

Report to: EXECUTIVE CABINET

Date: 29 March 2023

Executive Member: Cllr Eleanor Wills – Executive Member (Health)

Reporting Officer: Debbie Watson, Director of Population Health

Subject: DOMESTIC ABUSE COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS

Report Summary:

Domestic abuse continues to be a growing issue in Tameside with data highlighting that the number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police increased from 4424 in 2019/20 to 5409 in 2021/22 (22%). This is further echoed by the increases seen by Children's Social Care whereby referrals relating to domestic abuse rose from 1850 in 2019/20 to 3222 in 2021/22 (74%).

Reducing Domestic Abuse is a key objective in the Corporate plan and the Local Authority currently commits £506,818 annually to the delivery of domestic abuse support in Tameside, which funds the core contract provided by Jigsaw Support, delivering the Bridges service. This is enhanced by the Women and Families centre at a cost of £112,000 per year, which is also provided by Jigsaw Support. Both contracts are due to end on 31st March 2024 and will be subject of a re-commissioning exercise in 2023, with new contracts due to begin on 1 April 2024. In addition the Council receives an annual Domestic Abuse grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to deliver against statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, specifically safe accommodation.

The report sets out the intentions to re-commission the domestic abuse response in Tameside from 1 April 2024, taking into consideration statutory requirements, national learning and recommendations, and stakeholder feedback.

Furthermore, the report outlines the commissioning intentions for 2023/24 in line with the statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Recommendations:

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agreed:

- (i) That approval be given for a total of £5,035,101.05 (£1,007,020.21) per year) to be allocated from ring-fenced domestic abuse grant and core budget for the recommissioning of the Domestic Abuse Support Service for a 5-year contract, with the option of extending up to a further 5-years (optional extension of contract will be pending full formal review of service outcomes in Year 3)
- (ii) That approval be given to go out to procure the Domestic Abuse Support Service for Tameside
- (iii) Delegation is given to the Director of Population Health in consultation with the Director of Finance to award the contract following the completion of a compliant competitive procurement exercise;
- (iv) That approval be given to undertake the necessary procurement exercises including award and other necessary arrangements in order to deliver the commissioning intentions for 2023/24 as set out in section 3 of the report.

Corporate Plan:	The proposed activities directly support the delivery of the objective to reduce victims of domestic abuse under the priority 'Nurturing Communities' in the Corporate Plan.
Policy Implications:	As set out in the report.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	<p>The council have a total expenditure budget for Domestic Abuse in 2023/24 of £1,286,835 along with a forecast transfer to reserves in 2022/23 period 10 monitoring of £281,058. This relates to a Domestic Abuse Transformation Fund, to carry forward into 2023/24. This paper outlines the spend and commissioning intentions for the 2023/24 financial year based on the total budget and reserve amounts above. Any reduction to the amount available to transfer to reserve in 2022/23 will need to be taken into account when commissioning the services detailed in section 3 of the report below.</p> <p>Any commissioned services detailed in section 3.2 of the report will need to go through the appropriate procurement route to ensure that the council are receiving best value for money.</p> <p>The service are also requesting approval for the recommissioning of the Domestic Abuse Support Service for 5 years 2024/25 – 2028/29. While the Domestic Abuse Grant has been confirmed until 2024/25 no further confirmation has been received on future year's grants. The service need to take this into account when commissioning services and ensure that appropriate break clauses are included. This will ensure that the commissioned services can be withdrawn in the event that the grant ceases or reduces to avoid any financial impact on the council.</p> <p>Any uplift in commissioned contract values due to inflation or other reasons would need to be taken into account when commissioning contracts and ensure that there is sufficient funding available within the amount stated in point 2.14 of the report.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 sets out the council's duties to combat domestic violence and to support victims.</p> <p>This report is seeking approval for the procurement of the main service delivery contract together with other incidental contracts and other service provisions as set out in section 3 of the report.</p> <p>The project officers will be engaging with STaR procurement to ensure that compliant procurement exercises are undertaken where appropriate and advice will also be sought from human resources in relation to any fixed term contracts of employment.</p>
Risk Management:	The programme described in the paper delivers on duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Risks to the effective delivery of the domestic abuse programme are identified, managed and mitigated by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Lisa Morris, Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager



