

Item No. N/A	Classification: Open	Date: 18 April 2024	Decision Taker: Strategic Director of Finance
Report title:		Combined Gateway 1 – Procurement Strategy Approval and Gateway 2 - Contract Award Approval Domestic Abuse Service (Short term contract)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Acting Strategic Director of Environment, Neighbourhoods, and Growth	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Strategic Director of Finance formalises a previous decision to approve the procurement strategy for the domestic abuse prevention services contract by way of a single supplier negotiation.
2. That the Strategic Director of Finance approves the award of the domestic abuse prevention services contract to Refuge commencing on 7 August 2024 for a period of 15 months ending on 6 November 2025 with an option to extend for a further contingency period of up to 12 months until 6 November 2026.
3. That the Strategic Director of Finance notes that the annual value of the contract is £867,868, resulting in a total cost of £1,084,835 over the initial 15 month term, the option of a further 12 month extension if exercised for the full duration, would cost an additional £889,710, making a total maximum contract value of £1,974,545.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. Prevention of Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) has been a priority for the council for a number of years. Between April 2012 and February 2023, Solace Women's Aid were commissioned to deliver a fully holistic domestic abuse service, providing specialist support services for people impacted by domestic abuse.
5. The contract the council had with Solace came to a natural end in early 2023. In February 2023, the existing Refuge Safe Accommodation contract for which Refuge have been delivering the service since 2016, was extended to include delivery of all domestic abuse services previously provided by Solace. The contract was for a period of eighteen months until 6 August 2024, ahead of the commencement of a transformation programme to review VAWG provision. The total value of the current contract is £1,239,311.

6. The procurement of a new VAWG service is due to take place between June 2024 and March 2025, with a new service to be in place for 7 November 2025. The 12 month option to further extend the contract will provide extra contingency if the new service procurement extends beyond this period. Prior to the procurement process starting a full service review is being undertaken including a review of current domestic abuse service provision with stakeholders, statutory and voluntary sector organisations, and service users, to understand what is working well, what needs to be improved, and what the service gaps are. A strategic needs assessment is also being conducted to update our understanding of the domestic abuse needs of our residents to ensure that any new service we commission service is fit for purpose, accessible to all.
7. In order to maintain essential service delivery supporting survivors of domestic abuse whilst the procurement process is taking place, it is proposed to extend current services provided by Refuge for an additional fifteen month period until 6 November 2025. The new annual contract value is £867,868. Total contract value for the initial 15 months of the contract is £1,084,835.

The Services

8. The following services are delivered under the current contract. It is proposed to continue to deliver these services with the exception of the Perpetrator Programme:
 - Survivor Advocacy and Support Service; provided by eight IGVAS (Independent Gender Violence Advocates)
 - Sanctuary Scheme – implementation of home safety measures
 - Child Therapeutic Programme
 - Adult Survivors Counselling Programme
 - Service User Group work programme – ‘It’s my life’ programme
 - Iris Programme – enhanced domestic abuse support in 25 GP surgeries
 - Homelessness Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) embedded in Southwark Housing Solutions
 - Training
 - Southwark Refuge provides 31 single sex accommodation bed spaces.
9. The Perpetrator Programme ceased delivery in June 2023 following the resignation of the perpetrator caseworker, as the programme had not been performing well up to this point with a lack of appropriate referrals. The cost of £52,112 for this programme will be removed from the new contract. This coincided with the introduction of a new perpetrator intervention in July 2023; the Prevent and Change Programme (PAC) funded by a Home Office grant. The programme was implemented in seven South London boroughs, including Southwark, and offers 121 interventions for change for high risk perpetrators, managed via a multi-agency panel.

Summary of the business case/justification for the procurement

10. The prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) including domestic abuse has been a priority of the council for a number of years. In 2015, Southwark developed a five year Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategy. In 2019, this was replaced with a five year VAWG Strategy in recognition of the need to deliver a partnership response to all areas of gender-based violence, not only domestic abuse. These include harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and honour-based violence as well as sexual harassment and stalking.
11. Since the development of the VAWG strategy, the landscape has changed significantly. The COVID 19 pandemic saw significant increases in demand and risk. Although demand levels seem to have returned to pre-pandemic levels, the way that survivors seek support and how the council now deliver VAWG services has changed significantly.
12. The new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 has introduced new statutory responsibilities for responding to domestic abuse and delivering support. The Act now defines children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. The Act also places a new duty on Tier 1 local authorities (the Greater London Authority (GLA) in London) to provide support to domestic abuse victims in safe accommodation.
13. The council needs to ensure that services are future-proofed and flexible to enable adaptation and response to changes in the VAWG landscape. Plans to develop and procure a new transformational VAWG service are underway with an expected contract start date of 7 November 2025 for the new service(s).
14. The proposed variation to the Refuge contract will enable continued service delivery supporting vulnerable individuals experiencing domestic abuse, whilst a new VAWG service is developed and procured to be in place for November 2025.

Procurement project plan (Key Decision)

Activity	Complete by:
Enter Gateway 1/2 decision on the Forward Plan	11/01/2024
Draft GW1/2 ready for circulation	07/03/2024
Brief relevant cabinet member (over £100k)	14/03/2024
Receive legal, procurement, finance and other comments on GW1/2	25/03/2024
Receive director approval for DCRB submission	25/03/2024
Submit report for DCRB	27/03/2024
DCRB Review Gateway 1/2	03/04/2024

Activity	Complete by:
Submit report for CCRB	08/04/2024
CCRB review Gateway 1/2	11/04/2024
Notification of forthcoming decision – Five clear working days	15/04/2024
Approval of Gateway 1/2	23/04/2024
Scrutiny Call-in period and notification of implementation of decision	02/05/2024
Contract award	03/05/2024
Add to Contract Register	07/05/2024
Contract start	07/08/2024
Place award notice on Contracts Finder	07/08/2024
Initial Contract completion date	06/11/2025
Contract completion date – if extension exercised	06/11/2026

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Options for procurement route including procurement approach

15. A number of procurement route options have been considered and discounted.

Do nothing

16. Taking a decision to decommission the services without commissioning a new contract is not viable and would result in the council being unable to meet the needs of existing and ongoing victim and survivor needs and would put vulnerable people at further risk of harm and serious danger for people experiencing and impacted by Domestic abuse. Further to this, commissioning a service will support the council delivering its various statutory functions as set in this report. It is vitally important that domestic abuse support continues to be provided to vulnerable people in Southwark whilst we are developing and procuring a new service for Southwark.

In-source

17. The option of bringing the services in house is not appropriate in this case. These are specialist services with the necessary expertise, knowledge and skills not available within the council. In addition some service users may perceive a 'barrier' to accessing support if a council service due to lack of trust in statutory services.

Existing frameworks

18. There are no existing framework agreements that could provide the scope of the services required.

Shared service delivery with other boroughs

19. The nature of Domestic Abuse victim, survivor and perpetrator service delivery required for Southwark requires distinct and dedicated borough service delivery to ensure risks are managed. Further to this, officers are not aware of any neighbouring boroughs that are planning to re-commission their domestic abuse provision. Officers believe the most appropriate service delivery is achieved through commissioning an independent contract completely aligned with the borough's victim and survivor requirements. This will best serve residents and maximise the council's influence over the delivery of the provision.

