timetable for implementing the emergency specialist refuge provision (Application Schedule and Process, page 20 of Appendix 1).

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### **Financial Implications for London Councils**

A decision on the annual funding for the programme will need to be agreed by Leaders' Committee.

### **Legal Implications for London Councils**

London Councils manages the London Councils Grants Programme on behalf of all the boroughs and the City of London. The Programme makes grants to voluntary organisations to deliver improved outcomes for Londoners.

The Programme operates within a scheme made under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. It is a collective scheme i.e. all the boroughs fund the Programme, through a levy contribution based on the boroughs proportion of the capital's population. Boroughs must exercise their functions in respect of the scheme 'with due regard to the needs of the whole of Greater London'.

Leaders' Committee determines the principles and priorities of the Programme and the overall budget of the Programme. The Grants Committee commissions services, makes awards of

funding, manages projects' performance and may advise Leaders' Committee on the Programme.

The legal requirements of good decision-making by public authorities, in summary, require the following:

1. **Declaration of interests:** The principle being, a decision maker should not be a "judge in his own cause". Where a decision-maker has an interest in the subject of a decision he is making it is likely to preclude his participation in the decision where – the decision will affect a friend or relation, the decision-maker has a financial interest in its outcome, the decision-maker is a director of an organisation affected by the outcome of the decision, the decision-maker is a member of group campaigning for one outcome or another, the decision maker's spouse, civil partner or other close family member has an interest in the outcome. Although a close connection with the subject of the decision will automatically disqualify a person from making a decision, declaration of a less direct interest before a decision is made may permit them to take part. In the latter circumstances the person concerned and any colleagues participating in the decision-making process must decide whether the connection would lead a fair-minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility that the decision-maker would be biased if they took part. London Councils has policies and procedures to assist in managing these matters, with Members being required to comply with their own authority's Code of Conduct.
2. **Following correct procedure:** A decision-maker will often be required to follow a set procedure for making its decisions, whether set out in statute or set by the decision-maker itself. Any such procedures are usually drafted with the purposes of both ensuring the decision-maker takes into account all relevant considerations as well as ensuring procedural fairness for those affected by the decision. In taking decisions which engage consideration of specific duties, such as the equalities duties, any process must ensure that those duties are also met. In your case, this will ensure that you turn your mind to, and can evidence that you have had due regard to the public sector equality duty in taking the decision. As you know this does not necessarily require a formal public consultation or EIA (but see below). Examples of prescribed procedures for decision-makers include express duties to: consult, give reasons for decisions, be informed of a right to appeal (if there is one), etc. NB: Whilst it is necessary for a public body making decisions to follow a set procedure that will not of itself render the procedure fair, and in certain circumstances it may also be appropriate/fair to depart from the published procedure.
3. **Consultation:** Public bodies are required by law to consult before making decisions, particularly in the context of making policies or issuing guidance. In some cases, there is an express duty to consult and a statutory process which must be followed. There is no express statutory requirement to consult under the Grants Scheme, although in having due regard to the needs of the whole of Greater London in making the scheme and exercising the relevant functions under section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985, and specifically in meeting the duty under subs 48(10) to keep the needs of the whole of Greater London under review, one must have regard to the general public law principles and requirements relating to consultation. There is published government guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>) and London Councils should have regard to this guidance

In summary: a public authority has a wide discretion in choosing the options upon which to consult; consultation may be an iterative process; consultation must be lawful (and

therefore fair), and such consultation must also be adequate; consultation should be proportionate to the potential impact of the proposal or decision being taken; it should be undertaken at a formative stage in developing the proposals; the timeframe for any consultation should be proportionate and realistic to allow stakeholders an adequate time to consider and respond; the information provided as part of the consultation should be useful and accessible, the objectives of the consultation clear, and the public authority must give sufficient reasons for any proposals being consulted upon to allow for intelligent consideration and response; those consulted should be aware of the criteria that will be applied by the public authority when considering proposals and which factors will be considered decisive or of substantial importance at the end of the process of consultation, such as in evaluating the consultation responses or in taking the decisions informed by the consultation; consultation need not be formal and in writing, and there are a number of ways of engaging with stakeholders which may be appropriate e.g. by email or web-based forums, public meetings, working groups, focus groups and surveys; etc.

If a public authority has promised it will engage in consultation before making a decision it would normally be unfair not to do so. Public bodies should be mindful of any public statements/guidance that may have issued promising consultation e.g. where decisions engage equalities issues. Past practice may imply a promise to consult again on the same type of decision - fairness generally requiring that the practice of consultation is continued. Even if there is no promise or past practice of consultation, the nature and impact of the decision may mean that fairness requires it.

Measures of the severity of a decision's impact include - the extent to which it unexpectedly alters the existing position or legitimate expectations of the affected individuals/groups; or the severity of consequences of the decision on the affected individuals/groups; etc. The product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising proposals.

4. **Rational and evidence-based:** A public body must take rational decisions. An irrational or unreasonable decision is one that was not objectively rational and reasonably open to the decision-maker. Evidence-based decisions help to ensure that decisions are objectively reasonable.
5. **All relevant considerations:** A decision maker must ensure that it takes into account all relevant considerations in reaching a rational and evidence-based decision. The subject matter of the decision will inform what is relevant. EG: the proposal, response to consultation, guidance on parameters for decision, costs of decision, effects of the decision on others (including, for example, having due regard to the decision-makers' public sector equality duty), advice from officers, etc.
6. **Proper purpose:** A public body must act for a proper purpose and in taking their decisions decision-makers must apply their minds to the correct statutory objective. A public body must act in good faith.
7. **Proportionate:** Public decision-makers should act in a way that is proportionate. Proportionate decisions are also likely to be rational, evidence-based and reasonable.
8. **Properly reasoned:** Procedural requirements on public decision-makers require that reasons must be given for their decisions. Reasons do not need to be excessively detailed but do need to be adequate. Adequate decisions – deal with all the substantial points that have been raised; are sufficient for the parties to know whether the decision-maker has

made an error of law; set out and explain key aspects of the decision-maker's reasoning in coming to its conclusion; include all aspects of reasoning that were material to the decision; but do not need to set out in detail all the evidence and arguments referred to by the decision-maker. The reasons for decisions should be recorded at the time the decisions are made.

9. With reference to the above, the standard grounds for judicial review are on the basis that a decision: was unlawful/ultra vires; was irrational; or was procedurally unfair - in that the decision-maker has not properly observed the relevant procedures (whether set by statute or by itself) e.g. it has failed to consult or give reasons for its decision, or there has been a failure to observe the principles of natural justice in the decision-making process e.g. evidence of bias.

Further, a public authority should also be careful not to raise a further ground of challenge if, through their own conduct or statements, they have established a legitimate expectation as to how the public body will act. A legitimate expectation may arise exceptionally in three cases – where the decision-maker has made a clear and unambiguous representation that it will adopt a particular form of procedure above and beyond that which it would otherwise been required to adopt; where the claimant has an interest in some ultimate benefit that it hopes to attain or retain fairness may require the claimant to be given an opportunity to make representations; and where the decision-maker has a substantive right on which it was reasonable for the claimant to rely. Public bodies may change their policies or depart from them (and so not fetter their discretion), and so a legitimate expectation will only arise if departure from the existing policies was an abuse of power.

### **Equalities Implications for London Councils**

In reaching decisions for the implementation of any future grants programme, the Committee is required to have due regard to its obligations under the Equalities Act 2010, particularly the Public Sector Equalities Duty.

London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and targets groups highlighted as particularly underrepresented or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. The grants team reviews this data annually.

### **Background Documents**

Grants Committee, 17 March 2021, Item 6 - Grants Programme 2022-2026: Planning and implementation

**London Councils**  
**2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme**  
**Emergency Refuge Accommodation**

**Requirements**  
**1 December 2022**

**Deadline for applications: 12 noon, 13 January 2023**  
**Start Date: 1 April 2023**

**DRAFT**

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## Introduction

### London Councils

London Councils is the collective of local government in London. Where shared ambitions are developed, agreed, championed, and delivered at London Councils by members working together. Where boroughs speak as one and collaborate with the government, the Mayor of London, the London public sector, the third sector, business, and other key UK and international cities.

### London Councils pan-London Grants Programme

London Councils plays a key role in working with London's boroughs, their communities and the voluntary and community sector to find city wide solutions to key issues affecting our residents. Under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985, London Councils is empowered to make grants to voluntary organisations to deliver activities and services to support those solutions.

The [Leaders' Committee](#) sets the overall funding strategies, policies, and priorities for grants to voluntary organisations.

Leaders' Committee agreed that the 2022 to 2026 Grants Programme should focus on two priorities:

- combatting homelessness
- tackling domestic and sexual abuse.

Decisions on individual grants and the operation of the programme are made by the Grants Committee, comprising members of each of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London.

In March 2021, the [Grants Committee](#) agreed that the commissioning of refuge provision for the 2022-2026 Grants Programme should be deferred by one year, due to the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which placed new duties on the Greater London Authority (GLA) to commission support services for survivors of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation in London. The decision to delay recommissioning was made to allow the commissioning of refuge provision to take into account the new service landscape.

The arrangements for funding and managing the Grants Programme are set out in the Funding and Performance Management Framework [LINK]. The framework is designed to:

- ensure that services are delivered to the people who need them, and that services improve lives and create opportunities for people to succeed
- give the Grants Committee confidence that London Councils has in place systems of oversight, control and reporting to ensure that funded organisations deliver the required outcomes in a manner that provides value for money for the taxpayer and mitigates potential risks.

# Programme Aim and Objectives

## Aim

The pan London Grants Programme 2022-2026 aims to support London's boroughs to reduce homelessness, and domestic and sexual abuse.

This programme will add to the collective effort from local government, the voluntary and community sector, and others across the capital who work to ensure families - whether that is a family of one or many - have a home and are safe.