Telephone: 07980906027



e-mail: lisa.morris@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2021, following the completion of an independent needs assessment, Tameside's multi-agency [Domestic Abuse Strategy \(2021 – 2026\)](#) was published. This sets out seven key ambitions for the borough:
- Making domestic abuse everybody's business
 - Creating safe spaces for disclosures
 - Meeting the needs of victims through local services
 - Helping victim-survivors stay safe at home
 - Better outcomes for children impacted by domestic abuse
 - Identifying problem behaviours early
 - Holding perpetrators accountable
- 1.2 The Domestic Abuse Strategy (2021 – 2026) also included our statutory strategy to provide accommodation based support services. The Tameside Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation strategy is a three tiered response:
- Better support victim-survivors to stay in their own homes with support and safety measures in place
 - Improve outcomes for those who approach our homelessness service as victims of domestic abuse
 - Strengthen and diversify our offer for those who require specialist domestic abuse accommodation
- 1.3 Tackling Domestic Abuse is a key priority for TMBC and the Council commissions a domestic abuse support service in Tameside at an annual cost of £506,818, which is from core council funding. This contract is due to end on 31 March 2024 and will be subject to a re-commissioning exercise in the preceding months to ensure an effective service is in place on 01 April 2024.
- 1.4 The Women and Families Centre provides holistic support for women and their children who have experienced domestic abuse, mental health issues and substance misuse, recognising that these areas often overlap and the impact that this can have on the women and their children. In 2022/23, approval was given to extend the Women and Families Centre contract 6 months to 31 March 2024 to align it with the Domestic Abuse Service contract, with the intention of integrating the commissioning of these services to enable a systemic and more coordinated support offer.
- 1.5 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 resulted in new duties for local authorities. This included establishing a local domestic abuse partnership board, a statutory duty to conduct a domestic abuse needs assessment and new duties to provide accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- 1.6 In 2022/23 TMBC was awarded £549,143 in grant funding to meet our new duties. This year our funding allocation has increased to £560,128 for 2023/24.
- 1.7 The funding is recurrent and future grant determinations will be decided in the government's Spending Review each year. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has provided assurance to the Council that the statutory duty will be funded in future years, and they have provided confirmation of 2024/25 funding at £570,696.
- 1.8 In April 2021, TMBC signed a memorandum of understanding with DLUHC on how the Council would spend this additional funding, confirming that the funding would be treated as an uplift to support victims of domestic abuse in the borough in addition to current investment.
- 1.9 Greater Manchester Combined Authority has also committed £41,066 per year for the provision of a medium risk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA). The grant

agreement for this role is in place until 31 March 2025 and was approved as a variation to the core Domestic Abuse Service contract.

- 1.10 This report is seeking approval to go out to tender for the borough-wide Domestic Abuse Support Service to commence from 01 April 2024 for a period of 5-years plus the option of a further 5-year extension, and to award the contract to the successful bidder following the tender process.
- 1.11 The report is also seeking approval for 1-year commissioning intentions for 2023/2024 in order to allocate our ring-fenced grant to meet our duties under the Domestic Abuse Act and continue to deliver on the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2026.

2. COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS FOR THE CORE DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE FOR TAMESIDE 2024/25-2028/29 (5-YEARS)

- 2.1 Domestic abuse continues to be a growing issue in Tameside with data highlighting that the number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police increased from 4424 in 2019/20 to 5409 in 2021/22 (22%). This is further echoed by the increases seen by Children's Social Care whereby referrals relating to domestic abuse rose from 1850 in 2019/20 to 3222 in 2021/22 (74%).
- 2.2 Nationally, domestic abuse affects over two million people a year, causes the deaths of over 100 people per year and costs society an estimated £74 billion per year (an average of £37,000 per person).
- 2.3 The introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 brought with it key statutory duties for Local Authorities and their partners recognising the devastating impact that domestic abuse has on families and wider society. Key to tackling domestic abuse is a focus on:
 - prevention by raising awareness and challenging harmful attitudes and beliefs
 - ensuring the provision of high quality support for victims and survivors
 - engaging with perpetrators and holding them to account.
- 2.4 The Local Authority currently commits £506,818 annually to the delivery of domestic abuse support in Tameside, which funds the core contract provided by Jigsaw Support, delivering the Bridges service. This is enhanced by the Women and Families centre at a cost of £112,000 per year, which is also provided by Jigsaw Support. Both contracts are due to end on 31st March 2024 and will be subject of a re-commissioning exercise in 2023, with new contracts due to begin on 1 April 2024.
- 2.5 The local model will be developed based on our local needs assessments, statutory duties and in accordance with public and stakeholder consultation, which began on 20 February 2023 and will run until May 2023, providing opportunities for victims, survivors, children/young people, perpetrators, professionals, community groups and members of the public to feedback on the design of the local offer.