External procurement, including voluntary / not for profit

20. The option of undertaking a competitive procurement exercise in line with contract standing orders and Procurement Regulations is currently being progressed separately under the council's VAWG transformation work, which will include a competitive procurement of new services.

Proposed procurement route

Direct award of contract to existing provider via single supplier negotiation

21. This is the only feasible option to achieve the desired result, which is to continue provision of services for a short period whilst the procurement of a new service is taking place.
22. This is the preferred procurement route for the service from 7 August 2024 for a period of 15 months, ending 6 November 2025 with the option to extend for another 12 months.

Identified risks for the procurement

23. As the proposed procurement route via single supplier negotiation is with the existing service provider, the risks to the procurement process and the provider failing to deliver services to a high standard is minimal.
24. Potentially, there is a financial risk for the period of contract delivery 1 April 2025 to 6 November 2025. This is due to the contract being part funded by a number of external grants for which funding for the financial year 25/26 (5 April 2025 to 4 April 2026) is not yet confirmed. This is included in the risk table in paragraph 41.

Key/Non Key decisions

25. This report deals with a key decision.

Policy framework implications

26. The new Domestic Abuse Act came in to force in 2021. Key measures include:

- A new statutory definition of domestic abuse which includes economic abuse and coercive control and defines children as victims
- Strengthened responses to perpetrators through the introduction of new civil orders
- Establishment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner in Law
- A duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities (the Greater London Authority (GLA) in London) to provide support to domestic abuse survivors in safe accommodation.

27. In July 2021, the government published [The Tackling Violence against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) Strategy](#). The strategy reiterated the framework of prevention, provision of services, partnership working and perpetrators as the model to tackle VAWG.

28. In June 2022, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) published its refreshed [Violence against Woman and Girls Strategy](#), setting out four priority areas for action; preventing and reducing VAWG, supporting all victims and survivors, holding perpetrators to account, and building trust and confidence.

29. Southwark's five year [VAWG strategy](#) was approved by cabinet in July 2019. An associated five year delivery plan is being implemented which includes a commitment to review and redesign our local VAWG service offer.

30. At the end of March 2023, following consultation, the government published the draft Victims and Prisoners Bill. The Bill will introduce measures in relation to victims of criminal conduct, victims of major incidents, reforms to the parole system, and restrictions on marriage for prisoners who are imprisoned under whole life orders. The draft bill which is currently at committee stage in the House of Lords includes the following elements:

- It places a duty on specified authorities (including local authorities, Police and Crime Commissioners and Integrated Care Boards) to collaborate with each other when commissioning victim support services in order to facilitate more holistic and better coordinated victim support services
- It defines Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), introduces guidance setting out recommended minimum standards and best practice for ISVAs and IDVAs, and place a duty on ISVAs, IDVAs and other persons whose functions relate to victims of criminal conduct, or

any aspect of the criminal justice system, to have due regard to this guidance, and how this relates to their role.

31. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 contains a [Serious Violence Duty](#) on public bodies. It requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. The Duty also requires the specified authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their strategy.

Plans for monitoring and management of the contract

32. The Safer Communities Team in the Community Safety and Partnerships Service is responsible for the management and monitoring of the contract.
33. A robust contract monitoring process is already in place to ensure the effective management of the contract. This includes formal quarterly monitoring meetings in addition to day to day contact with the provider, ensuring monitoring oversight and a proactive approach to service development. The provider has an established case management system and a culture of continuous improvement.
34. A set of key performance indicators is in place to ensure that the full range of services to be delivered are effectively monitored for quality and outcomes. A full list of the measures and performance year to date (April to December) can be seen in Appendix 1. This includes:
- **Survivor Advocacy and Support Service**
 - Number of referrals received year to date (Apr to Dec) = 983 against yearly target of target 1,500
 - % whose risk of harm has been reduced upon exiting the service = 77% against target of 100%
 - **Counselling Service**
 - Number who complete 6-16 week counselling programme = 43 against yearly target of 53
 - % reporting they feel safer = 93% against target of 90%
 - **Survivor Group Programmes**
 - Number of survivors attending 'Own My Life' programme = 31 against a yearly target of 40
 - **Child Therapeutic Service**

- Number of referrals received year to date (Apr to Dec) = 40 against yearly target of 25
 - Number who complete 12 week therapy programme = 17 against yearly target of 20
 - % of children who have increased sense of safety and how to keep safe = 100% against target of 90%
- **Iris Programme**
 - Number of referrals from IRIS trained GP surgeries = 34 against a yearly target of 100
 - Number of Iris trained GP's making referrals = 11 against a target of 25
- **Supported Accommodation**
 - Number commencing residence = 33 against a target of 45
 - % who experience a reduced risk upon exiting the service = 73% against a target of 80%.

35. The current contract is formally reviewed on a quarterly basis through the submission of monitoring reports and provider meeting.
36. Where performance concerns arise, an enhanced improvement programme will be enacted and a schedule of increased monitoring and review underpinned by robust action plans adopted.
37. An annual service audit will be developed and put in place. This will include dip sampling of data to enable verification of the accuracy of data being reported.
38. The contract will include presenting an annual performance report in line with the council's Contract Standing Orders.

Identified risks for the new contract

39. The following risks have been identified:

Risk no.	Risk identified	Level of risk	Mitigation
1.	Capacity of the organisation to deliver the service	Low	Refuge is a relatively large, well-established domestic abuse service provider. Council officers are confident that Refuge have the continued capacity to deliver the service.
2.	The service does not meet performance targets and outcomes or demonstrate value for money during the period of contract extension.	Low	A robust contract management process as detailed in the contract monitoring and management section of this report will be utilised through the duration of the contract.

3.	Funding is not available from all funding streams for the duration of the contract extension.	Medium	<p>The funding for the contract is provided from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council (Community Safety General Fund allocation) • London Crime Prevention Fund Grant • Integrated Care Service (ICS) Grant Funding • Homeless Prevention Grant <p>The proposed contract includes a termination clause allowing the council to terminate the agreement at any time with three months written notice should budget constraints require.</p>
4.	Staff turnover results in the provider having difficulty delivering the service levels as defined in the contract	Low	The current service has now been established for 12 months. With the exception of the Perpetrator Caseworker, there have not been significant issues with staff recruitment and retention. There is no indication that this is likely to change.
6.	Risk of challenge for not carrying out a full procurement exercise.	Low	Regulation 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 will be relied upon for this contract award.
7.	Risk of future service procurement not being delivered on time.	Low	<p>The development of a future VAWG service has already been started, with the procurement process for a new service provider (s) scheduled to take place between June 2024 and March 2025. The new service will be in place from November 2025.</p> <p>A 12 month optional extension period has been included in the service contract as a contingency if the new service is not in place by November 2025.</p>
8.	Financial risk to the provider to deliver due to high inflationary pressures.	Low	The service provider has submitted a detailed pricing schedule which has been evaluated by council officers and deemed viable. Close financial monitoring will be put in place for the duration to the contract with the ability to adapt service delivery between areas in response to any financial pressures.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

40. The council's VAWG strategy 2019–2024 clearly identifies a need for provision of domestic abuse services to meet the needs of residents in this regard.

