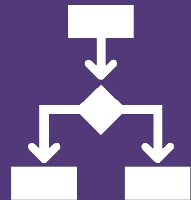


Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant - Funding Update

Daisy Manley and Hayley Morgan, Public Health

February 2024



Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced:

- Statutory duties and increased accountability
- LA responsible for the '**delivery of domestic abuse support to victims and families in safe accommodation**'

Grant funding awarded to Wiltshire LA:

Year 1 (2021-22) £830,051

Year 2 (2022-23) £832,348

Year 3 (2023-24) £848,998

Year 4 (2024-25) £865,016

Provision of support in 'relevant accommodation' which includes:

- Refuges
- Specialist safe accommodation
- Dispersed accommodation
- Sanctuary schemes
- Move-on / second stage accommodation

Provision of support can include:

- Management of services
- Day-to-day running
- Advocacy support
- DA prevention advice
- Prevent re-victimisation
- Specialist support for victims with protected characteristics or complex needs
- Children's support
- Housing-related support
- Advice services including counselling and therapy

Wiltshire's core domestic abuse support service, FearFree, is made up of 5 themes...

1. Victims of domestic abuse (16+)
2. Children and young people in their own abusive relationships
3. Families and children & young people impacted by domestic abuse
4. Support for perpetrators of domestic abuse
5. Domestic abuse safe accommodation

The local picture (2022-23)



2788 victim referrals



8669 reports of domestic abuse*

FearFree victim referrals demographics...

75%
White British

3
from Gypsy, Roma,
Traveller & Boater
communities
(GRTB)

A female symbol icon consisting of a circle with a cross at the bottom.
89% female



946 with self-reported mental health difficulties



116 from the military community

Year 1 and 2 allocations

Funding allocated to multiple providers:



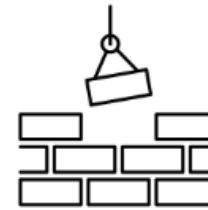
Addressing local areas of need:



Support for children and young people who have witnessed domestic abuse



Specialist support for victims with complex needs



Support for victims to rebuild their lives and confidence after abuse



Specialist domestic abuse workers within Children's Social Care



Support in safe accommodation for male and female victims and their children



Specialist support for victims impacted by the **Trilogy of Risk** (domestic abuse, substance use and poor mental health)



Specialist housing and resettlement advice for victims of domestic abuse



Specialist support for Wiltshire's military population

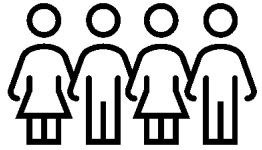


Specialist support for male victims of domestic abuse



Target Hardening

Year 1 and 2 funding results (1st November 2021-31st October 2023)



Therapeutic support provided to **732** children who have witnessed domestic abuse



432 victim's homes target hardened



Domestic Abuse Early Help Advisor has had contacts relating to **1,223** children



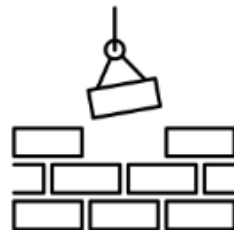
202 victims supported by Accommodation and Resettlement Workers



170 victims supported by the Male & Complex Needs IDVA



224 victims supported by the Military IDVA



Domestic Abuse Community Connectors supported **142** victims to rebuild their lives after abuse



9 families supported by the FDAC Support Worker



Staff training delivered

- Suicide awareness
- Mental health first aid
- No recourse to public funds
- Disability awareness
- Diversity in practice
- Drug and alcohol awareness
- Complex needs



Engagement Worker projects

- Links built with the Home Office to improve support for refugee victims
- Domestic abuse training delivered to police crime teams
- Presentation delivered to the REME about domestic abuse in the military

Year 1 and 2 service user feedback

“We have noticed a huge difference in him... being able to talk about his feelings. The fact that they were tailored to his likes e.g., using Pokémon was amazing. He felt so comfortable with you which is very unusual when meeting new people.” -