## Objectives

### Overarching

- Reduce pressure on public services through an outcome led approach
- Complement (and not duplicate) borough and other housing, homelessness, and domestic abuse services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis
- Complement (and not duplicate) borough and other domestic abuse services where mobility is key to the delivery of a service that secures personal safety
- Work with statutory and non-statutory partners to contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010
- Tackle homelessness and domestic and sexual abuse through partnership working
- Measure and monitor existing and emerging needs to inform the ongoing development of appropriate, high-quality services

### Homelessness (services that PREVENT - SUPPORT - MAINTAIN)

- Prevent homelessness through the provision of effective support and advice
- Manage and minimise the effects of homelessness where it cannot be prevented
- Secure sustainable accommodation and appropriate support for homeless households; maximise supply and choice for temporary or longer-term accommodation for homeless people
- Identify and respond to rough sleeping through provision of services and accommodation
- Ensure relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to people at risk of homelessness or who are homeless

### Domestic and sexual abuse (service that PREVENT - SUPPORT - ENABLE)

- Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of violence<sup>2</sup> against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence; increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong
- Make early intervention and prevention a priority
- Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based<sup>3</sup>, culturally responsive services
- Ensure relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors

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<sup>2</sup> This programme does not focus on gang violence. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime has invested £1.91million in the London Gang Exit programme, led by Safer London. The investment in London Gang Exit builds on intervention coaches already funded by London's Violence Reduction Unit.

<sup>3</sup> Strengths-based (or asset-based) approaches focus on individuals' strengths (including personal strengths and social and community networks) and not on their deficits. Strengths-based practice is holistic and multidisciplinary and works with the individual to promote their wellbeing. It is outcomes led and not services led.



## Needs Analysis

### Prevalence of Violence And Abuse

- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 created a statutory definition of Domestic Abuse. Domestic Abuse is a pattern or single incident of abusive behaviour and includes a wide range of behaviours, including physical and sexual violence, economic abuse, emotional abuse and harmful practices including forced marriage and so called “honour-based” violence. Coercive and controlling behaviour has now been recognised as a key component of domestic abuse and a risk factor for serious violence and domestic homicides and is included in the statutory definition of domestic abuse. Children who witness domestic abuse are also now recognised as victims of abuse in their own right.
- There are many barriers to reporting domestic abuse and it is often a hidden crime; therefore, it is challenging to accurately establish prevalence. The Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) is considered to be one of the more robust indicators of prevalence of domestic abuse. Estimates from the latest CSEW report in March 2022 indicated that 5.7 per cent of adults, and 6.9 per cent of women, between ages 16 and 59 had experienced domestic abuse in the past year<sup>4</sup>.
- Police recorded domestic abuse offences and domestic abuse incidents represent only a proportion of actual domestic abuse taking place in London, and fluctuations in rates of abuse may be due to changes to reporting practices rather than changes in actual prevalence. There were 96,860 domestic abuse offences recorded in London in the 12-month period ending August 2022, with a rate of 10.8 abuse offences per 1,000 population. There is significant borough variation in the level of recorded domestic abuse offences; for example, Barking and Dagenham had 16.2 recorded offences per 1,000 population, in contrast to Richmond where there were 5.8 recorded offences per 1,000 population<sup>5</sup>.
- The number of domestic homicides in London has fluctuated over the past decade, with a high of 31 in 2013. In 2021 there were 24 homicides recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) that were flagged as involving domestic abuse, compared to 22 in 2020 and 26 in 2019<sup>6</sup>.
- 25,801 sexual offences were recorded by the MPS between October 2021 and September 2022 inclusive, of which 9,289 were rape<sup>7</sup>. There has been a sharp increase in reported sexual offences over the last two years, following a drop in reported sexual offences during the height of the pandemic in 2020. As with Domestic Abuse offences, police recorded sexual offences are only a proportion of total offences and changes in reporting do not necessarily reflect changes in prevalence.
- Modern Slavery is a complex crime encompassing human trafficking, slavery and forced labour; in human trafficking cases exploitation can take many forms including sexual exploitation and forced marriage. A disproportionate percentage of modern slavery cases occur in London. In 2021, 12,727 individuals were identified as victims of modern slavery; almost a third of whom were in London<sup>8</sup>. This count is likely to understate cases identified through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) due to data limitations, and there will be many cases not identified through the NRM. On both NRM referrals and police recorded crime data, males make up a greater proportion of identified victims (58 per cent according to police recorded crime data year end March 2019). Females are far more likely to be identified as victims of sexual exploitation; 63 per cent of females who were

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<sup>4</sup> [Office for National Statistics – June 2022](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Metropolitan Police Service – accessed October 2022](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Metropolitan Police Service - accessed October 2022](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Metropolitan Police Service – accessed October 2022](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Human Trafficking Foundation 2022](#)

referred in the year ending December 2018 were potential victims of sexual exploitation compared with five per cent of males<sup>9</sup>.

- In 2021, the Foreign Office's Forced Marriage Unit gave advice and support in 337 cases related to a possible forced marriage and/or possible female genital mutilation (FGM). It also responded to 868 general enquiries<sup>10</sup>.
- According to the FGM Enhanced Data Set annual report for 2021/22, there were 5,620 individual women and girls who had a NHS healthcare setting attendance where FGM was identified; in London 2,080 individual women and girls had a healthcare setting attendance where FGM was identified.<sup>11</sup>
- So called "Honour Based" Abuse encompasses a range of incidents and offences, and significantly overlaps with domestic abuse, sexual violence and exploitation including forced marriage. It is defined by the CPS as "an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour." There is limited data available on honour-based abuse as data collection of HBA flagged offences only began in 2019 and is limited by the challenges around police reporting. 2,725 HBA reported offences were recorded in England and Wales in year end March 2021<sup>12</sup>.
- It should be noted that for domestic abuse, sexual violence and other Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) related offences, criminal justice outcomes are poor and have been worsening progressively over the past five years. The COVID 19 pandemic has contributed to a significant court backlog, which has exacerbated issues with both the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) leading to low prosecutions and convictions and worse experiences for victims. In her 2021 rape review, the London Victims' commissioner found that only one per cent of rapes reported to the police ended in conviction<sup>13</sup>.
- The cost-of-living crisis has led to increased reports of economic abuse and controlling behaviour linked to the cost of living, with services reporting greater demand for financial advice and support. In a survey of survivors by Women's Aid, 66 per cent of survivors said that abusers are now using the cost-of-living crisis as a tool for coercive control and 73 per cent of women living with and having financial links with their abuser said that the cost-of-living crisis had either prevented them from leaving or made it harder for them to leave<sup>14</sup>.

## Service Pressures

- Victim support services and specialist abuse services reported an increase in contacts and referrals over the course of the COVID 19 pandemic. In the year ending March 2021, the National Domestic Abuse Helpline supported 49,756 people, a 22 per cent increase from 40,859 in the previous year; this was generally driven by peaks in calls during periods of national lockdown<sup>15</sup>. In a survey of organisations by the Women's Resource Centre, 74 per cent of organisations in London reported increased demand<sup>16</sup>. High demand for support services in the year ending March 2020 led to 63 per cent of referrals of women to refuge services in England being declined; the main reason in England being because of a lack of capacity to support survivors.

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<sup>9</sup> [Office For National Statistics March 2020](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office – July 2022](#)

<sup>11</sup> [NHS Digital – August 2022](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Home Office – December 2021](#)

<sup>13</sup> [London Victims' Commissioner - December 2021](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Women's Aid - August 2022](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Office for National Statistics – November 2021](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Women's Resource Centre – June 2020](#)

- London Councils funded services supporting survivors of abuse have been reporting growing complexity of cases, including survivors with complex and high-risk mental health needs including disordered eating and suicidal ideation. Access to trauma informed, domestic abuse focused mental health care, including through statutory mental health services, has been repeatedly flagged as a major barrier for survivors.
- The Domestic Abuse Commissioner is completing a comprehensive mapping of domestic abuse services England and Wales alongside a nationwide survivor survey. In her early findings published in 2022, the commissioner found that the most sort after form of support is counselling (desired by 73 per cent of survivors) and mental health care (65 per cent of survivors), and that access to long term mental health support remains a significant gap.

## Refuge and Other Safe Accommodation Provision and Demand in London

- Over the past decade there has been a general increase in refuge provision, with 945 refuge spaces in London as of 1 May 2021. In year end March 2022, 1,098 women and 868 children were placed in refuge. Despite a general increase in refuge provision, supply does not currently meet demand, with 927 unsuccessful instances of referrals into refuge for this time period<sup>17</sup>. Due to the methods of calculating unsuccessful instances, this is highly likely to be a significant understatement of total unmet need. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner found that in London, less than half of those who wanted access to refuge provision received it<sup>18</sup>. There is significant variation in refuge space provision across London, with some areas falling below the ratio of spaces to population<sup>19</sup>.

### Refuge provision over time in London (on 1st May each year)

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Refuge spaces	798	756	722	793	799	815	812	854	892	907	904	945
Refuge services	62	58	54	57	53	55	56	60	59	60	59	60

- In 2020/21, over 49,000 households were owed a prevention or relief duty in London. 4,870 of these households (9.9 per cent) were owed a duty as a result of domestic abuse<sup>20</sup>.
- London has a longer average length of stay for survivors in refuge (5.5 months) in comparison to regions outside London (3.7 months). This is likely due to a range of factors including the shortage of affordable accommodation in London making relocating to settled accommodation a major barrier for move on. Rental prices in London have rebounded since the pandemic which means there is very limited affordable housing. For example, for single parents in receipt of benefits with two children aged over four, only 0.8 per cent of private rented sector housing in London would be affordable to them. For single parents with three children aged over four, this drops to 0.1 per cent<sup>21</sup>. The lack of affordable housing puts increasing pressures on refuge spaces.
- Overall, refuge spaces in London are not accessible to particular groups. As can be seen in the chart below, only a small percentage of refuge vacancies are open to women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), women with multiple children, and wheelchair users. Other than an increase in refuge provision for women with NRPF, this position has not improved over time.