41. The proposed short-term contract arrangement will ensure individuals and families and communities affected by domestic abuse receive the appropriate level of support at the time that it is needed.
42. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in March 2022. This has been reviewed and updated (March 2024). Please see paragraph 49.
43. The contract includes a robust equalities and diversity-monitoring framework which is in line with the council plan priorities. The baseline data collected allows us to identify if there are any particular needs of any particular community group that need to be addressed. This data will continue to be provided during the transition period.
44. All domestic abuse services within the contract are eligible to all as per their individual needs.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

45. Pursuant to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, due regard has been given to the council's decision-making processes and the need to:
 - a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct.
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - c) Foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not share it
46. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. The Public Sector Equality Duty also applies to marriage and civil partnership, but only in relation to (a) above. In respect of this any commissioned domestic service will be, accessible to all, supporting male as well as female victims of domestic abuse, including the LGBTQ+ community.
47. Officers have taken steps to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty imposed by the Equality Act 2010 as set out in the Community Impact Statement section above in particular:
 - In 2016/17, a Joint Service Needs Assessment (JSNA) was undertaken by Public Health of the wider health needs of victims/survivors of domestic violence and abuse. Needs analysis was also conducted to inform the development of the VAWG Strategy 2019-2024.
 - Under the VAWG transformation work currently taking place an updated VAWG Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) is being

produced, which will inform the procurement of a new service. This is being taken forward in phases:

- Phase one – SNA General (completion date April 2024)
 - Phase two - SNA Wider Consultation; Deeper dive into gaps analysis and service needs (completion date June 2024)
 - Phase three - SNA Combination of Phase 1 and Phase 2 findings, focus on intersectionality i.e. DA cross-over, impact on children
 - Consultation – extensive stakeholder consultation took place with statutory organisations, voluntary sector and service users in developing the current VAWG Strategy 2019-2024.
- Further extensive consultation is currently being taken forward under the VAWG transformation work:
 - Online Stakeholder questionnaire and individual conversations.
 - Stakeholder engagement events on the 2 and 9 February
 - Formation of an Expert by Experience Panel - panel recruited; first meeting due to take place in March 2024
 - Service Design working group to be established February 2024
 - An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken (March 2024). This decision has been judged to have no or a very small impact on the general population and local communities. The findings of the EQIA is attached as Appendix 2.

Health impact statement

48. Domestic abuse and other VAWG related crimes have an enormous impact on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of survivors and their children. Both current service provision and future proposals are focussed on providing trauma-informed support with the aim of reducing short, medium and long-term harm and aiding long-term recovery.
49. Continuation of the current service provision during the service recommissioning period will ensure vulnerable individuals are able to access vital support and with the outcomes of improved health and wellbeing.
50. Health impact has been considered and included in the revised EQIA.

Climate change implications

51. The service provision will have minimal impact on climate change. Where feasible and practical consideration will be given to using online means to meet with service users, reducing the need to travel and associated environmental impact.

Social Value considerations

52. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires that the council consider, before commencing a procurement process, how wider social, economic and environmental benefits that may improve the wellbeing of the local area can be secured. The social value considerations are set out in the following paragraphs in relation to the commitments to be delivered under the new proposed contract.
53. Domestic abuse services support the vulnerable in our communities. Which through the support provided, improves the health and wellbeing of survivors, their children and perpetrators of abuse. This meets the council's commitment to being a fair and just borough. Officers will be working with the council's new social value lead to secure additional social value through the procurement of the new service.

Economic considerations

54. The nature of the service requires delivery within the borough and this will provide opportunities for local labour, bringing local economic benefits.
55. The contract will continue to deliver economic wellbeing outcomes (maximising and maintaining benefit claims, debt reduction, including rent arrears and support into work, training or education).

Social considerations

56. The services improve the life chances of individuals with domestic abuse issues reducing the negative impact of domestic abuse on themselves, their children and their families.
57. Refuge have reconfirmed their commitment to meet the council's London Living Wage (LLW) requirements by continuing to pay LLW to relevant staff.

Environmental/Sustainability considerations

58. The service provision will have minimal impact on the environment. Where feasible and practical consideration will be given to using online means to meet with service users, reducing the need to travel and associated environmental impact.

Financial implications

59. The estimated annual costs of the contract £867,868. The total costs over the initial 15 month term is £1,084,835. The contract includes a provision for a 12 month extension if required. Should the 12 month extension be exercised, the total cost of the contract will be up to £1,974,545.
60. The funding for the contract sum is from the following:

- General Fund – £686,030
 - MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund - £83,838 (confirmed for 2024-25)
 - South East London Integrated Care System Funding - £20,000 (confirmed for 2024-25)
 - Homeless Prevention Grant - £78,000 (confirmed for 2024-25)
61. The contract can be contained within current existing resources (revenue budgets and grants). Annual variations arising from indexation or discontinued grants (grant funding for 25/26 is unconfirmed) will be reviewed as part of the annual budget planning process. An option will be written into the contract to reduce and/or remove individual service delivery elements to mitigate the risk of reduced grant or council funding and ensure that the delivery costs always stay within the agreed funding envelope.

Legal implications

62. Please see the concurrent report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance) below.

Consultation

63. Extensive consultation with partners and service users took place in the development of the councils [VAWG Strategy](#). This included discussions with 40 stakeholder and voluntary organisations representatives, and 20 individuals with lived experience as part of a group discussion.
64. Further extensive consultation is currently taking in developing our new VAWG service.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

65. This report seeks approval of the combined procurement strategy, for the domestic abuse prevention services contract by way of single supplier negotiation, and award of the domestic abuse prevention services contract to Refuge, commencing on 7 August 2024 for a period of 15 months at a maximum annual value of £867,868 per annum, resulting in a total of £1,084,835 over the initial 15 month term. If the option of a further 12 month extension is exercised, it will cost an additional £889,710, making a total maximum contract value of £1,974,545.
66. The estimated value of the contract is such that the cumulative total exceeds the relevant threshold as applicable to services covered by the Light Touch Regime, (LTR) in relation to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, (PCR2015) ordinarily necessitating an advertised, competitive procurement process. However, Regulation 32(2) (b) of PCR2015 permits use of the negotiated procedure without prior publication “where the services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator where

(amongst other things) competition is absent for technical reasons, and where no reasonable alternative or substitute exists and the absence of competition is not the result of an artificial narrowing down of the parameters of the procurement.” The report is also aligned with the council’s Contract Standing Orders, (CSO) which dictate that decision must be taken by the Strategic Director of Finance following review by DCRB and CCRB.