FearFree Children’s Worker Client



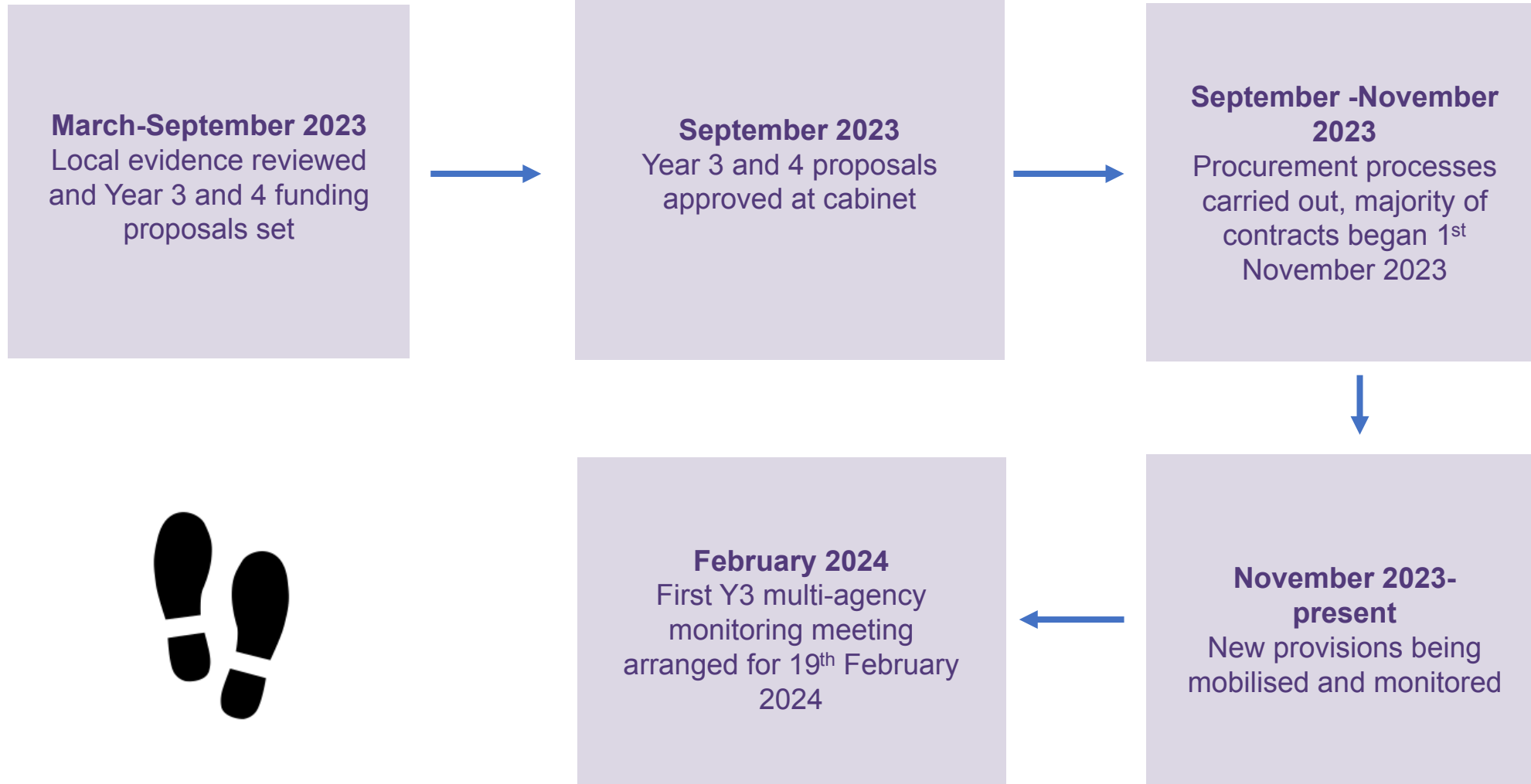
I’m supporting a dad who has experienced emotional abuse... anxiety and low mood... he had to write an email to his solicitor... and felt completely stuck... he looked pale with anxiety, so we went for a walk, had a chat about things and got stuck in to writing the email. He said *“I never could have done this on my own, just thank you.”* – Case study relating to a DA Community Connector Client

“The keyworker is a bundle of love that we all need. She’s there and she understands. She’s like a mother, doctor, health assistant, counsellor... the staff all go well beyond what’s written on the job description.” –

Julian House Safe Accommodation Resident

Clients often experience enormous relief that they and their children can be safer in their homes following a Bobby Van visit. Their feedback includes praise for the service and the operator who has attended. – The Bobby Van

Year 3 and 4 – steps taken so far



Continuation of Year 1 and 2 provisions, plus



Workforce training on domestic abuse in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities



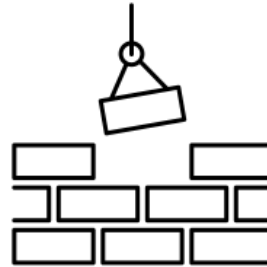
Increased target hardening budget



Additional Domestic Abuse Community Connector to support victims to rebuild their lives after abuse, plus additional funding to support the **development of community groups**



Specialist support within safe accommodation for **victims with complex needs**



'Move-on' funding to support victims to maintain separation from perpetrators



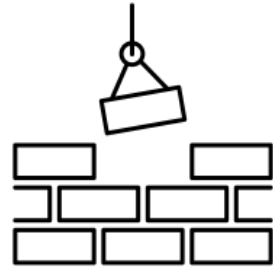
Specialist support for **victims of domestic abuse in GRT communities**



Additional Children's Worker to support children who have witnessed domestic abuse



12 victims supported by Accommodation and Resettlement Workers



Domestic Abuse Community Connectors have supported **27** victims to rebuild their lives after abuse



29 additional Hollie Guard vouchers purchased with the increase target hardening budget



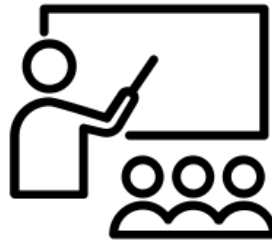
19 victims supported by the Military IDVA



GRT Domestic Abuse Engagement and Support service being mobilised



30 clients (adults and children) supported in domestic abuse safe accommodation



GRT Domestic Abuse Training sessions are scheduled for March and May 2024



Further Engagement Worker projects include:

- Survivor Voice Forum
- Domestic abuse training at Clouds House (residential rehab centre)
- Homelessness drop-in attendance and domestic abuse training delivered to staff

- Confirmation of 2-year funding period (improved future planning)
- All funding successfully allocated
- Allocations reflect local need and gaps
- Evidence of positive outcomes and impact
- Robust monitoring processes
- Stronger relationships with providers
- Inter-provider relationships established



- Recruitment challenges:
 - Limited employment pool
 - Employees moving within services
 - Temporary posts
- Short-term funding (funding ends March 2025)
- High demand on services
 - Recruitment
 - Data returns
 - Training attendance
- Delays in obtaining safe accommodation premises



The next steps