Outline model

- 2.6 In consultation with victims, survivors, violence against women and girls (VAWG) sector specialists, Police and Crime Commissioners, NHS and Local Authorities, the Home Office has published a [National Statement of Expectations for Commissioning Violence Against Women and Girls Services](#).

Within the national statement of expectations, it makes clear that local services and strategies should:

- Put the victim/survivor at the centre of service design and delivery
- Have a clear focus on perpetrators in order to keep victims and survivors safe

- Take a strategic, system wide approach to commissioning, acknowledging the gendered nature of VAWG
- Be locally led and safeguard individuals at every point.

2.6 An effective support offer recognises that domestic abuse can affect anyone, irrelevant of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion or sexuality and acknowledges that often domestic abuse does not exist in isolation with victims, survivors and perpetrators experiencing multiple disadvantage.

2.7 According to the findings from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Mapping of Domestic Abuse Services across England & Wales,¹ the majority of victims and survivors wanted to be able to access community-based services that offer both practical advice as well as support to help them cope and recover from the abuse, including counselling and therapeutic support.

2.8 Furthermore, victims and survivors stated that support needed to be available from a much earlier stage rather than the current crisis response that most experienced. Those from minoritised communities added that they wanted to be able to access specialised support that was delivered "by and for" their own communities, recognising the skills and knowledge that local community and voluntary organisations have often built up via direct work in the local area.

2.9 Taking into consideration the statutory requirements and findings from the commissioner's report and best practice we would expect a core minimum support offer for Tameside to include:

- Sufficient, local safe accommodation, including refuge, dispersed accommodation, sanctuary and target hardening and appropriate move on accommodation
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) to support cases that are assessed as high risk of serious harm or homicide
- Specialist key workers to support medium and standard risk cases, step down and recovery
- Specialist children and young people's workers
- Specialist support for minoritised communities
- Respect Accredited behaviour change programmes for adult perpetrators and for children using harmful behaviours
- Counselling and therapeutic interventions

2.10 The model that we will seek to commission in Tameside will aim to support a Co-ordinated Community Response (CCR)², addresses prevention, early intervention, crisis, and long-term recovery and safety. CCR brings together agencies including Early Help, Children and Adult Social Care, Education, Health, Police and Housing, recognising the opportunities for co-location (for example within health setting and family hubs) and flexibility across the system enabling a whole system approach to domestic abuse.

Resource allocation

2.11 There is a total annual funding resource of £1,230,613 to support tackling domestic abuse in Tameside from 2024/25.

2.12 TMBC has a commitment to fund the two existing strategic domestic abuse posts based within Population Health at a cost of £123,592.79 in 2024/25. This assumes an uplift of 3%, which has to be met by the DA Grant, however exact salary costs will not be confirmed until closer to the time. The posts are central to the systemic delivery of Tameside Domestic Abuse

¹ [DAC Mapping-Abuse-Suvivors Summary-Report Nov-2022 FA.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](#)

² [In Search of Excellence — Standing Together](#)

Strategy across the Partnership and to ensuring a co-ordinated community response to domestic abuse.

- 2.13 An annual resource of £1,007,020.21 is proposed for the re-commissioning of a specialist domestic abuse support service as outlined at 2.10. A consortia approach would be the recommended model for this service, enabling smaller “by and for” services to be part of any bid and supporting a coordinated and holistic response to victims, survivors and families.
- 2.14 A proposal is made for the remaining £100,000 to be held by Population Health as a Domestic Abuse Transformation fund to support the delivery of the key ambitions of the Domestic Abuse Strategy, primarily “Making Domestic Abuse everyone’s business” and “Identifying Problem Behaviours Early”. These ambitions aim to raise the profile of domestic abuse in Tameside to change the way that it is understood and challenged in our communities enabling problem behaviours to be identified early and appropriate support and interventions to be offered to reduce risk and escalation.
- 2.15 The domestic abuse transformation fund would support the delivery of these ambitions in the following ways:
- Workforce development to ensure professionals are able to recognise and respond to domestic abuse appropriately, including a front line workforce training offer
 - Community engagement and marketing events to support awareness raising across communities but specifically in marginalised communities that may not access mainstream services
 - Education and awareness in schools and colleges to ensure a preventative approach to raise awareness amongst young people about the signs of domestic abuse, gender based violence and how they can challenge and support their peers.