67. Headline risks associated with the recommended strategic option are contained within table at the end of paragraph 41.
68. Intended alignment with the Fairer Future Procurement Framework (FFPF) is referenced within the content of paragraphs 42 – 60 generally, and confirms continued payment of the London Living Wage (LLW) at paragraph 59.
69. Proposed methodology for performance/contract monitoring is detailed within paragraphs 34 - 40. The report also confirms that an annual performance review will be provided in alignment with council CSO.
70. The Community, Equalities and Health Impact Statements are set out in paragraphs 42 - 52.
71. The Climate Change, Social Value, Economic and Environmental / Sustainability statements are set out in paragraphs 53 - 60.

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance (SB04170424)

72. This report seeks approval of the procurement strategy for the delivery of domestic abuse prevention services and the award of a contract to Refuge for a maximum period of fifteen months from 7 August 2024, with an option to extend for twelve months if required.
73. The procurement of these services is governed by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR) as they apply to various categories of “light touch” services. The estimated value of the proposed contract exceeds the advertising threshold prescribed by the PCR for such services, and this means that it would usually be necessary for the council to conduct a publicly advertised competitive tendering exercise. However, PCR 32(2) (b) permits the council to follow the “negotiated procedure without prior publication” where the services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator where (amongst other things) competition is absent for technical reasons, and where no reasonable alternative or substitute exists and the absence of competition is not the result of an artificial narrowing down of the parameters of the procurement. The report notes the need to maintain essential service delivery to support survivors of domestic abuse whilst the procurement of the new VAWG service is being undertaken.


- 74. The recommendations of this report are also consistent with the council’s Contract Standing Orders, which reserve the decision to the Strategic Director of Finance, following consideration of the report by the Departmental and Corporate Contract Review Boards.
- 75. When making procurement decisions the council must consider and have due regard to any effects of the decision on the community at large and, in particular on people identified as possessing a “protected characteristic”, as defined in the Equality Act 2010. As noted in paragraph 49 an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and an updated Strategic Needs Assessment is being produced in order to inform the procurement of the new VAWG service. In conducting such exercises the council is able to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) contained in section 149 of the Act.

Strategic Director of Finance (ENG24/002)

- 76. The Strategic Director of Finance notes the recommendations in this report to approve the procurement strategy and the award of the contract for the domestic abuse prevention services contract (by way of a single supplier negotiation) to Refuge for a period of fifteen months from 7 August 2024. The annual value of the contract is £867,868, a total of £1,084,835 over the initial 15 month term and up to £1,974,545 if the 12 months extension is used.
- 77. The strategic director also notes the sources of funding for the domestic abuse prevention service including fixed term grants as detailed in the financial implications section. The grant funding risk (unconfirmed for 2025/26) and mitigation are also noted, as well as the proposed mitigation should any future funding be discontinued.
- 78. Officers' time and any other costs associated with this recommendation will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

PART A – TO BE COMPLETED FOR ALL DELEGATED DECISIONS

Under the powers delegated to me in accordance with the council’s Contract Standing Orders, I authorise action in accordance with the recommendation(s) contained in the above report (and as otherwise recorded in Part B below).

Signature  Date.....19 April 2024

 DesignationStrategic Director,
 Finance.....

PART B – TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DECISION TAKER FOR:

- 1) All key decisions taken by officers
- 2) Any non-key decisions that are sufficiently important and/or sensitive that a reasonable member of the public would reasonably expect it to be publicly available (see 'FOR DELEGATED DECISIONS' section of the guidance).

1. DECISION(S)
As set out in the recommendations of the report

2. REASONS FOR DECISION
As set out in the report

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED BY THE OFFICER WHEN MAKING THE DECISION
As set out in the report

4. ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY CABINET MEMBER WHO IS CONSULTED BY THE OFFICER WHICH RELATES TO THIS DECISION*

* Contract standing order 6.4.1 states that for contracts with an Estimated Contract Value of £100,000 or more, the lead contract officer (LCO) must consult with the relevant cabinet member before a procurement strategy is implemented.

5. NOTE OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE MONITORING OFFICER, IN RESPECT OF ANY DECLARED CONFLICT OF INTEREST
<i>If a decision taker or cabinet member is unsure as to whether there is a conflict of interest they should contact the legal governance team for advice.</i>

6. DECLARATION ON CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

I declare that I was informed of no conflicts of interests.*

or

I declare that I was informed of the conflicts of interests set out in Part B4.*

(* - Please delete as appropriate)

7. CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO WHETHER, AS A NON-KEY DECISION, THIS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL TEAM FOR PUBLICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 13(4)*

The decision taker should consider whether although a non-key decision, the decision is sufficiently important and/or sensitive that a reasonable member of the public would reasonably expect it to be publicly available. Where there is any doubt, having considered the importance and/or sensitivity of a decision, it should be deemed that Regulation 13(4) would apply.

I consider that the decision be made available for publication under Regulation 13(4).*

or

I do not consider that the decision be made available for publication under Regulation 13(4).*

(* - Please delete as appropriate)

* Under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the council is required to put in place a scheme for recording and publishing some officer executive decisions. This process is sometimes referred to as "Regulation 13(4)".

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background documents	Held At	Contact
Gateway 0 Strategic Options Assessment Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence Services https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/g7680/Public%20reports%20pack%20Tuesday%2005-Dec-2023%2011.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10	Community Safety Partnership Service, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH	Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager
Gateway 3 Variation Decision Domestic Abuse Services (Refuge) G:\CS_P\Safer Communities\VAWG\REFUGE\Refuge GW3 Service extension August 2022\MASTER	Community Safety Partnership Service, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH	Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019 to 2024 - Southwark Council	Community Safety Partnership Service, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH	Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager
Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Delivery Plan 2019-2024 G:\CS_P\Safer Communities\VAWG\VAWG Strategy 2019 – 2024	Community Safety Partnership Service, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH	Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager

APPENDICES

No	Title
Appendix 1	Key Performance Indicators
Appendix 2	EQIA - Violence Against Women and Girls Service Procurement 2024

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	18 April 2024	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
Head of Procurement	Yes	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Contract Review Boards		
Departmental Contract Review Board	Yes	Yes
Corporate Contract Review Board	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		30 April 2024