<sup>17</sup> Women's Aid – Routes to Support Data accessed October 2022

<sup>18</sup> [Domestic Abuse Commissioner – June 2021](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Mayor of London – December 2021](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Department for Housing, Communities and Levelling September 2022](#)

<sup>21</sup> [London Councils and Savills – August 2022](#)

## London refuge vacancies for groups by quarter

Quarter	Total vacancies	Woman plus 2 children	Woman plus 3 children	Woman with NRPF	Wheelchair accessible
2018-19 Q1	445	34% (150)	9% (39)	4% (18)	<1% (1)
2018-19 Q2	398	31% (124)	6% (26)	1% (5)	1% (4)
2018-19 Q3	403	32% (127)	6% (24)	6% (23)	<1% (2)
2018-19 Q4	365	30% (110)	6% (21)	7% (24)	<1% (1)
2019-20 Q1	403	31% (123)	5% (22)	3% (11)	<1% (1)
2019-20 Q2	403	31% (123)	5% (22)	3% (11)	<1% (1)
2019-20 Q3	304	33% (100)	5% (14)	6% (17)	0% (0)
2019-20 Q4	350	39% (135)	6% (20)	2% (8)	<1% (1)
2020-21 Q1	313	30% (94)	5% (16)	4% (14)	<1% (1)
2020-21 Q2	389	35% (135)	6% (24)	8% (30)	<1% (2)
2020-21 Q3	376	31% (116)	8% (29)	11% (40)	<1% (3)
2020-21 Q4	343	32% (109)	6% (21)	8% (29)	<1% (1)
2021-22 Q1	385	29.9% (115)	9.4% (36)	5.5% (21)	0.5% (2)
2021-22 Q2	383	31.6% (121)	6.3% (24)	5.5% (21)	0.3% (1)
2021-22 Q3	383	31.1% (119)	5.2% (20)	9.1% (35)	0.8% (3)

## Equalities Impact

- Sexual violence, domestic abuse and exploitation cut across all levels of society. Applicants should be able to demonstrate their ability to address issues faced by people with protected characteristics (Equalities Act 2010) through their service delivery.
- For many individuals from communities that are marginalised or minoritised due to protected characteristics, mainstream domestic abuse and sexual violence services are not fully accessible and do not provide the best form of support. Specialist “by and for” organisations provide support for such communities that are not well served by mainstream provision. These services include organisations supporting black and global majority survivors, LGBT+ survivors, and survivors with disabilities. London is the most well provisioned region in England and Wales for by and for services, with 44 per cent of these services located in the capital. However, by and for services typically are smaller, have less access to statutory funding and are more vulnerable to instability due to funding arrangements<sup>22</sup>. This instability has a direct and negative impact on survivors from marginalised communities.
- Income inequality is a well-established factor in experiencing abuse. The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) in 2019/20 highlighted that more than twice as many women in the lowest income bracket (less than £10,400 per annum) recalled an experience of domestic abuse (11.8 per cent) compared with those in the highest household income bracket (£52,000 per annum) (5.4 per cent).<sup>23</sup> This is likely to be exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

<sup>22</sup> [Domestic Abuse Commissioner – June 2022](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Office for National Statistics – November 2020](#)

## Gender and Sex

- Domestic abuse and sexual violence are crimes that disproportionately, but not exclusively, impact women. In 2021/22 93.4 per cent of those referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in London were female<sup>24</sup>. While men make up most homicide victims, women make up most victims of domestic homicide. In its analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews (2021), the Home Office found 80 per cent of domestic homicide victims were women, and 73 per cent of victims were killed by a partner or ex-partner. For the year ending March 2021, female victims were most likely to be killed in or around a house, dwelling or residential home (81 per cent)<sup>25</sup>.
- There is limited community-based support available for male victims and survivors of abuse, and there is currently no safe accommodation available for men in London.

## Race, ethnicity and nationality

- Domestic Abuse and sexual violence are crimes that affect people of all races and ethnicities. However, black and global majority survivors can and do face additional barriers to accessing support, including institutional racism and services that do not reflect or understand survivors' experiences.
- Due to barriers highlighted above (see prevalence section), it is challenging to estimate rates of domestic abuse, and lower reported rates of domestic abuse in certain communities because of a range of factors (e.g., reluctance to disclose). According to ONS data, the ethnic groups most likely to report experiencing domestic abuse in the previous 12 months were mixed White/Black Caribbean individuals (10.6 per cent) and mixed White/Asians individuals (8.8 per cent). 5.9 per cent of white people reported having experienced abuse, compared to 3.7 per cent of black people and 3.6 per cent of Asian people<sup>26</sup>. In the year 2021/22, 44 per cent of cases considered at London MARACs concerned black and global majority survivors<sup>27</sup>.
- Black and global majority women are disproportionately referred into refuge. According to Routes to Support, 52 per cent of women placed in London Refuges in 2021/22 were 'Black and Minoritized Ethnic' (in the 2011 census, 40.2 per cent of people in London identified as Asian, Black, Mixed or other). Of the 927 unsuccessful instances of referral, 52 per cent concerned black and global majority women<sup>28</sup>.

## Immigration Status

- For migrant victims experiencing abuse, violence or exploitation, their migration status is often used as a tool by the perpetrator to exert control and isolate them from means of support. Denying victims access to paperwork, making it hard for them to prove their migration status, is a common form of abuse. Fear of immigration action is a significant barrier to migrant victims accessing support; among migrant victims and survivors interviewed by the Latin American Women's Rights Service, more than half feared that they would not be believed by the police because of their immigration status (54 per cent)<sup>29</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> [Safe Lives – March 2022](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Home Office September 2021](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Office for National Statistics – February 2021](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Safe Lives – March 2022](#)

<sup>28</sup> Women's Aid Data Dashboard accessed October 2022

<sup>29</sup> McIlwaine, C., Granada, L., Valenzuela-Oblitas, I. (2019), *The Right to be Believed*. London: Kings College London, Latin American Women's Rights



## No Recourse to Public Funds

- The no recourse to public funds (NRPF) condition applies to migrants to the UK on a range of Visa routes, including work and student visas. Survivors of abuse with NRPF face multiple barriers to accessing support and escaping abuse. For most refuge places, the housing portion of the service is funded through Housing Benefit and thus the space is inaccessible to those with NRPF unless alternative funding can be found.
- Survivors with NRPF who are on Spousal visas may be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain through the domestic violence route and an accompanying concession allowing temporary access to public funds. The application process can be long and onerous and require support for service organisations.
- Local authorities have an obligation to support some households with NRPF who are eligible under either the Children's Act or the Care Act (for adults with care needs). Greater London supports a greater relative proportion of survivors with No Recourse to Public Funds than other areas. In the year ending March 2022, London received 3115 referrals or requests for support from households with no recourse to public funds. 61 per cent of households financially supported by local authorities were recorded by London Boroughs<sup>30</sup>.

## Impact of Brexit and EU Settlement Scheme

- Following the UK's exit from the European Union, EU residents in the UK were able to apply for settled status and thus recourse to public funds. 6.5 million applications were concluded as of June 2022, and of these 3.3 million (51 per cent) were granted settled status, 2.6 million (41 per cent) were granted pre-settled status and 9 per cent had other outcomes (including 306,300 refused applications, 133,000 withdrawn or void applications, and 124,560 invalid applications)<sup>31</sup>. Those granted pre-settled status or otherwise refused settled status do not have access to public funds. Therefore, there is a significant increase in the overall number of people with NRPF in the UK. EUSS applicants disproportionately live in London.

## LGBT+ People

- Estimating prevalence of domestic abuse and sexual violence against LGBT people is challenging, but existing research indicates LGBT people experience abuse at a higher rate than cisgender, heterosexual people. The 2020 CSEW found that Bisexual adults aged 16 to 74 were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse in the last year (15.2 per cent) than gay or lesbian (8.4 per cent), or heterosexual or straight adults (5.2 per cent)<sup>32</sup>.
- A YouGov survey (conducted between February and April 2017) asked more than 5,000 lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT) people across England, Scotland and Wales about their life. Responses show that, overall, more than one in ten LGBT people (11 per cent) faced domestic abuse from a partner in the previous 12 months. This included 13 per cent of bi women and 10 per cent of lesbians. Twelve per cent of bi men and seven per cent of gay men reported experiencing domestic abuse from a partner. One in five trans people and non-binary people (both 19 per cent) faced domestic abuse from a partner. This includes 21 per cent of trans men and 16 per cent of trans women. One in six LGBT people aged 18 to 24 (17 per cent) faced domestic abuse from a partner in the previous 12 months. The survey shows that, Asian and global majority LGBT people are more likely than white LGBT people to experience domestic abuse from a partner, 17 per cent compared to 11

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<sup>30</sup> NRPF Connect September 2022

<sup>31</sup> [Home Office – June 2022](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Office for National Statistics – November 2020](#)

per cent. One in seven LGBT disabled people (15 per cent) experienced domestic abuse<sup>33</sup>

- Abuse experienced by LGBT people is often linked to their identities, with homophobia and transphobia weaponised by perpetrators to perpetuate abuse. In an April 2022 survey of LGBT people, 53 per cent of respondents felt their LGBT+ identity was linked to, or the reason for, at least one instance of sexual violence they were subjected to<sup>34</sup>.
- LGBT people are more likely to experience familial violence, which can be linked to their identities. In a survey of 5000 LGBT people conducted by GALOP, 29 per cent of respondents reported experiencing familial abuse; and of those 60 per cent felt that their LGBT+ identity was a part of the reason they were abused<sup>35</sup>.
- There are a small number of LGBT+ domestic abuse services; most are victim support services based in London. Only a small number of organisations provide specialist domestic abuse safe accommodations for LGBT+ people, and there is a particular lack of provision for GBT+ men and trans people<sup>36</sup>.

### Older People

- For the year 2021-22, the number of women over 60 placed through routes to support was too small to be reportable<sup>37</sup>.
- In 2019 over 280,000 people aged 60 to 74 (3.1 per cent) experienced domestic abuse in England and Wales and one in five (22 per cent) victims of domestic homicides were over the age of 60<sup>38</sup>.
- There is a lack of specialised domestic abuse services for older people in London, and older people are less likely to access services. Older people, especially those over 65 who experience abuse, are often referred through adult safeguarding processes rather than domestic abuse processes. Additionally, where domestic abuse does occur, older people may have difficulties in accessing refuge support because of accessibility issues.
- Older adults' experiences of domestic abuse is often different from those of younger people. Victims and survivors over 60 are more likely to be victimised by a current partner or by an adult family member. Older men are also significantly more likely to experience domestic abuse than young men<sup>39</sup>. Older victims are also significantly more likely to have a disability and the perpetrator of their abuse may also be their carer.