Procurement timeline

- 2.16 The advice from Star is to conduct an open tender process under the light touch regime, on The Chest portal, with the advert going live on 23 August 2023.
- 2.17 Deadline for submissions will be 20 September 2023 with evaluations and interviews being held from this date up to 15 November 2023. A final decision will be made by 23 November 2023.
- 2.18 Providing there isn’t any challenge to the decision the aim will be have contracts signed by 31 January 2024 with a service start date of 1 April 2024.
- 2.19 The report seeks permission to tender the Domestic Abuse Support Service, and Women and Families Centre in Tameside, in accordance with public and stakeholder consultation. For the new contracts to commence on 1 April 2024 for a five year period, plus the option of a five year extension, dependent on a review of the Service during year 3 (2026/27) to ensure adequate performance and outcomes achieved.
- 2.20 The report also seeks permission to award the contract following the completion of a competitive tender exercise, subject to compliance with the Council’s Procurement Standing Orders.
- 2.21 The report seeks permission to maintain a Domestic Abuse Transformation fund to support awareness raising and community engagement activities as part of the key ambitions of the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

3 SUMMARY OF COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS FOR 2023-2024

Resource

3.1 The total resource available for domestic abuse provision in 2023/24 is:

*please note this includes funding for the existing Domestic Abuse and Women and Families Centre contracts (in grey).

Domestic Abuse Act funding 2023/24 (ring-fenced)	
Source	Amount (£)
Core Budget for existing contracts*	618,818
Domestic Abuse Act Grant – Statutory duties	560,128
GMCA – IDVA	61,099
ICB/ NHSE – IRIS project	60,000
Population Health Investment Fund – IRIS project	4,000
Domestic Abuse Transformation Fund	261,058
Total	1,565,103

Summary of DA Act proposals and approach to commissioning 2023/24

3.2 Below is an overview of the specific areas of spend to fulfil existing services and statutory duties under the DA Act for 2023/24. This report is seeking permission to allocate the lines of spend in Table 1 below. Further detail of each element of provision can be found in **Appendix A**.

*please note this includes funding for the existing Domestic Abuse and Women and Families Centre contracts (in grey).

DA Act Budget 2023/24 (restricted)		
<i>Provision</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Delivery mechanism</i>
Core domestic abuse service contract*	£506,818	Contract (Bridges, Jigsaw Support)
Core Women and Families Centre contract*	£112,000	Contract (Jigsaw Support)
Safe Accommodation Team (12 months)	£185,398	Contract variation (Bridges, Jigsaw Support)
Accommodation based support – DA recovery service (6 months from September 23 to March 24)	£40,000	Contract variation (Bridges, Jigsaw Support)
Children that harm – TLC Pilot (12 months)	£75,000	Direct award – TLC
Children’s Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CHIDVA) (12 months)	£120,000	Contract variation (Bridges, Jigsaw Support)
TMBC Domestic Abuse Staff (Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager and Programme Officer in Population Health)	£119,993	12 month fixed term contracts
A&E Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)	£40,000	Contract variation (Bridges, Jigsaw Support)
IRIS – DA Primary Care intervention	£64,000	Procurement exercise
GMCA Medium risk IDVA (12 months) /Core IDVA (6 months)	£61,099	Contract variation (Bridges, Jigsaw Support)
Lived Experience Advisory Group (DA Partnership Board costs)	£20,795	Budget
Discretionary workforce training budget	£110,000	Procurement exercise
VAWG prevention pilot in schools	£110,000	Procurement exercise
Total	£1,565,103	

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 As set out at the front of the report.