APPENDIX 1

Key Performance Indicators

Refuge Southwark Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS) Contract - Outputs and Outcomes		
SECTION A: Suvivor Advocacy and Support		
Performance measure	Target for year	Performance Apr to Dec
	expected number 1500 per year, 60% to take up service offer (900)	983
Number referred to the service		
Number of service users previously known to the service	no target set	165
Number of new service users	no target set	527
Number not taken on to caseload (reason provided, declined, unable to contact, inappropriate etc)	no target set	477
Number risk assessed and given advice	65% of referrals	398
Number with an agreed safety plan	no target set	576
% whose risk of harm has been reduced upon exiting the service.	100%	77%
% who experience a reduction in the impact of the abuse on exiting the service	70%	41%
% who feel less frightened on exiting the service	85%	71%
% whose quality of life has improved on exiting the service	90%	69%
% who feel more confident in accessing support on exiting the service	95%	75%
Duration of support provided	no target set	15
Number who are involved with service development.	no target set	69
SECTION B: Suvivor Counselling Service		
Performance measure	Target	Performance Apr to Dec
Number of counselling referrals received	no target set	209
Number who complete 6-16 weeks of counselling programme	53	43
% reporting feeling more able to identify the early signs of domestic abuse in future relationships	90%	93%
% reporting increased sense of emotional health/wellbeing	90%	96%
% reporting reduced repeat victimisation	90%	93%
% reporting they feel safer	90%	93%
SECTION C: Survivor Group Programmes		
Performance measure	Target	Performance Apr to Dec
Number of survivors attending 'Own My Life' programme	40	31
% service users reporting improved emotional health/well-being	75%	67%
% service users reporting better understanding of the nature of domestic abuse	85%	67%
% service users report better understanding of the impacts of domestic abuse on themselves and any children	85%	67%
SECTION D: Child Therapeutic Programme		
Performance measure	Target	Performance
Number of referrals received	25	40
Number of children who commence therapy programme	no target set	11
Number who complete 12 week Therapy programme	20	17
% of children who have increased sense of safety and how to keep safe	90%	100%
% of children who have increased confidence and are able to talk about how they feel.	100%	100%
SECTION E: Sanctuary Scheme		
Performance measure	Target	Performance Apr to Dec
Number of sanctuary referrals received	no target set	99
Number with sanctuary assessment completed	no target set	76
Number assessed as not appropriate for sanctuary with reasons	no target set	8
% of survivors provided with security improvement works that have been completed (where required)	no target set	76
% of target hardening/Sanctuary requests completed within five working days of referral	90%	74%
SECTION F: Iris Programme		
Performance measure	Target	Performance Apr to Dec
% of all service referrals come from GPs	no target set	4%
% referrals where AE provides feedback to referrer	100%	100%
% patients referred who engaged with support	80%	50%
Number of referrals from GP surgeries (total)	no target set	38
Number of referrals from IRIS trained GP surgeries	100	34
Number of IRIS trained GP surgeries making referrals	25	11
Number of survivors supported by advocate educator	35	20
Number of promotional activities undertaken	24	7
Number of training sessions delivered (full and/or re-training)	18	1

SECTION G: Homelessness IDVA Service		
Performance measure	Target	Performance Apr to Dec
Number of referrals received	no target set	113
Number of risk assessments completed	no target set	72
Number of advice and recommendations given to housing solutions including any areas of risk for Housing Solutions	no target set	69
Number with an agreed safety plan	no target set	72
Number referred to Refuges	no target set	8
Number referred and accepted for Sanctuary scheme	no target set	3
Number of safeguarding referrals	no target set	4
Southwark Housing Solutions receive update on client within 48 hours	100%	52%
% of clients who engage with the homelessness IDVA are given information about options in relation to domestic abuse	100%	63%
SECTION H: Training Programme		
Performance measure	Target	Performance Apr to Dec
Number of awareness raising sessions delivered in Southwark	20	12
% of training / awareness raising attendees demonstrate increased understanding of DA following training	80%	100.0%
SECTION J: Supported Accommodation		
Performance measure	Target	Performance Apr to Dec
Number of referrals received	no target set	174
Number commencing residence (adults and children)	45	33
% with risk assessment completed within 3 days of entry	100%	91%
% with agreed support plan in place	100%	94%
Number of women departing in period	no target set	5
Average length of stay	<26 weeks	25
% of clients who experience a reduced risk upon exiting the service (planned exits)	80%	73%
% reporting they feel safer on exit (compared to entry)	80%	67%
% reporting their quality of life has improved on exit (compared to entry)	90%	60%
% reporting they feel confident in knowing how to access help	100%	60%
% reporting they can support their children and themselves with issues of contact and residence (for those who identify this as a need)	90%	0
% reporting they can address theirs and their children's health. (for those who identify this as a need)	90%	50%
% clients supported to find new safe accommodation	100%	100%
% clients moving on from refuge accommodation within 6 months	90%	67%
% clients moving on in a planned way	90%	100%
% Unplanned exits (with reason)	no target set	0%

APPENDIX 2

Equality Impact Assessment

Section 1: Equality analysis details

Proposed policy/decision/business plan to which this equality analysis relates		Violence Against Women and Girls Service Procurement 2024			
Equality analysis author		Sharon Ogden – Safer Communities Team Manager			
Strategic Director:		Toni Ainge			
Department		Environment, Neighbourhoods, and Growth	Division		Stronger Neighbourhoods
Period analysis undertaken		2022-2023			
Date of review (if applicable)					
Sign-off		Position		Date	

Section 2: Brief description of policy/decision/business plan

1.1 Brief description of policy/decision/business plan
<p>The council and its partners have recognised violence against women and girls (VAWG) including domestic abuse (DA) as a priority for many years and it is a fairer future commitment to tackle all forms of gender-based violence.</p> <p>In 2015, Southwark developed a five year Domestic Abuse (DA) Strategy. In 2019, this was replaced with a five year VAWG Strategy in recognition of the need to deliver a partnership response to all areas of gender based violence, not only domestic abuse. These include harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and honour based violence as well as sexual harassment and stalking.</p> <p>The Council’s main DA support is commissioned through the Southwark Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS), delivered by Refuge. The service provides; Refuge accommodation, Survivor advocacy and support, Sanctuary scheme, Child therapeutic service, Counselling, Survivor group work programme, Community training and awareness raising.</p> <p>Other domestic abuse services by the council include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YUVA - service for young people using or experiencing violence in close relationships • IRIS – additional GP support and training in 25 surgeries in Southwark <p>The Council’s DA Service contract with Refuge is due to end on in August 2024. Proposals are currently being developed (including extension of the Refuge contract until November 2025) for a new transformational VAWG service. This EQIA will support the re-commissioning process.</p> <p><u>Local Picture</u></p> <p>Southwark’s current response to VAWG is weighted toward domestic abuse (DA). This is a proportionate response as DA is the volume crime and Southwark had the 12th highest volume of recorded DA offences in London in 2023.</p>

In the 12 months from January 2023 to December 2023 Southwark was the 12th highest ranked London borough with 2,962 DA offences recorded. This compares to being ranked 15th with 2,933 for the same period the previous year, a slight increase of 1%.

Our commissioned DA service received 983 referrals for the April 2023-December 2023 period, and is estimated to result in 1310 referrals by the end of the financial year.

There were 174 referrals to Refuge for supported accommodation for the April 2023-December 2023 period and is estimated to result in 232 referrals by the end of the financial year.

When looking at levels of sexual offences (excluding DA) in Southwark, in the 12 months from January 2023 to December 2023 Southwark were the 7th highest ranked London borough with 607 offences recorded. This compares to being ranked 5th with 706 offences for the same period the previous year, a decrease of 14%.