### Children and Young People

- The Domestic Abuse Act recognised for the first time in law that children who witness domestic abuse against their family members are themselves victims of abuse and should be recognised as such. Experiencing Domestic Abuse in childhood can cause long term harm to children and young people<sup>40</sup>.
- In England, the estimated prevalence of children aged 0-17 in homes where a parent is suffering domestic abuse is 65 per 1000 CYP. In London, the average prevalence is 73.08 per 1000, although this masks significant borough variation, with rates as high as 104 per 1000 in Hackney and 93.09 per 1000 in Islington, and as low as 57.44 per 1000 in Richmond upon Thames<sup>41</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> [Stonewall, 2018](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Galop – April 2022](#)

<sup>35</sup> [Galop – April 2022](#)

<sup>36</sup> [Galop – February 2022](#)

<sup>37</sup> Women's Aid – Routes to Support Dashboard accessed October 2022

<sup>38</sup> [Age UK – 2019](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Safelives – October 2016](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Early Intervention Foundation – April 2021 https](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Children's Commissioner – accessed October 2022](#)

- Children make up a significant proportion of those placed in refuge. For the year 201-22, 51.3 per cent of women placed in refuge had children<sup>42</sup>, with an average of 0.8 children per woman in refuge. 64 per cent of female victims in London reported having children under the age of 18 in the house at the time they experienced abuse<sup>43</sup>.
- Victims and survivors with children face barriers accessing refuge accommodation, as most of the refuge accommodation in London cannot accept women with two or more children. Women with adolescent sons typically cannot be placed in standard refuge accommodation due to the requirement that refuge be single sex/gender.
- There is lack of refuge provision that can accept young women under 18 fleeing interpersonal violence in their own relationships (rather than placed with a parent). For 2021/22, young women and girls aged under 18 represented 22 per cent of unsuccessful instances of referral; in the same year, the number of young women under 18 placed was too low to report in the data<sup>44</sup>. 29 young women under 18 have been placed in refuge since quarter three 2017 according to Routes to Support.
- In the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Early Mapping Report, the deficit in support for children affected by domestic abuse was highlighted. Notably, in Greater London, of survivors who wanted their children to access support, only 25 per cent were successful<sup>45</sup>.

## Disability

- People with disabilities are disproportionately likely to experience domestic abuse. The CSEW (19/20) reported that women and men with a long-standing illness or disability were more than twice as likely to experience some form of domestic abuse (11.8 per cent) than their counterparts with no long-standing illness or disability (4.6 per cent). Amongst women, this figure is higher with 14.7 per cent of female victims of domestic abuse reporting at least one disability<sup>46</sup>. As previously mentioned, there is a lack of wheelchair accessible services for survivors of domestic abuse.
- People with learning disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse; the Domestic Abuse Commissioner found that those with learning disabilities face particularly severe barriers in accessing support, with 54 per cent reporting it was difficult or very difficult to access support<sup>47</sup>.
- Mental health issues have been repeatedly highlighted as a support need for survivors of domestic abuse. Poor mental health can be a vulnerability exploited by abusers, as well as a consequence of experiencing abuse. Women who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence experience mental ill health such as depression and anxiety at a higher rate than those who have not experienced IPV.<sup>48</sup> In the Home Office's Analysis of Domestic Homicide reviews, 48 per cent of victims had mental illness listed as a vulnerability<sup>49</sup>.

## Multiple Disadvantage

- Victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence who experience multiple disadvantages face some of the most severe barriers for accessing support. Survivors with multiple disadvantages may experience a combination of challenges/support needs, such as: substance misuse issues, mental health issues (including SMI), a history of sexual exploitation/involvement with sex work and previous contact with the criminal

<sup>42</sup> Women's Aid Routes To Support Dashboard accessed October 2022

<sup>43</sup> [Mayor of London – December 2021](#)

<sup>44</sup> Women's Aid Routes to Support Dashboard accessed October 2022 - values are suppressed when < than 10

<sup>45</sup> [Domestic Abuse Commissioner – June 2022](#)

<sup>46</sup> [Office for National Statistics – November 2020](#)

<sup>47</sup> [Domestic Abuse Commissioner – June 2022](#)

<sup>48</sup> [Singh Chandan et al, British Journal of Psychology, June 2019](#)

<sup>49</sup> [Home Office September 2021](#)



justice system. Supporting survivors experiencing multiple disadvantages requires specialist knowledge and collaboration across services.

- Survivors with Substance misuse issues represented 2.5 per cent of women placed in refuge through Routes to Support in 2021/22 and 4.1 per cent of unsuccessful instances<sup>50</sup>.

## Policy Context

### Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent in May 2021. The Domestic Abuse Act contained a range of provisions design specification support victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse. For this specification, the key relevant provision is the Creation of a Statutory duty on Local authorities to provide support for survivors of Domestic abuse in Safe Accommodation.

### Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act

- Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act created a duty on the GLA as London's Tier 1 authority to provide support services for victims of domestic abuse in Safe Accommodation. The GLA has delegated delivery of this duty to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).
- Under the Act, tier 1 local authorities have a statutory duty to:
  - assess the need for domestic abuse support in safe accommodation across London
  - prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of this support
  - give effect to the strategy that is commission the provision of support to meet the identified needs
  - monitor and evaluate the success of the strategy
  - convene a Partnership Board to advise on its exercise of the above duties
- London's boroughs have a duty to co-operate as far as reasonable with the GLA on all aspects of its new duties. London Boroughs provided individual needs assessment returns as part of the London wide needs assessment and have nominated representatives on the Pan London Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.
- MOPAC published [a needs assessment and strategy](#) outlining their approach to commissioning new services. The Mayor's Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy identified the following priorities:
  - improving early intervention
  - improving access to and the provision of safe crisis accommodation, including improving the diversity of safe crisis accommodation types (e.g., dispersed accommodation)
  - improving access to and the provision of second stage and move-on accommodation, and resettlement
  - improving the quality of safe accommodation
  - tackling overarching issues.
- The strategy identified key issues relating to safe accommodation provision in London that are reflected in this needs assessment, including the insufficiency of current provision, geographic variation in provision and gaps in provision for particular groups. The strategy committed to improving strategic oversight and consistency of refuge service provision in London and to addressing gaps affecting particular groups, such as individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds.

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<sup>50</sup> Women's Aid Routes to Support Dashboard accessed October 2022

## Commissioning

- GLA and MOPAC held a commissioning round in late 2021/early 2022 to commission services as part of the Mayor's statutory duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to provide support in safe accommodation on a Pan London basis. The funding was for new services and/or service expansion only and included a dedicated commissioning Lot for support delivered by specialist "by and for services". Not all services commissioned have been published; however, we do know that the following categories of provision were funded through this commissioning round:
  - Expanding housing IDVAs and other pathway support to assist victims and survivors navigating the housing system.
  - Enhancement of support available in existing accommodation (e.g., counselling and therapeutic support, support for children in refuge)
  - Additional funding for support for survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage
  - Creation of new refuge provision
  - Funding for Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation/training for housing providers to improve their response to domestic abuse.

## Limitations of Part 4 duties

- Funding under Part 4 duties is exclusively for revenue spending on support services within safe accommodation, and cannot be used for capital purposes, such as purchasing new accommodation. It is explicitly prohibited to use this funding for support services for victims and survivors in temporary accommodation<sup>51</sup>. This restriction has proved challenging due to lack of physical bed spaces and accommodation in which to deliver support.

## Conclusion

- Safe Accommodation and refuge provision remain an essential service for supporting victims and survivors of abuse, violence and exploitation. Domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of exploitation remain major crimes that cause serious harm. Demand for support continues to rise, with needs becoming more complex and cases being held for longer. The nature of abuse continues to evolve, with perpetrators making use of new technology and adapting abuse tactics to current events.
- There is growing awareness of the impact of Domestic abuse and sexual violence on survivors, and the government has committed to increasing funds for services and targeting these funds towards specialist by and for organisations.
- There are significant gaps in the services and systems that should support those experiencing abuse, such as the severe shortage of affordable housing London, the backlogs in the courts and the low rate of convictions for sexual violence.
- The current level of refuge provision does not approach sufficiency and thus it is very challenging to calculate what the total unmet need is.
- There are certain groups that clearly continue to be underserved, including: victims and survivors with NRPF, disabled victims and survivors, BME victims and survivors, children and young people, and LGBT victims and survivors. It is also clear that particular needs of survivors in safe accommodation are often not being met, such as mental health support.
- It is currently a very challenging time for providers of refuge and safe accommodation services. The pandemic and resulting rise in need put significant pressures on service capacity and on staff. Providers are reporting greater complexity of need, and challenges in accessing statutory services.

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<sup>51</sup> [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, October 2021](#)

- The current high rate of inflation and rising utility and other costs has put significant financial pressures on service organisations and reduced to actual value of available funding, while at the same time increasing the need for support.
- The additional funding made available through Duty 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act is highly welcome and will no doubt the increase in provision will be of benefit to victims and survivors. We can expect an increase in pathway support and co-ordination, as well as specialist services to address multiple disadvantage. As the services covered by these funds either to be commissioned or in the pre-mobilisation phase, we do not yet fully know what the impact on the service landscape will be. The commissioned provider under this strand will need to adapt and work with new services as they are mobilised in the next few years. In particular, we expect that the commissioned service will work closely with services put in place to support referrals and pathways into safe accommodation.
- Survivors with NRPF and insecure immigration status continue to be a group extremely underserved by current provision, and a cohort that is likely to grow due to recent policy developments.
- The COVID 19 pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, increasing pressures on other services and labour market challenges have all placed intense pressures on support services for survivors of violence and abuse. Therefore, we acknowledge that there are limits in what can be delivered within the current funding envelope and services must be focused on where they can add the most value.
- Therefore, the specification will ask bidding organisations to identify how much provision they will be able to provide within the funding available, rather than specifying required service delivery.

## Programme Requirements

*Applicants must fulfil the general requirements of the London Councils Grants Programme.*

### Geographical coverage

Applicants will need to demonstrate how they will provide services for all 32 London boroughs, and the City of London.

### Partnerships

Due to the pan-London coverage necessary to address the specification, it is anticipated that some applicants will form partnerships.

London Councils welcomes partnerships that include specialist led-by-and-for organisations that can bring lived experience, gender and culturally appropriate services to the programme.

London Councils funds partnerships via a lead partner. Whilst the lead partner will be required to comply with conditions of grant on behalf of all the partner organisations, all partners must meet the London Councils eligibility criteria.

Lead partners will need to put partnership agreements in place that, as a minimum, specify terms of reference, terms of grant, roles and responsibilities, and dispute resolution.

The lead partner will be responsible for undertaking due diligence, will be accountable for all grant funds and will be responsible for reporting to London Councils.