APPENDIX A

OVERVIEW OF COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS 2023-24

1. CORE CONTRACTS – DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE/ WOMEN & FAMILIES CENTRE

- 1.1 The Domestic Abuse Service is jointly funded by Population Health, Operations and Neighbourhood and Children's service at an annual value of £506,818. The service is delivered by Bridges and includes specialist outreach and safe accommodation for those experiencing domestic abuse and their families.
- 1.2 The Women and Families Centre provides holistic support for women and their children who have experienced domestic abuse, mental health issues and substance misuse, recognising that these areas often overlap and the impact that this can have on the women and their children. Population Health funds this service at an annual cost of £112,000, which includes funding for the premises at Cavendish Mill.
- 1.3 Both services are under contract until 31 March 2024, at which stage both will be subject to a re-commissioning exercise.
- 1.4 There is a remaining total £946,252 of ring-fenced resource to spend on Domestic Abuse Act duties and core contract commitments in 2023/24. The report outlines total spend on Domestic Abuse support services including the commissioning intentions utilising the ring-fenced grant funding as follows:

2. SAFE ACCOMMODATION TEAM (12 MONTH EXTENSION)

- 2.1 In the 2021-22 DA Commissioning intentions paper, the council approved the formation of a new Safe Accommodation service within Tameside, to meet our new statutory duties, complement our existing refuge offer and support the ambitions set out in the Safe Accommodation Strategy.
- 2.2 The Safe Accommodation Team provides support to victims of domestic abuse in various safe accommodation locations across the Borough including their own homes, temporary accommodation or an identified dispersed property. Support provided includes ongoing risk assessments, support for the victim and their children and provision of target hardening or sanctuary equipment to support victims to feel safer and remain in their own homes wherever possible.
- 2.3 This service is provided by Bridges and currently consists of six members of staff. The report is seeking permission to extend the contract variation for an additional 12 months at a cost of £185,398.

3. REFUGE BASED RECOVERY SERVICE (6 MONTH EXTENSION)

- 3.1 The Refuge Based Recovery Service was established as a pilot commencing in September 2022. This enables work to be completed with victims once the immediate domestic abuse risk has been managed, with the aim of supporting long-term recovery and preventing re-entry into the service. The current pilot project is due to end in September 2023, however in order to avoid a gap in provision during the re-commissioning process, the report is seeking permission to extend the variation to 31 March 2024 at a cost of £40,000.

4. CHILDREN THAT HARM – TALK, LISTEN, CHANGE (12 MONTH EXTENSION)

- 4.1 Since January 2022 Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) have been running two innovative pilots in Tameside for children aged 12 – 19 years old:
- Encouraging Healthy Relationships programme – for children that are displaying harmful behaviours towards their siblings, girlfriends/boyfriends and people they are dating
 - Respect Young Peoples programme – for children that are displaying harmful behaviours towards their parents or carers.
- 4.2 These interventions are part of a Greater Manchester wide pilot, which is 2/3 funded by the Home Office and 1/3 funded by TMBC. This programme meets two of our Domestic Abuse Strategic Ambitions: “Better outcomes for children impacted by domestic abuse” and “Identifying problem behaviours early”.
- 4.3 To date the service has received 89 referrals, of which 62% have engaged. This is the second highest engagement rate in Greater Manchester (after Wigan). There has been 717 sessions and interventions delivered with children and young people, from which the service reports a decrease in emotional problems, conduct problems, peer problems and hyperactivity.
- 4.4 The report seeks permission to extend the funding for a further 12 months at a cost of £75,000.

5 CHIDVA (12 MONTH EXTENSION)

- 5.1 Children’s Services currently funds two specialist domestic abuse posts to support child victims of domestic abuse. Bridges deliver the CHIDVA (Child Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) service at an annual cost of £80,000.
- 5.2 Approval was given to fund an additional £40,000 for a refuge based CHIDVA in 2022/23 due to high demand and a significant number of children on the CHIDVA waiting list. The waiting list for the CHIDVA service continues to be high (136) with new referrals being received as quickly as cases are being closed. The number of referrals to Children’s Social Care that relate to domestic abuse continues to be high with 3222 referrals being received in 2021/2022. This was an increase of 23% compared to 2020/21. In the first two quarters of 2022/23, the referrals to children’s social care relating to domestic abuse are 1875.
- 5.3 The Domestic Abuse Steering Group is undertaking an audit to understand the level of demand and to ensure that children and young people are being referred to the most appropriate place for support.
- 5.4 The previous CHIDVA funding from Children’s Services was time limited, therefore this report seeks permission to extend the funding for all three CHIDVA roles for a further 12-month period at a cost of £120,000, from the council’s core domestic abuse funding to ensure children and young people continue to be offered a specialist service.