Section 3: Overview of service users and key stakeholders consulted

2. Service users and stakeholders	
Key users of the department or service	<p>Individuals affected by domestic abuse crimes which disproportionately affect women and girls.</p> <p>In addition, our commissioned service provides a child therapeutic support programme, which is expected to receive 20-25 cases per year, for the current year (April-December 2023) this currently stands at 40 and may result in over 50 referrals by the end of the year.</p> <p>Those being supported by Refuge with supported accommodation with the current FYTD (April-December 2023) seeing 174 referrals and a projection of 232 by the end of the financial year.</p>
Key stakeholders were/are involved in this policy/decision/business plan	<p>In developing proposals for a new service model, officers have undertaken a considerable amount of desk top research and consultation with stakeholders, professionals, and service users. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of VAWG Strategic Needs Assessment • Online Stakeholder questionnaire and individual conversations. • Stakeholder engagement events • Formation of an Expert by Experience Panel • Service Design working group established <p>Service users also provided their views on existing service provision and improvements that could be made to the support available.</p>

Section 4: Pre-implementation equality analysis

This section considers the potential impacts (positive and negative) on groups with 'protected characteristics', the equality information on which this analysis is based and any mitigating actions to be taken.

The first column on the left is for societal and economic issues (discrimination, higher poverty levels) and the second column on the right for health issues, physical and mental. As the two aspects are heavily interrelated it may not be practical to fill out both columns on all protected

characteristics. The aim is, however, to ensure that health is given special consideration, as it is the council’s declared intention to reduce health inequalities in the borough. The Public Health Team can assist with research and data.

Age - Where this is referred to, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (e.g. 32 year olds) or range of ages (e.g. 18 - 30 year olds).	
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential health impacts (positive and negative)
<p>DA affects people of all age groups including unborn children who are also at risk of harm, through acts of abuse directed at their mothers.</p> <p>The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending March 2023¹ showed that a significantly higher proportion of people aged 16 to 19 years were victims of any domestic abuse (8.0%) compared with other age groups nationally.</p> <p>Police crime data for Southwark² infers that the largest victim age group for DA offences is 25-34 year olds with 27% of all DA victims. This is mirrored with the council’s commissioned DA services with 32% of service users respectively. 24% of the Southwark population is 25 – 34 years, which compared to the commissioned DA service data suggests that this age group is slightly over represented.</p> <p>16% of the population of Southwark are aged 35 –44 years. When looking at DA survivors accessing our DA service 28% fall into his age bracket and are overrepresented.</p> <p>An identified gap exists in relation to people over the age of 50 accessing our service; 12% of service users (July 2020 to June 2021) accessing survivor support fall in this age group compared to a population group size of 24%. Not all safe accommodation is suitable for this age group with additional needs; support plan in place, dementia. Some Elderly individuals also find it more difficult to access online information and support.</p> <p>These disparities will be considered when commissioning a new DA service to ensure that any future provision provides appropriate support and is accessible across all age ranges. It is also important to acknowledge that following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 children are now recognised as ‘victims’ of domestic abuse if they witness (see/hear) incidents of violence in the home and elsewhere. This will be considered in future service delivery responses including wraparound services for survivors and their family.</p>	<p>DA involving elderly victims can be misrepresented as ‘elder abuse’. By ensuring that any new service is appropriate for all ages and targeted awareness raising of the new service when it starts we will be better placed to support elderly victims of DA, improving health outcomes.</p>

¹ Crime Survey for England and Wales year ending March 2023

² LA Analyst Police Data (BOX) – Jan 2023 – Dec 2023

Equality information on which above analysis is based	Health data on which above analysis is based
LA Analyst Police Data (BOX): Jan 2023 – Dec 2023 LB Southwark Commissioned Services Data 2023/24 ONS Census 2021	Domestic Homicide Reviews
Mitigating actions to be taken	
<p>All age groups are at risk of DA any future commissioned service must be accessible to all and able to work across age ranges to identify and support those at risk of harm. Once the new service is launched targeted work will be developed to promote the service too hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021.</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced children as ‘victims’ of DA if they witness an event (see/hear). A multi-agency working group has been established to discuss what this means to services and change required.</p>	<p>The health needs assessment which took place in 2017 did not look at this area. It is recommended that this area be included in any future assessments particularly in relation to support for older victims.</p>

Disability - A person has a disability if s/he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.	
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential health impacts (positive and negative)
<p>National research highlights that people with long term illness disabled women are at a higher risk of victimisation than people without. Individuals with a learning disability are 3x more likely to experience DA³.</p> <p>DA is often not recognised or considered by professionals as engagement is often overshadowed by other needs of the individual.</p> <p>The 2021 Census collected information on residents’ disability status, with over 42,000 Southwark residents (14%) recording a disability. This is a similar proportion to London but slightly less than the national average of 17%. Almost a quarter of households (33,000) had at least one resident with a disability⁴.</p>	<p>Women who experience intimate partner violence have more health needs and seek health services more frequently than the general population, and their use of these services rises as the frequency and severity of violence increases⁶. This includes mental health, mild and Serious mental illnesses; depression, fear, anxiety, sexual dysfunction, obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide.</p> <p>Local service data indicates that 13% of survivors accessing the councils commissioned DA service for the period</p>

³ Office of National Statistics 2021

⁴ Southwark Annual JSNA 2023

⁶ (2014) European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Violence against women: an EU-wide survey

Southwark commissioned service user data for the councils commissioned DA service shows that 27% of service users (April 2023-December 2023) indicated that they have some form of disability ⁵ and indicates an overrepresentation compared to the 2021 census.	<p>April 2023 to December 2023 had mental health issues. This includes having experienced significant trauma and living with ongoing anxiety and posttraumatic distress.</p> <p>Trauma also affects children exposed to DA⁷, which is well documented. The councils commissioned DA service includes child therapeutic support for children of survivors accessing the service. Approximately 25 children are supported by this service every year.</p>
Equality information on which above analysis is based	Health data on which above analysis is based
ONS Census 2021/ Southwark Annual JSNA 2023 LB Southwark Commissioned Services Data 2023/24	LB Southwark Commissioned Services Data 2023/24 LB Southwark Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission
Mitigating actions to be taken	
<p>Individuals with a disability will be considered in the procurement of a new DA service to ensure that the service is accessible to all (physical and digital) and that appropriate support is made available to meet their needs such as mental health.</p> <p>Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021</p>	

Gender reassignment - The process of transitioning from one gender to another.	
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential health impacts (positive and negative)
<p>The Councils VAWG Strategy published in 2019 acknowledges the needs of transgender people, how they define their gender and choose services that are appropriate to their needs. We are aware that there may be under reporting from the transgender community.</p> <p>Transgender identify can be used to further abuse and cohesive control behaviour.</p> <p>Gender reassignment is not currently captured in Police offence data, council DA commissioned service data,</p>	None identified

