

Appendix 6

Evidencing the value of housing related support in **domestic violence services**

National policy initiatives

There are a number of national strategies that central government have developed that housing related support services contribute to delivering. The devolution of power to local areas from national government involves an expectation that localities will commission and deliver services that contribute toward attaining these targets. In some cases central government will pass legislation or issue statutory guidance to compel local authorities and Health Authorities/Trusts to perform certain functions. Housing related support providers perform an important function in supporting the local authority and primary and secondary statutory health services in meeting the health, social care and support needs of families experiencing domestic violence.

The most recent strategy to ending domestic violence against women and girls – ***Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls: A Strategy*** - was launched in November 2009. This strategy outlines an integrated approach to ending domestic violence and to supporting victims in terms of prevention, provision, and protection.

There is a plethora of legislation that relates to domestic violence and the support needs of women currently the most recent piece of legalisation is the **Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004**. This Act aims to strengthen legal protection for those experiencing domestic violence and improve the powers of the police and courts to respond more effectively. In addition to this Act there is a range of criminal offences including sexual and physical assault, harassment and criminal damage, which can be used in cases of domestic violence. In addition housing legislation (Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Act 2002) includes a legal duty to provide victims with advice and with temporary accommodation if there is actual or threatened homelessness due to domestic violence and to consider applications for permanent re-housing.

The Home Affairs Select Committee into Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and “Honour” Based Violence (2008) concluded that the Government’s approach disappointingly focused on criminal justice at the expense of prevention and early intervention. It recommended that Government adopts a national strategy on domestic violence with an emphasis on prevention. Other recommendations included a concerted effort to improve access to short term emergency accommodation and longer term housing. In addition the CLG should quantify the scale and shortfall in provision and work with local authorities to ensure that is refuge space to meet local demand.

Women’s Aid Federation England has been funded by the Home Office and Comic Relief to develop **National Service Standards for Domestic Violence Services**, which outlines a framework for service delivery to families experiencing domestic violence. The standards are out for consultation and the next stages include testing out the standards and agreeing with government how they will form part of the process for commissioning local services.

Further information about these initiatives is available below:

Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls: A Strategy

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/vawg-strategy-2009/end-violence-against-women?view=Binary>

Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/violentcrime/dv016.htm>

The Home Affairs Select Committee into Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and “Honour” Based Violence

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmhaff/cmhaff.htm>

Women’s Aid Federation England Standards for Domestic Violence Services

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence/articles.asp?section=00010001002200220001&itemid=1332>

National Indicators

There are a number of national indicators domestic violence services can contribute to. Specifically **NI 26 specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence**, which measures the proportion of victims of a serious sexual offence (who report the offence to the police) that receive support from a specialist sexual violence and abuse service. This indicator has been deferred to 2010 enabling its use to be piloted. **NI 32 reducing repeat incidents of domestic violence aims to achieve a percentage reduction in repeat victimisation for those domestic violence cases being managed by a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC).** **NI 34 number of domestic homicide offences per 1,000 of the population** aims to reduce the number of domestic murders. Other National indicators that domestic violence services contribute to include:

NI	Definition	Substantial contribution	Partial contribution
15	Serious violent crime		✓
20	Assault with injury crime rate		✓
26	Specialist support for victims of a serious sexual assault	✓	
32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	✓	
34	Domestic violence - murder	✓	
50	Emotional health of children		✓
72 - 80	Achievements at KS 2 and 3 GCSEs and aged 18		✓
92 - 101	Relating to educational progression and achievement		✓
110	Young people’s participation in positive activities		✓
116	Proportion of children in poverty		✓
141	Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living	✓	
142	Percentage of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	✓	
156	Number of households in temporary accommodation		✓

Resources evidencing the value of domestic violence services

- The **CLG** have commissioned a tool to enable local authorities to evidence the financial benefits of housing related support. National research has demonstrated considerable savings as the provision of housing related support services can prevent the use of most intensive costly public services. The national net financial benefit of the Supporting People Programme for women at risk of domestic violence is £19.6 million on an investment of £7.2 million.
The tool can be found at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/financialbenefitsguide?view=Standard>
- The **Office of the Third Sector** has developed a **Social Return on Investment (SROI)** programme that enables commissioners and providers to calculate the social return that investing in services providers. Information on the programme and tool can be found at:
http://www.sroi-uk.org/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,65/
- The **Department of Health** in its **Care Services Efficiency Delivery** programme has produced case studies demonstrating savings made by investing in support related housing services. Case studies are available from:
<http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/csed/Solutions/supportRelatedHousing/?parent=5322&child=5324>

Any report utilising the above tools will be more compelling if real life case studies are included, where it has been demonstrated that individual's outcomes have been enhanced due to their personal receipt of housing related support services.

Public Service Agreements

These are central Government targets to improve the delivery of public services and the outcomes they achieve. Although each PSA is cross departmental responsibility it has a lead department and a single delivery plan. The central government departments work with the regional Government Offices to support local authorities in delivering the targets and monitor progress. There are 30 PSAs in total. Some of the PSAs listed below make a partial contribution to domestic violence services.

PSA	Description	Significant contribution	Partial Contribution
PSA 2	Improve the skills of the population on the way to ensuring a world-class skills base by 2020		✓
PSA 8	Maximise employment opportunity for all		✓
PSA 9	Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020		
PSA 10	Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people		✓
PSA 11	Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers		✓
PSA 12	Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people		✓
PSA 13	Improve children and young people's safety	✓	
PSA 14	Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success		✓

PSA 15	Address the disadvantage that individuals experience because of their gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief	✓	
PSA 16	Increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and employment, education or training	✓	
PSA 18	Promote better health and wellbeing for all		✓
PSA 19	Ensure better care for all		✓
PSA 21	Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities		✓
PSA 23	Make communities safer		✓

General resources

- The full list of national Indicators and their definitions can be found at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/finalnationalindicators>
- To find out the priority NIs agreed between each Local Authority and the Regional Government Office visit <http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk/default.aspx> and <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/10958567>
- Homeless link have developed a toolkit to support providers in profiling their work against the NI prioritised in their locality with case studies of services for homeless people.
<http://www.homeless.org.uk/policyandinfo/issues/laacurrent/laaform>
- ROCC has an on line tool which is a guide to the NIs chosen by local areas in the South East. The tool enables providers to see which Nis specific client group services contribute to
<http://www.rocc.org.uk/static/documents/Local%20Area%20Agreements%20Indicators%20Tool.xls>