6 GMCA FUNDING - MEDIUM RISK IDVA / CONTRIBUTION TO CORE CONTRACT (12 MONTHS EXTENSION/ 6 MONTH EXTENSION)

- 6.1 GMCA have awarded the Council £61,099 in 2023/24 for:
- continuation of a medium risk IDVA for 12 months
 - contribution to the Core IDVA contract for 6 months
- 6.2 The core contribution has only been confirmed for 6 months, as it is part of wider Ministry of Justice Funding for victim’s services, which GMCA is currently reviewing.

- 6.3 The grant funding was transferred to the Bridges service previously, as the sole provider of domestic abuse services in Tameside, and is an ongoing arrangement.
- 6.4 This report seeks permission to extend the contract for a further 12 months for the medium risk IDVA and 6 months for the contribution to the Core IDVA service, in line with the grant expectations from GMCA.

7 A&E/ HOSPITAL BASED IDVA (12 MONTH EXTENSION)

- 7.1 The A&E IDVA role to identify and support victims coming into hospital started in February 2022. This is recognised as a valuable role to identify high-risk victims and the IDVA has been able to deliver training to hospital staff on domestic abuse to support early identification of abuse. There has been disruption in A&E due to high demand and building work therefore it is proposed that this role continues to be funded for a further 12 months but to be based in other locations within the hospital as well as A&E when available, such as maternity services, where high risk victims may also be identified.
- 7.2 Recognising the key role that health departments have in identifying and addressing domestic abuse the hospital based IDVA continues to be a priority.
- 7.3 As such, the report seeks permission to extend the existing post for a further 12 months at a cost of £40,000.

8 IRISI IN PRIMARY CARE

- 8.1 IRIS is a specialist domestic violence and abuse (DVA) training, support and referral programme for general practices that has been positively evaluated in randomised controlled trials and was introduced in Tameside last year following council approval. It is a partnership between health and the specialist DVA sector. IRIS provides in-house DVA training for general practice teams and a named advocate to whom patients can be referred for support.
- 8.2 Following a competitive procurement exercise, Bridges was awarded the contract to deliver the IRIS programme in Tameside. The programme went live on 1 November 2022 and will run until 31 October 2025.
- 8.3 Given the later start date, the annual funding allocations have been amended to ensure coverage during the period of the contract as follows:

	Nov 2022 – March 23	2023/24	2024/25	Apr 2025- October 2025	Total
TMBC	£5,000	£4,000	£9,000	£7,000	£25,000
NHS GM (ICB) and NHS England	£29,166	£60,000	£50,000	£40,834	£180,000
Total	£34,166	£64,000	£59,000	£47834	£205,000

The report seeks approval of the revised funding arrangements for IRIS service in Tameside.

9 DOMESTIC ABUSE SPECIALIST WORKERS

- 9.1 The report seeks permission to spend £119,993 of the DA Act funds to continue the roles of the specialist workers within Population Health in the local authority. These roles enable

TMBC to discharge its' duties under the DA Act 2021 and continue to lead the system-wide response to tackling domestic abuse:

- 1x Strategic Domestic Abuse Manager (K Grade - 12 months)
- 1x Programme Officer (Domestic Abuse) (G Grade - 12 months)

10 TRUST GROUP

- 10.1 The Trust Group is our lived experience advisory group, which forms part of our formal governance around domestic abuse and our statutory Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. The advisory group membership is local Tameside victim-survivors of domestic abuse and meets quarterly.
- 10.2 The group is supported by Diversity Matters North West who provide translation and interpreter support to enable victim/survivors to attend and fully engage with the work of the group.
- 10.3 Further work is underway to develop a male victim/survivor advisory group, which will be held separately to the Trust group. Opportunities will be explored for the two groups to come together for identified projects if appropriate.
- 10.4 The report seeks permission to spend £20,795 on reasonable running and translation costs for the Trust Group and male advisory group once established.