⁵ Mental health, physical disability, undisclosed – diagnosed and undiagnosed

⁷ Domestic Abuse in Families Scrutiny Review Report April 2022

and by the DA MARAC. The complete picture is therefore unknown, anecdotally frontline practitioners don't report many service users in this category.	
Equality information on which above analysis is based.	Health data on which above analysis is based
VAWG Strategy 2019 - 2024	
Mitigating actions to be taken	
<p>Improve service data capture and collection.</p> <p>Service need for the LGBTQ+ community will be considered in the procurement of a new DA service to ensure that the service is accessible to all and that appropriate support is made available to meet the needs of this group.</p> <p>Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021</p>	
<p>Marriage and civil partnership – In England and Wales marriage is no longer restricted to a union between a man and a woman but now includes a marriage between a same-sex couple. Same-sex couples can also have their relationships legally recognised as 'civil partnerships'. Civil partners must not be treated less favourably than married couples and must be treated the same as married couples on a wide range of legal matters. (Only to be considered in respect to the need to eliminate discrimination.)</p>	
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential health impacts (positive and negative)
<p>The council's commissioned DA service seeks to support all people regardless of marital status. However, for some, marriage is synonymous with abuse specifically Forced marriage where the victim is often subjected to sexual violence and rape.</p> <p>Current service provision in Southwark remains the same regardless of marital status, It is known that individuals, particularly women, living in couples (married or cohabiting) or who have decided to separate from their partners are more likely to be a victims of domestic abuse. Relationship breakdown is identified as a significant indicator of risk in homicide reviews.</p> <p>Economic and financial control can be used as a means of domestic abuse by a perpetrator against their partner. This can be included making the victim/survivor reliant on them by controlling all access to money, reducing economic independence and options to leave the relationship. This can also be used as a tool in relation to housing tenancy arrangements.</p>	None identified

Commissioned service data for Southwark indicated that 37% of referrals received from April 2023-December 2023 were categorised as the survivor being single. 15% were categorised as married. 33% had unknown information.	
Equality information on which above analysis is based	Health data on which above analysis is based
LB Southwark Commissioned Services Data 2023/24	
Mitigating actions to be taken	
Relationship status is not a factor in accessing DA support. The councils DA service and any future service will not discriminate in this area. Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021	
Pregnancy and maternity - Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth, and this includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.	
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential health impacts (positive and negative)
This is a high risk group in relation to domestic abuse with pregnancy and maternity being a significant risk factor for victimisation. There is an ongoing need for capacity in maternity and both pre and post-natal services to identify risks and refer appropriately to relevant support services.	Community Child Services; including community midwifery, health visitors etc. have a high awareness of DA with routine enquiry embedded in services. Services are aware and know how to make referrals to the councils DA service
Equality information on which above analysis is based	Health data on which above analysis is based
Home Office VAWG EIA. 2011	Domestic Abuse JSNA
Mitigating actions to be taken	
The heightened risk of DA when pregnant is already recognised by our DA service which is considered an additional risk factor during initial assessment. This recognition of heightened risk will continue in any new service that is procured ensuring that the right support is provided with appropriate links to maternity services. Encourage professional curiosity maternity health care professionals.	As an identified high risk area maternity services to be included in future health needs assessments (JSNA).

Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021	
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<p>Race - Refers to the protected characteristic of Race. It refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins. N.B. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller are recognised racial groups and their needs should be considered alongside all others</p>	
<p>Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan</p>	<p>Potential health impacts (positive and negative)</p>
<p>Southwark is a diverse borough with residents from a wide range of ethnicities and backgrounds. Data from the 2021 Census shows that 51% of people living in Southwark have a White ethnic background compared to 81% nationally. Just over a third (36%) of residents identify as 'White: English, British, Welsh, Scottish or Northern Irish' ethnicity. The largest ethnic group other than White is 'Black, Black British, Caribbean or African', with one-quarter (25%) of Southwark residents reporting this as their ethnicity compared to only 14% of residents across London and 4% of residents nationally. Almost one-fifth (16%) reported 'African' ethnicity and 6% reported a 'Caribbean' ethnicity⁸.</p> <p>Police domestic abuse offence data for 2022/23 indicates that 45% of victims were white, similar to the previous year. The proportion of black victims is increasing, and at 32% in 2022/23 suggests they are over-represented as victims when compared to the population of Southwark (25%). Asian victims are also increasing however their proportion remains below that of the Southwark population (10%). Data for the first half of 2023/24 suggests DA victims of black and Asian ethnicity continue to increase in prominence⁹.</p> <p>Of the 231 cases discussed at the DA MARAC during 2022 of the 182 records for which ethnicity was recorded 33%, 60 were identified as from a black ethnic community. 50%, 91 identified as white. Less than 1% were Asian.</p> <p>Outside of DA some forms of broader gender based violence affect specific communities BAME groups more significantly, this includes; Dowry crime; Honour Based Violence; Female Genital Mutilation; Forced Marriage.</p> <p>It is recognised that there will be under reporting of DA by some ethnic groups due to language barriers, which also inhibit accessing services. This is compounded by unsurety on what services they can access and for some individuals additional barriers in relation to 'trusting' the</p>	<p>None identified</p>

⁸ Southwark Annual JSNA 2023

⁹ Source: MPS Crime System CRIS Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs) only, where flags DI, DV and DX are applied. Asian includes Police IC codes IC4 (Asian) and IC5 (Oriental)

Police and other statutory services if recently arrived from another country.	
Equality information on which above analysis is based	Health data on which above analysis is based
ONS Census 2021/Southwark Annual JSNA 2023 MPS Crime System CRIS Southwark MARAC data 2022 LB Southwark Commissioned Services Data 2023/24	
Mitigating actions to be taken	
We are committed to supporting all survivors of DA violence. Southwark will need to ensure that any new DA service will be accessible and support the diverse community and culture of Southwark's residents. Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021	
Religion and belief - Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.	
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential health impacts (positive and negative)
Information that could be useful for strategic analysis and service provision is currently underdeveloped in Southwark. Qualitative research shows that individuals with particular religious beliefs are more likely to be victims of certain forms of hate crime, However, there is a strong correlation between some forms of gender violence with a belief in spirit possession. This was evident in the 2010 murder of Kristy Bamu in Newham. Highlighting some aspects of inter family violence that are often misunderstood. Using Islam as tool to silencing survivors, attitudes towards divorce, not homogenised culture Information on religion and belief is captured for service users accessing the councils DA service. For the April 2023 – December 2023 period, 22% stated they were Christian, 9% Muslim. 17% stated they had no religion, 7% stated they did not know and 1% declined to answer.42% were not asked their religion status. By comparison, the 2021 census identified 43% to be Christian, 36% no religion and 10% Muslim. Showing an underrepresentation in DA services for the Christian population of Southwark.	None identified

Equality information on which above analysis is based	Health data on which above analysis is based
LB Southwark Commissioned Services Data 2023/24 ONS Census 2021	
Mitigating actions to be taken	
We are committed to supporting all survivors of DA violence. Southwark will need to ensure that any new DA service will be accessible and support the diverse community and culture of Southwark's residents. Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021	

