

Domestic Abuse New Burdens Spend

Local authority support for victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation

The Act places a statutory duty on tier one local authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within refuges and other safe accommodation.

Duties of local authorities include:

- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it will consult as it performs certain specified functions.
- Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims or their children, including those who come from outside the area.
- Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.
- Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions).
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
- Report back to central government.
- Require tier two councils (district or borough councils, and London Boroughs) to co-operate with the lead local authority, so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Require the Secretary of State to produce statutory guidance, having consulted the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, local authorities and such as other persons as considered appropriate.
- Require local authorities to have regard to the statutory guidance in exercising their functions.
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The new duty will cover the provision of support to victims and their children residing in some/all of the following.

- refuge accommodation.
- specialist safe accommodation.
- dispersed accommodation.
- sanctuary schemes; and
- move-on or second stage accommodation.

The funding has been issued as an un-ringfenced Section 31 Grant to local authorities. Local authorities must have regard for the statutory guidance when exercising their duties. Government have expressed that they intend to place this funding allocation from 2025/26 onward within the local government finance settlement.

Thurrock council allocation and spending of the domestic abuse new burdens fund 2021/22

Thurrock VAWG Strategic Board is the 'domestic abuse local partnership board' for the local area. We completed our first needs assessment for accommodation-based domestic abuse support, for survivors and their children in their area, including the need of those coming from outside the area. The following provision of support was commissioned as a result of the needs assessment. To offer consistency to service provision and in line with the statutory guidance (published October 2021) funding was allocated for a 3-year period, in anticipation of continued government funding as assured.

This funding is running a year in arrears, due to the requirement to commission against the outcome of a needs assessment, having regard for statutory guidance published in late 2021 and then identifying the appropriate service for those needs, including recruitment of staff to those positions.

Where funding was not spent directly within a 'safe accommodation' it is anticipated that a proportion of the service users will be accessing a form of safe accommodation. Statutory Guidance section A3 defines safe accommodation, this includes refuge and sanctuary as types of safe accommodation. Section A4 details the 'support' that can be offered in safe accommodation. The spend meets the criteria of providing support within safe accommodation and the types of support that can be offered as detailed below and referenced against the statutory guidance:

	Year 2021/22				Comments
Gov allocation	£366,530.00				
	Allocated	Spent	Not spent-carry forward	Stat Guidance Ref	yellow highlight are external payments
Area					
Refuge - Tutoring	£40,560.00	£40,560.00	£-	A3 A4	
Refuge - Therapeutic Support (Adult and Children Counselling)	£44,923.00	£44,923.00	£-	A3 A4	

Refuge - Complex Needs / Financial Inclusion Worker	£18,818.75	£18,818.75	£-	A3 A4	
Refuge -increase in capacity Childrens Worker (4 days to 5)	£4,500.00	£4,500.00	£-	A3 A4	
Sericc SVA counselling	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£-	A3 A4i	to be provided to clients accessing safe accommodation
Flexible Funding for Refuge	£10,364.12	£10,000.00	£364.12	A3 A4	
Flexible Funding for SERICC	£10,364.12	£10,364.12	£-	A3 A4i	
DA Duty Admin	£44,601.57	£-	£44,601.57	A2.3ii, iii	
Partner link worker element of change project	£18,000.00	£-	£18,000.00	A3 A4i	supporting the partners of those being abused by a perpetrator
DA - Refuge officers	£112,000.00	£-	£112,000.00	A3 A4i	delays in recruitment - carry forward
Training for Refuge staff	£4,000.00	£390.00	£3,610.00	A3 A4	training identified for 21/22 only -subject to further requests
SET TONIC project	£18,000.00		£18,000.00	B1	tonic spend allocated but not spent this year- carry forward
Childrens Support group	£20,000.00	£-	£20,000.00	A2.1	delays in getting group started- carry forward
Unallocated from Gov fund	£398.43		£398.43		cost of a service came in slightly under -hence not allocated
TOTAL	£366,530	£149,555.87	£216,974.12		

Following a review of the commissioned services to ensure that they were still meeting the needs identified, the New Burdens spend for 2022/23 is as follows.

	22/23				Comments
GOV ALLOCATION	£367,545.00				
UNDERSPEND FROM 2021.22	£216,974.12				
TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR 22.23	£584,519.12				
	Allocated	Spend	Not spent- carry forward	Stat Guidance Ref	yellow highlight are external payments
Area					
Refuge - Tutoring	£40,560.00	£-	£40,560.00	A3 A4	
Refuge - Therapeutic Support (Adult and Children Counselling)	£44,923.00	£-	£44,923.00	A3 A4	
Refuge - Complex Needs / Financial Inclusion Worker	£18,818.75	£-	£18,818.75	A3 A4	
Refuge -increase in capacity Childrens Worker (4 days to 5)	£4,500.00	£-	£4,500.00	A3 A4	
Sericc SVA counselling	£20,000.00		£20,000.00	A3 A4i	review of service in discussion with provider decision was made to cease service
Flexible Funding for Refuge	£10,364.12	£10,000.00	£364.12	A3 A4	
Flexible Funding for SERICC	£10,364.12	£10,364.12	£-	A3 A4i	
DA Duty Admin	£47,028.61	£45,338.04	£1,690.57	A2.3ii, iii	

partner link worker element of change project	£18,000.00	£-	£18,000.00	A3 A4i	awaiting exact figure required for contribution from Thurrock to this service.
DA - Refuge officers	£112,000.00	£13,608.15	£98,391.85	A3 A4i	contract costs
Training for Refuge staff	£4,000.00		£4,000.00	A3 A4	training identified for 21/22 only -subject to further requests
SET TONIC project	£18,000.00	£16,000.00	£2,000.00	B1	spend slightly less than allocation
Childrens Support group	£20,000.00		£20,000.00	A2.1	delays in getting group started- carry forward
TOTAL GOV ALLOCATED /SPEND/CARRY FORWARD	£368,558.60	£95,310.31	£273,248.29		

**TOTAL CARRY
FORWARD TO 23.24 £490,222.41**

UNDERSPEND TOTAL= 21.22 + 22.23