### General Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate:

- a track record of working collaboratively with boroughs and other statutory and voluntary agencies
- a track record of specialist work in the field of homelessness or domestic and sexual abuse **AND** a track record of specialist work with the target group(s) identified in the specification(s)
- how they will deliver non-statutory services that add value to, and do not duplicate, existing local services **AND/OR** engage and cooperate with boroughs to provide support where a statutory duty is owed
- how they will provide services to all parts of London in ways that extend beyond premises-based activities (for example, satellite provision, hub-and-spoke, outreach services, remote and online services)
- how they will achieve the outcomes included in the specification and how they will evaluate the impact of their work in relation to achieving the aim of the programme - to reduce homelessness and domestic and sexual abuse
- a multi-agency approach, with effective relationships and referral mechanisms to and from local services (for example, local authorities, local voluntary sector organisations, community organisations, the NHS and other health services, housing providers, the Metropolitan Police Service)
- how they will actively involve people with lived experience in decision making processes, and review and adapt services in response to feedback from people who have accessed their services

- how service delivery can be adapted and continued, at short notice, in response to government advice in relation to local, national or global emergencies
- how culturally responsive approaches to serving London's diverse population will be built into proposed services
- how proposed services will meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (how services will be responsive to the needs of people with protected characteristics).

## **Complementing local and regional provision**

London Councils is the collective of local government in London. Where shared ambitions are developed, agreed, championed, and delivered at London Councils by members working together. Where boroughs speak as one and collaborate with the government, the Mayor of London, the London public sector, the third sector, business, and other key UK and international cities.

One of the key principles of the Grants Programme is only services that are best delivered at a pan-London level, and that complement local services, should be delivered through the programme.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will complement local provision throughout the life of the grant and build relationships with MOPAC commissioned Safe Accommodation services (under Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act) as they are mobilised, including creating referral routes and links with pathway co-ordinators and borough housing IDVAs to support survivors across their journey through the system, including moving on from refuge.

## **Monitoring and reporting**

Successful organisations will need to have robust tracking and reporting systems in place. Organisations that intend to lead a partnership will need to ensure that systems count people accessing support across the partnership once, only, for monitoring and reporting purposes.

In the context of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), successful organisations will be data controllers and will be accountable for the quality, integrity, and protection of their data.

***Monitoring requirements will be considerable, particularly for partnerships.*** Borough level reporting will be required, and successful applicants will need appropriate evidence-based tools and systems in place to demonstrate a strong, direct association between the support that is delivered, and the outcomes claimed. Applicants need to factor systems capability, capacity and administration into their costs.

Standard reporting will need to be completed through an online portal. Reporting will need to be completed and submitted on a quarterly basis to meet the requirements of the Grants Committee. Additional annual reporting will also be required.

Quarterly performance information will feed into a 'Red, Amber Green' (RAG) rating system, which will be used to report progress to the Grants Committee and trigger performance improvement interventions.

From time to time, other information will be required from successful organisations, for example, annual audited accounts, confirmation of insurance renewal (e.g., employer's liability), case studies, information to support ad hoc queries from boroughs and Grants Committee members.

A nominated London Councils officer will provide support and challenge to successful organisations, review monitoring returns and other information/reports, and conduct monitoring visits, either virtually or in person.

London Councils will test and validate its approach to monitoring throughout the life of the grant. This will start at the pre-agreement stage, where London Councils will explore what information successful organisations can provide from their own reporting systems, whether there is alternative information that might be gathered more cost-effectively and how we assure the reliability of the information that London Councils asks for.

Whilst London Councils will specify services and outcomes at the beginning of the programme, applicants can propose bespoke outcomes at the application stage, particularly for specialist services. The programme will be reviewed annually, and delivery partners can recommend the development of other outcomes with the grants team as part of this review.

Annual reviews will also take account of emerging developments from the work that the boroughs and strategic partner undertake. The annual review process is designed to ensure that the programme takes account of a changing environment and to provide grants partners the space to innovate and take a flexible approach to shaping services, whilst retaining a focus on the impact we want to achieve.

When determining the impact of outcomes, the focus will be on the experience of people being supported by the service, the experience of local authorities (for example, ease of referring into the service), and how well the project has connected to and supported existing local provision.

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## **Service Specification: Emergency Specialist Refuge Provision**

### **Indicative Budget**

**£840,000 per annum**

**TOTAL: £2,520,000**

Funding is subject to annual renewal based on continuing availability of resources and compliance with grant conditions.

### **Service aim - what we want to achieve with your help**

To reduce immediate danger to life for victims and survivors and to support them to rebuild their lives and gain independence. To provide support to victims and survivors whose needs may not be met through mainstream accommodation.

### **Services - the types of services we want to fund and the people we want you to help**

Emergency specialist refuge/safe accommodation for people experiencing sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking, or domestic abuse, with accompanying support.

Services should be holistic and tailored to the needs of the survivors. Support services provided to survivors in safe accommodation may include, but are not limited to:

- risk assessment and safety planning
- in-house advice services or support to access external advice, including housing advice, financial and debt advice, immigration advice, employment advice and legal advice
- support and advocacy for survivors when working with other services, such as housing, health, social services, the criminal justice system, and the family courts
- emotional support, therapeutic support and counselling for survivors
- support to build life skills and independence
- family support, including therapeutic support for children and young people
- specialised support appropriate to the needs and experience of survivors, such as substance misuse support, support for those exiting sexual exploitation and prostitution
- support to move on from safe accommodation/refuge into longer term settled accommodation.

The service is for victims and survivors who need to access emergency specialist refuge/safe accommodation and who may have complex support needs.

Services should demonstrate how they will provide specialist support for victims and survivors who have multiple/complex needs or are currently underserved by safe accommodation provision (as identified in the needs analysis), such as:

- disabled people, including people with mobility impairments and people with learning disabilities
- people with no recourse to public funds and/or precarious or insecure immigration status
- LGBTQ+ people
- Black, Asian and racially minoritised people
- women and men at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation
- older people
- children and young people (including families/individuals less likely to be placed in refuge, such as parents with three or more children, mothers with adolescent sons, girls aged 16-17 referred alone)

- victims and survivors experiencing multiple disadvantage or high complexity of needs, including complex mental health problems, substance misuse and contact with the criminal justice system.

### **Minimum service provision**

- a minimum of two bed spaces must be accessible for people with mobility related disabilities
- a minimum of two bed spaces should be available to victims and survivors with no recourse to public funds

### **Outcomes**

#### **People can make safe choices and survivors experiencing domestic or sexual abuse are able to leave dangerous situations (supporting a reduction in domestic abuse and sexual violence over time)**

- Number of people experiencing greater feelings of safety
- Number of people with a safety plan
- Number of people with continuing support to sustain new lives.

#### **People rebuild their lives and move to independence**

- Number of people who can rebuild their lives and move to independence (demonstrated through recognised evidence-based tools for measuring and supporting change over time)
- Number of people who move on from refuge accommodation in a planned way
- Number of people accessing specialist support (for example, immigration advice, legal advice, mental health support, substance misuse support - types of specialist support to be determined as bespoke outcomes during grant agreement stage)
- Number of people with improved mental health
- Number of people with more stabilised immigration status

#### **Domestic or sexual abuse is prevented or reduced - professionals can access specialist and additional support for people at risk/affected by domestic or sexual abuse**

- Local authority officers and local IDVAs/ISVAs can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service

### **Bespoke Outcomes**

A range of specialist services addressing specific needs are likely to be commissioned through this strand. Bespoke outcomes will be agreed during the grant agreement process and applicants are encouraged to suggest bespoke outcomes.

### **Specific requirements of this strand**

#### **Applicants must:**

- have a track record of effective delivery of emergency specialist refuge provision
- be able to demonstrate an understanding of local safeguarding frameworks
- ensure that counsellors are accredited and registered with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)
- ensure the service complies with a specific quality standards framework (for example, the Women's Aid National Quality Standard, Imkaan Quality Standard)



- ensure that staff who will undertake advice work for people with no recourse to public funds and people with insecure immigration status are OISC registered to the appropriate level OR that agreed referral plans with a specialist immigration advice partner are in place
- demonstrate that delivery will support the work of the Mayor of London to reduce violence against women and girls, including a commitment to aligning and working with safe accommodation support services commissioned under Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act
- demonstrate that they can fulfil the general requirements.

### **Developing the Service**

Over the course of the grant, we expect the provider to build relationships with MOPAC commissioned Safe Accommodation services (under Part 4 duties of the Domestic Abuse Act) as they are mobilised, including creating referral routes and links with pathway co-ordinators and borough housing IDVAs to support survivors across their journey through the system, including moving on from refuge.

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## Application Schedule and Process

### Application Schedule

	Start	End
Application Window	01/12/2022	13/01/2022 (12pm, noon)
Preliminary due diligence	05/12/2022	15/01/2023
Application scoring	16/01/2023	18/01/2023
Moderation	19/01/2023	
Programme panel	20/01/2022	
Right to reply window	21/01/2023	03/02/2023
Second-stage due diligence	20/01/2023	27/01/2023
Right to reply responses/actions	04/02/2023	05/02/2023
Award approval	06/02/2023	
Award Notification	06/02/2023	
Pre-Agreement Workshop (see <i>Award - formal agreement</i> , page 22)	09/02/2023	
Pre-agreement Meetings	09/02/2023	
Pre-agreement Actions	To be completed by 3 March 2023	
Funding Agreements Signed	On completion of pre-agreement actions	
Advance Payments	On receipt of signed agreement	
Programme Delivery Commences	1 April 2023	

### Conflicts of interest

If you are aware that applying for funding may give rise to a potential conflict of interest, you **MUST** inform London Councils **before** you apply. Generally, conflicts might occur if individuals have a direct or indirect financial interest, non-financial or personal interests, competing loyalties between an organisation they owe a primary duty to and/or some other person or entity. For example, you are related to an elected member or staff officer of London Councils, or you have privileged information about the organisation that places you at an unfair advantage over other organisations in the application process.

## Required information

Organisations wishing to apply for funding to deliver a service will need to complete an application, which will include:

- a series of questions that are relevant to the service specification and the general requirements for the programme
- a budget template for the proposed service for the life of the grant
- a three-year delivery plan template
- a risk register template
- a request for reference details (two local authority referees).

Applicants will also need to supply information to enable London Councils to undertake legal and financial due diligence

A summary of all applications will be presented to the London Councils Grants Executive Committee in January 2023 and these summaries will be published on the London Councils website.

Please be aware that the information submitted to London Councils may be subject to a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the requirements set out in the relevant specification. Experience, quality, cost and value for money will also be considered.