Sex - A man or a woman.	
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential health impacts (positive and negative)
Both men and women can be victims and/or perpetrators of DA. However, it is the disproportionate number of women whom are victims that impact on gender inequality and is the reason the majority of our response must reflect needs for services for the impact of violence on women. For the period April 2023 to December 2023, 92% of survivor service users in our commissioned service identified as female. This is similar to our DA MARAC with 91% of cases identifying as female. When looking at local Police crime data 73% of victims were female, 27% male. This suggests that there is an underrepresentation of males referred to the councils DA service. There could be a number of reasons for this for example a belief that the service is not suitable for them? Less willingness to show vulnerability?	See section on pregnancy and maternity.
Equality information on which above analysis is based	Health data on which above analysis is based
LB Southwark Commissioned Services Data 2023/24 LA Analyst Police Data (BOX): Jan 2023 – Dec 2023 MARAC data 2022	
Mitigating actions to be taken	

<p>There is a disparity between proportion of males recorded as a victim in Police recorded DA offences and the proportion accessing the council DA service. This needs to be explored further the findings of which can then be incorporated into the new service commissioning.</p> <p>Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021</p>	<p>It is recommended that the disparity between representation of males in Police Crime data and local service data is explored in any future health needs assessment (JSNA).</p>
<p>Sexual orientation - Whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes</p>	
<p>Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan</p>	<p>Potential health impacts (positive and negative)</p>
<p>There is minimal data available the sexual orientation of victims or perpetrators of gender based violence. It is widely recognised that this group faces additional barriers in accessing suitable services.</p> <p>Data from our domestic abuse commissioned service confirms that 3% of service users/victims identified themselves as belonging to a LGBTQ+ group. This level was similar to cases discussed at the DA MARAC for which 4% (12) of cases identified as LGBTQ+. These levels are compared to a population level in Southwark of approximately 8% LGBTQ+.</p> <p>The councils DA service is open to all including support for the LGBTQ+ community and whilst there is no dedicated LGBTQ+ service for DA victims in Southwark. There are a number of regional services who specialise in supporting this community for which referrals can be made.</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>Equality information on which above analysis is based</p>	<p>Health data on which above analysis is based</p>
<p>Southwark Annual JSNA 2023 LB Southwark Commissioned Services Data 2023/24 MARAC data 2022</p>	
<p>Mitigating actions to be taken</p>	
<p>We are committed to supporting all survivors of DA violence. Southwark will need to ensure that any new DA service will be accessible and support the diverse community and culture of Southwark's residents.</p> <p>Ensure Safe Accommodation rights and access meet DLUHC Quality Standards as set out in the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2021</p>	

<p>Socio-economic disadvantage – although the Equality Act 2010 does not include socio-economic status as one of the protected characteristics, Southwark Council recognises that this continues to be a major cause of inequality in the borough. Socio economic status is the measure of an area’s, an individual's or family’s economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, health, living conditions and occupation.</p>	
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan	Potential health impacts (positive and negative)
<p>Southwark is the 43rd most deprived LA in the country (out of 317 local authorities). While Southwark has seen an improvement in its ranking compared to other local authorities in England, the borough remains one of the most deprived in the country¹⁰.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 21% of Southwark’s population live in communities ranked within the most deprived nationally. This increases to 23% among those aged under 18. • Levels of health deprivation in the borough are mixed, with pockets spread across Southwark • More than a third of residents live in communities ranked in the most crime deprived in England • There are high levels of deprivation relating to barriers to housing and services across Southwark • There are high levels of deprivation relating to the living environment across the borough <p>The demographics of Southwark means there are relatively high levels of vulnerability within the borough’s population including high levels of mental health and substance misuse as well as those with language support needs. Victims with additional vulnerabilities have more barriers to seeking help.</p> <p>This also includes financial barriers, for example some protection measures such as a non-molestation order incur costs which will may inhibit those with low incomes pursuing.</p> <p>We work closely with specialist organisations to support other groups who are less likely to seek help including no recourse to public funds and those experiencing multiple disadvantage (homelessness, complex drug and alcohol use, offending, sex work and mental health issues).</p> <p>Those single women with the status of No Recourse to Public Funds are a particular group that are disadvantaged and have significant challenges to access support to safety. Although the Police will respond to incidents and cases are referred to MARAC for safety planning. Due to their immigration status this group have limited eligibility for public funds and associated support.</p>	

¹⁰ JSNA Annual Report 2023

The Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime has identified low income as a driver for gender based violence including DA. Information from Southwark's Strategic Assessment highlights Camberwell Green and Peckham as areas with higher levels of domestic abuse.	
Equality information on which above analysis is based	Health data on which above analysis is based
Southwark Annual JSNA 2023 Data from Southwark PAUSE	
Mitigating actions to be taken	
Socio economic status characteristics can be a barrier for individuals accessing services. These needs to be considered in the commissioning of the councils new DA service to ensure that the service is accessible to all. There is also a need to ensure connectivity between commissioned services and the specialist support services working with communities and those with multiple disadvantages. This includes ensuring that NRPF clients are able to access services and are supported. This may include referring to specialist NRPF services outside the council for support.	

Human Rights There are 16 rights in the Human Rights Act. Each one is called an Article. They are all taken from the European Convention on Human Rights. The Articles are The right to life, Freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, Freedom from forced labour , Right to Liberty, Fair trial, Retrospective penalties, Privacy, Freedom of conscience, Freedom of expression, Freedom of assembly, Marriage and family, Freedom from discrimination and the First Protocol
Potential impacts (positive and negative) of proposed policy/decision/business plan
VAWG including DA is a cause and effect of gender inequality. There are no negative impacts for the Council in coming into line with national and regional policy. It can only enhance the Councils Public Equality Duty.
Information on which above analysis is based
World Health Organisation 2017
Mitigating actions to be taken
VAWG including DA is already recognised as priority for the council and partners and has been for many years. This is supported by the council's 5 year VAWG Strategy. The recommissioning of the council DA service will further enhance support to individuals in this important area.

Section 5: Further actions and objectives

5. Further actions

Based on the initial analysis above, please detail the key mitigating actions or the areas identified as requiring more detailed analysis.

Number	Description of issue	Action	Timeframe
1	Under representation of older victims of DA accessing DA services	Further analysis to identify why this is the case and how we can improve referral rates for this age group	To be considered in recommissioning of new VAWG Service(s)
2	Pregnancy is identified as being a time of high risk for DA	Review of services approach particularly health including maternity services	To be considered in recommissioning of new VAWG Service(s)
3	Police crime data has suggested that over a quarter of victims for DA offences are recorded as male, which is not reflected in DA service user data	Further analysis required to look into this area to identify why this is the case.	To be considered in recommissioning of new VAWG Service(s)

5. Equality objectives (for business plans)

Based on the initial analysis above, please detail any equality objectives that you will set for your division/department/service. Under the objective and measure column please state whether this objective is an existing objective or a suggested addition to the Council Plan.

Objective and measure	Lead officer	Current performance (baseline)	Targets	
			Year 1	Year 2

5. Health objectives (for business plans)

Based on the initial analysis above, please detail any health objectives that you will set for your division/department/service. Under the objective and measure column please state whether this objective is an existing objective or a suggested addition to the Council Plan.

Objective and measure	Lead officer	Current performance (baseline)	Targets	
			Year 1	Year 2