11 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

- 11.1 A key ambition of Tameside's Domestic Abuse strategy is the creation of safe spaces for victims and survivors of domestic abuse to disclose and access support. A primary factor in the success of this ambition is the confidence and competence of staff across the Partnership to recognise and respond appropriately to any disclosures.
- 11.2 During 2022/23, specialist training was commissioned from Rockpool and Safe Lives which enabled an initial cohort of 54 children and adult services staff to receive training on engaging with perpetrators, 439 multi-agency professionals to access domestic abuse awareness training and allowed a pool of 20 multi-agency professionals to access a train the trainer course to support the ongoing delivery of domestic abuse awareness sessions in Tameside.
- 11.3 The report seeks permission to hold £110,000 in a discretionary workforce training budget, allocated for the ongoing delivery of specialist training for professionals across the Local Authority and wider Domestic Abuse Partnership. This budget will be held within Population Health, with oversight and assurance from the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and used to target gaps identified through quality and performance monitoring.
- 11.4 The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and Perpetrator Needs Assessment highlighted gaps in professional knowledge relating to the identification of domestic abuse victim/survivors/perpetrators and a lack of consistency in responding to perpetrators.
- 11.5 Key to the delivery of the ambitions within the Domestic Abuse Strategy is a strong multi-agency understanding and response to support the creation of safe spaces for victim/survivors to disclose and to enable earlier intervention and prevention.
- 11.6 Proposed areas of training in 2023/24 would include:
- Training another cohort of frontline professionals to safely engage with perpetrators
 - MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) training for all current MARAC representatives and chairs to support a robust response to high risk cases

- Understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children and ways to safety plan with children and young people
- Training for frontline professionals on safety planning and exit strategies, particularly when a victim/survivor wishes to remain in the relationship
- Supporting a trauma informed approach to domestic abuse recognising the multiple disadvantages victim/survivors often face

11.7 The training needs highlighted above will require specialist training providers for the delivery which will be procured in line with Contract Procedure Rules.

12 VAWG PREVENTION PILOT IN SCHOOLS

12.1 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is multi-faceted and includes domestic abuse, rape and other sexual offences, stalking, 'honour based' abuse (including female genital mutilation and forced marriage and 'honour' killings), 'revenge porn' and 'upskirting', all of which disproportionately affect women and girls in our society.

12.2 Fundamentally, VAWG is rooted in gender based inequality and harmful attitudes which allow cycles of abuse and violence to continue. The murders of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa sparked national conversations about the prevalence of male violence against women and have been further fuelled by misogynistic narratives across social media.

12.3 In order to begin to put an end to domestic abuse and wider violence against women and girls there has to be a focus on addressing issues of harmful gender based attitudes and norms within society, particularly amongst young people.

12.4 Research by Safe Lives³ highlighted that 49% of boys and 33% of girls aged 13 – 14 thought that hitting a partner would be 'okay' in at least one of twelve scenarios they were presented with.

12.5 Recognising the scale of violence against women and girls the Government has made Relationship and Sex Education mandatory for schools as part of the curriculum. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner recently stated, "The new RSHE requirement in primary and secondary schools is a welcome and positive step, but work in this space must go further to bring the entirety of the education system into step with a holistic understanding of domestic abuse and VAWG and how it needs to be tackled through policies, behavioural and attitudinal change that both sensitively and confidently challenge harmful gendered beliefs and attitudes."

12.6 In order to begin to address VAWG from a prevention perspective the report is seeking permission to develop a pilot project to create a Whole School Approach to VAWG in schools. This will be a 12-month pilot, to commence during 2023/24. Using the findings from a similar pilot in London⁴, the Tameside pilot would take place in a selection of primary and secondary schools and would include:

- Consultation and engagement over spring and summer terms to co-design a Whole School Approach delivery model with schools, pupils, parents, partner agencies and local communities that addresses VAWG within the curriculum but also within the school culture, ethos and environment
- Specialist worker to pilot the delivery model with young people, teachers and parents in a selection of primary and secondary schools in Tameside
- Evaluation of the pilot including key outcomes and recommendations for future work

³ [Spotlight #3: Young people and domestic abuse | Safelives](#)

⁴ [VAWG Prevention pilot in the London Borough of Croydon | London City Hall](#)

- 12.7 In designing and developing the pilot, commissioners will work with colleagues in Community Safety as well as the GM Violence Reduction Unit and ensure this aligns to other priorities such as work taking place under the Serious Violence Duty. The pilot will be commissioned in line with procurement regulations and in consultation with Star.