Aspects of the application which centre on governance, financial stability and management (including management of partnerships) will be assessed by London Councils officers as part of second stage due diligence. Organisations that do not supply required information may fail the application stage.

Each application will be independently assessed by two officers, using a scorecard to support objective consideration. These independent assessments will be moderated (using a formula) to arrive at a single assessment score.

The highest scoring applications that meet the requirements of the specifications will be presented to a Programme Panel. The Programme Panel will not assess/re-assess individual applications. It is responsible for ensuring that the project(s) proposed for award of grant offers a cohesive service that meets the principles for pan-London grants, can add value, enhance the services that Londoners and boroughs have available to them, and is within the available budget.

The combination of scoring and panel assessment may result in recommendations to Grants Committee Executive that are not solely based on the highest application scores.

Awards to more than one applicant may also be considered, where it is deemed that a joint or complementary service will better meet the requirements of the service specification and the programme in the round.

Following the panel meeting, applicants that will not be recommended for the programme will be advised and will have 10 working days to submit a right to reply. The right to reply procedure allows organisations to highlight where they consider that assessors have misinterpreted or overlooked information, or incorrectly applied the published criteria for assessment.

## **Award - approval**

The outcome of the assessment process will be reported to Grants Committee Executive, along with recommendations about potential awards.

Recommendations for funding will be subject to available resources i.e. the package of applications cannot total more than the budget available.

Final approval on the package of funding rests with the Grants Committee.

Organisations will be notified of Grants Committee Executive decisions within five working days of Committee approval.

Referees will be contacted to provide testimonials (satisfactory references are a pre-condition for award of funding)<sup>51</sup>.

## **Award - formal agreement**

Successful organisations must attend:

- a pre-award meeting – the pre-award meeting provides the successful organisation(s) with the opportunity to talk through their project, and for London Councils officers to clarify roles and responsibilities, discuss detailed delivery plans, outline conditions of grant, agree the rhythm of monitoring visits, and agree any actions that need to be completed before the funding agreement<sup>52</sup> is signed
- where a partnership is undertaking delivery, a workshop – a group session for the successful organisation(s), and their partners, to discuss the detailed requirements for the programme (included in the Programme Handbook); borough officers are also invited to attend the workshop so organisations can discuss local needs and tailor plans for delivery

It is a precondition of funding that the successful organisation(s) attends a pre-award meeting and, where relevant, a workshop. Applicants are advised to provisionally hold dates in their diaries (see above schedule for dates).

## **Application deadline and submission arrangements**

Proposals must be submitted, electronically, by **12pm on Friday 13 January**. The application form and associated documents are available on the London Councils website [LINK].

If you have any queries regarding the prospectus or the application process, please email your question(s) to [funding@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:funding@londoncouncils.gov.uk).

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<sup>52</sup> Organisations will be issued a grant agreement, in accordance with the Law of Trust, which governs grant giving

# Grants Committee

## Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2022/23

Item: 8

**Report by:** David Sanni      **Job title:** Director of Corporate Resources  
**Date:** 30 November 2022  
**Contact Officer:** David Sanni  
**Telephone:** 020 7934 9704      **Email:** [David.sanni@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:David.sanni@londoncouncils.gov.uk)

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### Summary

This report:

- Outlines actual income and expenditure against the approved income and expenditure in the budget to the end of September 2022 for the Grants Committee;
- Provides a forecast of the outturn position for 2022/23 for both actual and committed expenditure on commissions, along with the administration of all these commissions.

Members are reminded that the position stated in this report is at the end of the second quarter of 2022/23, which is the first year of the new four-year programme of commissions. At this stage, a surplus of £3,000 is forecast over the approved budget.

### Recommendations

The Grants Committee is asked to :

- Note the projected surplus of £3,000 for the year; and
  - Note the projected level of Grants Committee reserves, as detailed in paragraph 8 of this report.
-

## Introduction

1. This is the second budget monitoring report of the year, but the first to be presented to the Grants Committee during 2022/23. The next report will be the three quarter-year figures, which will be reported to the main Committee in February 2023.
2. The London Councils Grants Committee's income and expenditure revenue budget for 2022/23 was approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2021, following recommendations by the Grants Committee. The total revenue budget for 2022/23 was £6.668m. To date, there has been no adjustment to this budget.

## Variance from Budget

3. Table 1 below summarises the forecast outturn position for the Grants Committee:

**Table 1 –Summary Forecast**

	<b>M6 Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Employee Costs	134	271	289	18
Running Costs	7	19	10	(9)
Central Recharges	73	145	142	(3)
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>6</b>
S.48 Commissioned services	2,698	6,173	6,173	-
London Funders Group	60	60	60	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,972</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>6,674</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Borough contributions towards commissioned services	(2,840)	(6,173)	(6,173)	-
Borough contributions towards the administration of commissions	(495)	(495)	(495)	-
Interest on Investments	(4)	-	(9)	(9)
Other Income	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(3,339)</b>	<b>(6,668)</b>	<b>(6,677)</b>	<b>(9)</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(367)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(3)</b>

4. The projected surplus of £3,000 will be monitored throughout the year however, factors that impact on the overall net expenditure to budget which is explored in more detail in the narrative below, is broadly split between the following:

- There is no projected underspend in respect of 2022/23 S.48 borough funded commissioned services (paragraph 5). This will be monitored throughout the year;
- A projected overspend on employee costs of £18,000 where a full complement of administration and other support staff are forecasted to be in place for the year. The overspend is party due to the conclusion of an externally funded project which contributed towards staff and administration costs. This is, however, mitigated by a small reduction in the anticipated central recharges of £3,000;
- An underspend of £9,000 on general running costs, made up of several small underspends across a number of budgets; and
- An additional sum of £9,000 from investment income is forecast to be received on Committee reserves, not previously budgeted for.

### **Payments to Commissions – London Councils Borough S.48 Programme**

5. Table 2 below outlines the actual spend for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 for the borough funded commissions, covering priorities 1 and 2.

**Table 2 – Actual Spend 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 – Priorities 1 and 2**

<b>2022/23 budget (£)</b>	<b>Forecast payments Quarter 2 (£)</b>	<b>Actual Payments (£)</b>	<b>Projected Underspend (£)</b>	<b>Balance (£)</b>
6,173,132	<sup>1</sup> 3,086,566	2,697,566	-	-

6. At the 6-month stage of the year there are four payments to commissioned services being held back totalling £389,000. However, it is anticipated that these payments will be released once payment requirements have been met in the following quarter.
7. Overall, the programme is not forecast to underspend, however, officers will continue to review financial information relating to each project during the year and the audited accounts at the end of the year. It is possible that underspends will be identified as

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<sup>1</sup> Although payments are approved, some of these amount will be released in Quarter 3.

the year progresses, which will be reflected in the monitoring reports presented to the Grants Committee during 2022/23.

### Committee Reserves

8. Table 3 below updates the Committee on the revised estimated level of balances as at 31 March 2023, if all current known liabilities and commitments are considered:

**Table 3 – Analysis of Projected Uncommitted Reserves as at 31 March 2023**

	<b>Borough Total</b>
	<b>£000</b>
Unaudited reserves as at 1 April 2022	745
Projected surplus/(deficit) for the year	3
<b>Projected reserves as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>748</b>

9. Projected total reserves of £748,000 are forecast at the year-end, after considering the projected surplus of £3,000 for the year. This level of general reserves relating to the S.48 borough funded commissions (Priorities 1&2), equates to 11.2% of the £6.668 million commissions 2022/23 budget. This figure exceeds the benchmark of £250,000 or 3.75% established by the Grants Executive Committee in September 2013 by some £498,000. There remains uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 recovery and inflationary pressures and the impact this may have on the Grants budgets. Potentially unforeseen issues could impact later in the financial year and this will be reported on accordingly.
10. At the meeting of the Grants Committee on 13 July 2022, officers were asked to seek the views of the auditor on the adequacy of the minimum level of reserves given the IAS19 pension deficit of £1.051 million included in the pre-audited 2021/22 financial accounts. The Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice requires the IAS19 pension deficit to be included in the annual accounts. It is calculated by estimating future pension obligations which are then discounted back to present day values and offset against the value of pension assets. The pension obligation is calculated using complex actuarial methods and assumptions.



11. London Councils is currently undertaking a procurement process to appoint an auditor for the 2022/23 to 2025/26 financial years. Therefore, officers approached Grant Thornton, the firm responsible for auditing the 2021/22 financial accounts. The auditor was unwilling to provide a full opinion on the adequacy of reserves as the use of the reserves will impact on the current financial year for which it will not be the auditor. However, it did state that the IAS19 deficit was an accounting deficit and not a true deficit, a more reasonable estimate of the liability arises from the triennial valuation.
12. The purpose of the triennial valuation is to determine if the pension scheme has sufficient assets to meet its future pension obligations. The employers' contribution is set as part of this valuation process at a rate that ensures the future obligations are met. The contributions are included within the annual budgets which are approved by the Committee. The value of the pension obligation in a triennial valuation is likely to be lower than that of an IAS19 valuation due to the use of different financial assumptions such as the discount rate. The discount rate used in the triennial valuation is based on the expected investment return of assets actually held by the pension fund. However, the discount rate used in the IAS19 valuation is calculated with reference to the market yield on high quality corporate bonds and with consideration of the duration of the employer's liabilities. Corporate bond yields are likely to be lower than the return assumed for the triennial valuation as the scheme is likely to invest in a mixture of assets including higher return seeking assets such as equities and property.
13. The results of the recent triennial actuarial valuation of London Councils scheme were published last month. A comparison of projected pension assets to liabilities showed that London Councils had a funding level of 125% with assets exceeding liabilities by 25%. As a result, the actuary has recommended a reduction to London Councils employers' contribution from 13.6% to 7.7% for the three-year period from 2023/24 to 2025/26.

14. While the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice requires the IAS19 pension deficit to be included in the financial accounts, it also includes a statutory override which essentially strips out the effect of the IAS19 deficit in the accounts by creating an offsetting Pension Reserve. The purpose of this override is to ensure that local authorities charge amounts payable to the pension scheme in the revenue account and General Fund rather than include the full annual effect of the IAS19 accounting liability.
15. The Director of Corporate Resources is satisfied that the current minimum level of reserves remains sufficient taking into consideration the need for a working balance to manage uneven cashflows and a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events. However, the matter will be raised with the incoming auditor. Grant Thornton will also consider the Committee's going concern status as part of the annual audit of the 2021/22 financial accounts. Its opinion on the accounts will be reported to members of the Committee.

## **Recommendations**

16. Members are asked to:

- note the projected surplus of £3,000 for the year; and
- note the projected level of Grants Committee reserves, as detailed in paragraph 9 of this report.

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## **Financial Implications for London Councils**

As detailed in report

## **Legal Implications for London Councils**

None

## **Equalities Implications for London Councils**

None

## **Background Papers**

London Councils Budget working papers 2022/23.

London Councils Income and Expenditure Forecast File 2022/23.

Grants Committee report on Pre-audited Financial Results 2021/22 dated 13 July 2022.

# Grants Committee

## London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2022/23

Item no: 9

**Report by:** David Sanni      **Job title:** Director of Corporate Resources  
**Date:** 30 November 2022  
**Contact Officer:** David Sanni  
**Telephone:** 020 7934 9704      **Email:** david.sanni@londoncouncils.gov.uk

**Summary**      This report considers the proposed budget for the Grants Scheme for 2023/24 and makes a recommendation to the Committee on the appropriate level to recommend to constituent councils for approval, subject to the agreement of the overall budget by Leaders' Committee.

**Recommendations**      Subject to the agreement of London Councils Leaders' Committee on 13 December 2022, that the Grants Committee agree:

- an overall level of expenditure of £6.686 million for the Grants Scheme in 2023/24;
- borough contributions for 2023/24 of £6.668 million, consistent with the current year;
- a transfer from reserves of £18,000 to fully cover the costs of the scheme;
- that further to the recommendations above, constituent councils be informed of the Committee's recommendation and be reminded that further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, if the constituent councils have not reached agreement by the two-thirds

majority specified before 1 February 2023 they shall be deemed to have approved expenditure of an amount equal to the amount approved for the preceding financial year (i.e. £6.668 million);

- that constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2023/24 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2020; and
  - that subject to the approval of an overall level of expenditure, the Committee agrees to set aside a provision of £453,000 for costs incurred by London Councils in providing staff and other support services to ensure delivery of the Committee's "making of grants" responsibilities.
-

## **London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2023/24**

### **Introduction**

1. This report details the indicative overall budget requirement for the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2023/24 of £6.686 million, an increase of £18,000 on the current year, comprising the cost of borough pan-London commissioned services of £6.233 million, covering priorities 1 and 2 plus the cost of administering the scheme of £453,000. This sum includes the annual membership subscriptions for boroughs for London Funders of £60,000.
2. The proposed total expenditure budget of £6.686 million will be funded by borough contributions of £6.668 million and a transfer from uncommitted reserves of £18,000.
3. The Committee will need to reach a view on both the appropriate overall level of expenditure and to recommend the budget to constituent Councils, subject to approval of the overall budget by the Leaders' Committee on 13 December 2022.
4. The financial year 2023/24 represents the second year of the four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2019. The original decision covered the period from 2021 to 2025, however, due to the extension to the current programme as a result of Covid-19 this programme covers 2022 to 2026.

### **Approval of Expenditure**

5. The statutory basis of the Grants Scheme is Section 48, Local Government Act 1985. Constituent councils agreed to some changes to the operation of the Scheme as part of the establishment of the new ALG on 1 April 2000: these changes mean that the budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme must be approved by the London Councils Leaders' Committee. This will need to happen before any budget that is recommended to constituent councils by the Grants Committee can be formally referred to them as a basis for consideration in their respective councils.

6. The recommendations of the Grants Committee will be reported to Leaders' Committee, which will be considering the budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme for 2023/24 at its meeting on 13 December 2022. If Leaders do not accept the recommendations of the Grants Committee, and instead agree to recommend a different budget figure to Boroughs, the Grants Committee will need to meet urgently to consider the implications for the Grants programme.
7. Section 48(3) of the Local Government Act 1985 requires that at least two-thirds of the constituent councils in Greater London must approve the proposed overall level of expenditure on grants to voluntary organisations and other costs incurred in "the making of grants". This is not a decision that can be delegated to the Grants Committee although that Committee is able to make decisions with regard to allocation of that expenditure once overall expenditure has been approved. This means that when the Committee decides on an overall level of expenditure, subject to the agreement of the Leaders' Committee, it will recommend it to the London Boroughs and the Cities of London and Westminster and at least 22 of them must agree through their respective decision-making arrangements to ratify and give effect to that overall level of expenditure. Once 22 councils have given their approval, the overall level of expenditure and contributions to it are binding on all constituent councils.

### **Timing of Decisions**

8. The Committee needs to make its recommendation in good time so that constituent councils are able to consider the budget proposal within their own decision-making arrangements and make a response within the timescales laid down for the Scheme. The Scheme approved by the boroughs provides that constituent councils shall be asked to agree to the Committee's recommended level of overall expenditure not later than the third Friday in January, in this case 20 January 2023. All constituent councils will have received copies of this report and will be informed of the Committee's recommendation as to overall expenditure for next year, once the decision has been taken.

9. The City of London Corporation has been the Designated Council for the Scheme since 1 February 2004. Bearing in mind the issues raised above, it is essential for the Committee to make a recommendation today, to provide sufficient time for constituent councils to consider the matter before the 1 February deadline and enable the City of London Corporation to approve the levy on constituent councils by the deadline of 15 February 2023.
10. In the event that constituent councils are unable to reach agreement by the two-thirds majority required on an overall level of expenditure before 1 February 2023 the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has powers to intervene and set the budget at the same level as the preceding year. Section 105 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 inserted a new subsection (4A) into section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 which states that:

*"4A. The Secretary of State may by order provide that if -*

- *a scheme requires the total expenditure to be incurred under the scheme in any financial year \_*
  - *in the making of grants; and*
  - *in the discharging by the designated council of its functions under the scheme, to be approved in accordance with the scheme by some or all of the constituent councils; and*
- *the total expenditure to be incurred in any financial year is not approved as required by the scheme before such date as may be specified in relation to that financial year in the order, the constituent councils shall be deemed, subject to any order which has been or may be made under subsection (5) below, all to have given their approval for that financial year to total expenditure of an amount equal to the amount that was approved or, as the case may be, deemed to have been approved for the preceding financial year".*



## Contributions by constituent councils

11. Section 48(3) of the 1985 Act provides that the amount of contributions to the London Councils Grants Scheme shall be determined so that expenditure is borne by constituent councils in proportion to the population of their respective areas. Section 48(4) of the 1985 Act states that the population of any area shall be the number estimated by the Registrar-General and certified by him to the Secretary of State.
12. Under The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, arrangements made under section 48 of the 1985 Act (and also section 88) use total resident population as the means of apportionment and it is no longer necessary for the Registrar General to certify the estimates. The Regulations came into force on 11 December 1992. Regulation 6(8) is of particular importance, stating that:

*"A levying body shall secure that the expenses to be met by levies issued by it under these Regulations by reference to the relevant precepting power conferred by section 48 or 88 of the Local Government Act 1985 are borne by the relevant authorities in a proportion calculated by reference to the total resident population of the area of each relevant authority on 30th June in the financial year beginning two years before the beginning of the financial year in respect of which the levy is issued, as estimated by the Registrar General."*
13. The Designated Council is defined as a levying body further to Sections 74 and 117 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, which means that the levy will have to be approved formally at a meeting of the Court of Common Council of the Designated Council before the payment requests are sent to constituent councils. The Court of Common Council will consider this matter before the deadline of 15 February 2023. The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992 then require the approved levy to be sent out to constituent councils by 15 February in any year. The term levy refers both to the total contributions from constituent councils and to the apportionment of that total between them.

## Summary Timetable

14. To summarise, the timetable for the approval of the budget for 2023/24 is expected to be as follows:

Date	Action
30 November 2022	Grants Committee considers proposed budget and borough contributions for 2023/24 detailed in this report and makes recommendations to Constituent Councils, subject to approval of Leaders' Committee.
13 December 2022	Leaders' Committee is asked to approve the level of budget and borough contributions for 2022/23, as recommended by the Grants Committee on 24 November.
14-16 December 2022	Constituent Councils formally notified of the approved level of budget and borough contributions for 2023/24.
16 December 2022 – 31 January 2023	Constituent Councils to individually ratify the overall level of expenditure for 2023/24 through their respective decision-making arrangements.
1-15 February 2023	The City of London Corporation, as the Designated Councils for the Grants Scheme, approves the levy for 2023/24 on Constituent Councils
15 February 2023	Constituent Councils informed of level of approved expenditure and borough contributions for 2023/24

## **Budgetary pressures and developments**

15. This budget report is prepared against a backdrop of high inflation rates which have surged to a three decade high during 2022. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 11.1% in the 12 months to October 2022. There are several factors contributing to the high level of inflation such as the rise in energy prices, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, supply chain bottleneck in the post Covid-19 recovery period, strong labour market etc. Rising inflation has put additional financial pressure on budgets, most notably for employee and property costs within the grants committee, which has resulted in a proposed contribution from reserves of £18,000 as set out in paragraph 24.
16. It is proposed that a review of London Councils operating model, inclusive of Grants Committee operations, will be carried out within the next six months to identify savings and efficiencies that reduce the use of reserves when setting the annual budget. Measures have already been taken to identify potential savings by reviewing London Councils' office space requirements with a view of moving its main office to a smaller premises.

## **Budget Proposal for 2023/24**

17. Appendix A to this report sets out detailed information relating to the proposed budget for 2023/24. The budget assumes:
  - A core, pan-London scheme of services to meet agreed service priorities 1 and 2 of £6.233 million, which includes the membership subscriptions for boroughs for London Funders of £60,000; and
  - In addition to the indicative gross grant payments budget of £6.233 million, the proposal includes a provision for grants administration of £453,000.

## **Administration of Commissions**

18. The staffing costs figures within the proposed 2023/24 budget options reflects direct staffing costs delivery the S.48 Priority 1 and 2 programme, together with the apportionment of time spent on Grants Committee activities by other London Councils staff, such as Grants Committee servicing and Public Affairs. The staffing budget also includes a £10,000 provision for maternity cover and the vacancy level of 2%.
19. In addition, an apportionment of time spent by Corporate Resources, Corporate Governance other than Committee Servicing, the Chief Executive's office, and London Councils Political Advisors are included in the central recharges figure for supporting the Committee's functions, as well as a notional rental figure for office space occupied at Southwark Street.
20. All estimates of administration expenditure levels have previously been based upon a threshold of 5% of the budget for payments to commissions in respect of the borough funded S.48 scheme, as agreed by Grants Committee in the review of non-grants expenditure levels conducted in early 2009. However, with recent inflationary pressures, it continues to be challenging to contain all administrative costs within the 5% envelope, especially after the introduction of the new monitoring arrangements in April 2013 and the increase in central costs following the review of the recharge model during 2013/14 following an objection to London Councils accounts. Administrative expenditure for the S.48 commissions, therefore, now equate to 6.8% (or 4.7% excluding central recharges) of the boroughs S.48 budget of £6.686 million, amounting to £453,000 in total for 2023/24.

## **2022/23 Outturn Projections**

21. The Month 6 forecast report is included as a separate report on this agenda and highlights projected underspend of £3,000 in total for 2022/23, which is the net impact of a small underspend on running costs, additional investment income and overspend on staffing costs.

## Use of Reserves

22. Table 1 below updates the Committee on the revised estimated level of balances as at 31 March 2023, if all current known liabilities and commitments are considered, plus the projected underspend of £3,000 for 2022/23, highlighted in paragraph 21 above:

**Table 1 – Estimated Uncommitted Reserves as at 31 March 2023**

	<b>Borough Total</b>
	<b>£000</b>
Unaudited reserves as at 1 April 2022	745
Projected surplus/(deficit) for the year	3
<b>Projected reserves as at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>748</b>

23. At its meeting in September 2013, the Grants Executive agreed that it would be appropriate to retain a minimum level of reserves equating to 3.75% of the S.48 borough programme. Based on a proposed borough programme of £6.686 million, this equates to £251,000 for 2023/24. If the recommendations contained in this report are agreed by this Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee on 13 December, the projected position on reserves is detailed in Table 2 below:

**Table 2 – Estimated Uncommitted Reserves as at 1 April 2023**

	<b>Amount</b>
	<b>£000</b>
<b>Projected reserves as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>748</b>
Commitments in 2023/24	(18)
<b>Projected reserves as at 1 April 2023</b>	<b>730</b>
<b>Indicative total expenditure 2023/24</b>	<b>6,686</b>
<b>Forecast reserves as a % of indicative expenditure</b>	<b>10.92</b>

24. Due to the budgetary pressures, as set out in paragraph 15 above, it is proposed that a one-off contribution from uncommitted reserves be made in 2023/24, enabling a balanced budget to be set. This one-off contribution from reserves will be used to manage this transitional period while the review of London Councils operating model is completed and a move to a smaller office space is secured.

25. The projected residual level of S.48 reserves is £730,000, or 10.92% of the £6.686 million S.48 programme, which is in excess of the 3.75% benchmark.

### **Borough Contributions**

26. Paragraphs 11 to 13 of this report set out the legal position relating to contributions payable by constituent councils to the London Councils Grants Scheme. Contributions for 2023/24 have been calculated using the latest available ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2020 and are set out in Appendix B. The mid-year estimates for June 2021 have not yet been released by ONS. The figures included in the final report to be presented to the Leaders' Committee will be adjusted if this data is released prior to the issue of the committee papers.

### **Grants Committee Medium-term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2025/2**

27. The indicative Grant Committee budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 have been prepared on the basis that borough contributions to the scheme will remain frozen over the three-year period to 2025/26. In addition to reductions on premises costs, the review of London Councils operating model will seek to identify annual savings and efficiencies within the Grants Committee budget ranging from £20,000 to £50,000. The detailed Grants Committee budget for 2024/25 and 2025/26 can be found at Appendix C.

### **Summary**

28. This report considers the proposed budget for the Grants Scheme for 2023/24 and makes a recommendation to the Committee on the appropriate level to recommend to constituent councils for approval, subject to the agreement of the overall budget by Leaders' Committee. Specifically, the report proposes to an overall level of expenditure in 2023/24 of £6.686 million, which requires borough contributions of £6.668 million (refer to Appendix B), the same level of contribution as for the current year, and a transfer from uncommitted reserves of £18,000.

29. The financial year 2023/24 represents the second year of the four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2019.

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## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Proposed revenue income and expenditure budget 2023/24;

Appendix B – Proposed borough subscriptions 2023/24;

Appendix C – Indicative revenue income and expenditure budget 2024/25 and 2025/26.

## **Background Papers**

Grants Committee Budget Working Papers 2022/23 to 2025/26;

Grants Committee Final Accounts Working Papers 2022/23;

Grants Committee Revenue Budget Forecast Working Papers 2022/23; and

London Councils Consolidated Budget Working Papers 2022/23 to 2025/26.

**Grants Committee Income and Expenditure Budget 2023/24**

Expenditure	Revised Budget 2022/23 £000	Developments £000	Inflation £000	Original Budget 2023/24 £000
<b>Payments in respect of Grants</b>				
London Councils Grants Programme	6,173	0	0	6,173
Membership Fees to London Funders (for all boroughs)	60	0	0	60
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>6,233</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,233</b>
<b>Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure</b>				
<b>Contractual Commitments</b>				
Maintenance of GIFTS Grants IT system	10	0	0	10
	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Salary Commitments</b>				
Officers	242	12	8	262
Members	19	0	1	20
Maternity provision	10	0	0	10
	<b>271</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>Discretionary Expenditure</b>				
Staff training/recruitment advertising	7	0	0	7
Staff travel	2	0	0	2
	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>311</b>
<b>Central Recharges</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6,686</b>
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Core borough subscriptions</b>				
Contribution to grant payments	6,173	0	0	6,173
Contribution to non-grants expenditure	495	0	0	495
	<b>6,668</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,668</b>
<b>Transfer from Reserves</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Central Recharges</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,686</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>0</b>



# Borough Subscriptions 2023/24

ONS Mid-2020 Estimate of Population ('000)	%	2022/23 Base Borough Contribution (£)		ONS Mid-2020 Estimate of Population ('000)	%	2023/24 Base Borough Contribution (£)	Base Difference from 2022/23 (£)
<b>Inner London</b>							
279.52	3.10%	207,038	Camden	279.52	3.10%	207,038	0
10.94	0.12%	8,102	City of London	10.94	0.12%	8,102	0
289.03	3.21%	214,088	Greenwich	289.03	3.21%	214,088	0
280.94	3.12%	208,093	Hackney	280.94	3.12%	208,093	0
183.54	2.04%	135,951	Hammersmith and Fulham	183.54	2.04%	135,951	0
248.12	2.76%	183,779	Islington	248.12	2.76%	183,779	0
156.86	1.74%	116,189	Kensington and Chelsea	156.86	1.74%	116,189	0
321.81	3.57%	238,367	Lambeth	321.81	3.57%	238,367	0
305.31	3.39%	226,143	Lewisham	305.31	3.39%	226,143	0
320.02	3.55%	237,037	Southwark	320.02	3.55%	237,037	0
331.97	3.69%	245,890	Tower Hamlets	331.97	3.69%	245,890	0
329.74	3.66%	244,235	Wandsworth	329.74	3.66%	244,235	0
269.85	3.00%	199,877	Westminster	269.85	3.00%	199,877	0
<b>3,327.64</b>	<b>36.96%</b>	<b>2,464,789</b>		<b>3,327.64</b>	<b>36.96%</b>	<b>2,464,789</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Outer London</b>							
214.11	2.38%	158,589	Barking and Dagenham	214.11	2.38%	158,589	0
399.01	4.43%	295,545	Barnet	399.01	4.43%	295,545	0
249.30	2.77%	184,658	Bexley	249.30	2.77%	184,658	0
327.75	3.64%	242,767	Brent	327.75	3.64%	242,767	0
332.75	3.70%	246,470	Bromley	332.75	3.70%	246,470	0
388.56	4.32%	287,809	Croydon	388.56	4.32%	287,809	0
340.34	3.78%	252,091	Ealing	340.34	3.78%	252,091	0
333.59	3.71%	247,088	Enfield	333.59	3.71%	247,088	0
266.36	2.96%	197,291	Haringey	266.36	2.96%	197,291	0
252.34	2.80%	186,907	Harrow	252.34	2.80%	186,907	0
260.65	2.90%	193,064	Havering	260.65	2.90%	193,064	0
309.01	3.43%	228,887	Hillingdon	309.01	3.43%	228,887	0
271.77	3.02%	201,298	Hounslow	271.77	3.02%	201,298	0
179.14	1.99%	132,691	Kingston upon Thames	179.14	1.99%	132,691	0
206.45	2.29%	152,920	Merton	206.45	2.29%	152,920	0
355.27	3.95%	263,146	Newham	355.27	3.95%	263,146	0
305.66	3.40%	226,401	Redbridge	305.66	3.40%	226,401	0
198.14	2.20%	146,763	Richmond upon Thames	198.14	2.20%	146,763	0
207.71	2.31%	153,849	Sutton	207.71	2.31%	153,849	0
276.94	3.08%	205,130	Waltham Forest	276.94	3.08%	205,130	0
<b>5,674.85</b>	<b>63.04%</b>	<b>4,203,363</b>		<b>5,674.85</b>	<b>63.04%</b>	<b>4,203,363</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>9,002.49</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6,668,152</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,002.49</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>6,668,152</b>	<b>0</b>

# Grants Committee Indicative Income and Expenditure Budget 2024/25 and 2025/26

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Indicative Budget 2024/25 £000</b>	<b>Indicative Budget 2025/26 £000</b>
<b>Payments in respect of Grants</b>		
London Councils Grants Programme	6,173	6,173
Membership Fees to London Funders (for all boroughs)	60	60
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>6,233</b>	<b>6,233</b>
<b>Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure</b>		
<b>Contractual Commitments</b>		
Maintenance of GIFTS Grants IT system	10	10
	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Salary Commitments</b>		
Officers	268	273
Members	19	19
Maternity provision	10	10
	<b>297</b>	<b>302</b>
<b>Discretionary Expenditure</b>		
Staff training/recruitment advertising	7	7
Staff travel	2	2
	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Savings and Efficiency Targets</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-20</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>Central Recharges</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>6,668</b>
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Core borough subscriptions</b>		
Contribution to grant payments	6,173	6,173
Contribution to non-grants expenditure	495	495
	<b>6,668</b>	<b>6,668</b>
<b>Transfer from Reserves</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Central Recharges</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,668</b>	<b>6,668</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>