

MAYOR OF LONDON

Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Homes Programme

Prospectus and Guidance for London

March 2025

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1. Foreword

The lives of thousands of Londoners are devastated by domestic abuse. That is why I'm committed to using all my powers to ensure all those who experience domestic violence can access support and justice. We know how vitally important it is that all survivors of domestic abuse, and their children, can access safe accommodation with support tailored to their needs, to help them recover from the trauma they have experienced and look ahead to a more hopeful future.

Following successful lobbying from myself and others in the sector, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 conferred a new duty on all Tier 1 authorities, of which the GLA is one, to support survivors into safe accommodation. This came with new revenue funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) – over £20m a year since 2021. Since we took on this duty for London, I have undertaken a needs assessment; set out a strategy for delivering safe accommodation; and funded a wide range of services to take forward the proposals set out in the strategy, to increase the level and quality of provision for survivors and their children. We know, however, that there remains a shortfall in properties; and that limited housing availability is a fundamental barrier to being able to provide safe accommodation for domestic abuse survivors.

So, I am proud that in London we are taking the innovative step to combine our revenue funding with capital funding for the delivery of homes through my new Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Homes Programme (DASAHP). This programme will align capital and revenue funding in order to increase the delivery of supported properties, maximising the impact of both funding routes. DASAHP will play a vital role in addressing the unmet need for safe accommodation for survivors across London, particularly those who face additional barriers to safe accommodation.

This new programme is just one way in which I'm delivering on my commitments to meet London's diverse housing needs; and ensure a well-resourced, clear and coordinated pan-London pathway of support through a survivor's journey. As well as delivering much-needed accommodation with support, the programme will also help to put the specialist and supported housing sector, and the domestic abuse sector in particular, on secure footing, so they are in a better position to grow.

I am proud of what we have already achieved in this area. We know, however, that there is much more to do, and I look forward to working with providers across London to see further delivery in this area. This new and unique programme provides an opportunity to go even further in our work supporting survivors, increasing the supply of safe and supported accommodation, so that Londoners experiencing domestic abuse can access a home that's safe, secure and affordable.

2. Key terms

In this prospectus, the following terms have the meanings set out below:

- 2.1. **'Council'** means the local housing authority and borough council for the London Borough.
- 2.2. **'Bid'** means the individual costed capital or revenue grant-funding request submitted by the organisation that will lead the delivery of the scheme to the GLA's Open Project System (OPS). More information on this can be found in 'How to apply for DASAHP funding' at section 7.
- 2.3. **'Applicant'** means the organisation submitting the capital or revenue funding application on OPS for a project.
- 2.4. **'Registered provider'** means a registered provider (RP) of social housing that is registered with, and regulated by, the Regulator of Social Housing. These can be either private or public organisations. A full list of RPs of social housing is available at the Regulator of Social Housing's page, [Registered providers of social housing – updated monthly](#).
- 2.5. **'By and for'** means a smaller grassroots organisation that has a maximum turnover of £1.5m; and is rooted in, and led by, the communities that it serves.

3. Programme overview

What is the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Homes Programme?

- 3.1. The Mayor has a duty, under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to support survivors of domestic abuse and their children into safe accommodation. Key elements of the duty are to undertake a needs assessment; produce a strategy to meet the identified needs; and effect that strategy, including through the commissioning of services and grant-funding arrangements. This duty comes with revenue funding from the MHCLG for its delivery in London of circa £20m a year since 2021.
- 3.2. DASAHP has been developed to bring together capital and revenue funding to increase safe accommodation provision for domestic abuse survivors and their children in London. Capital funding of up to £8.5m from the Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) 2021-26 has been paired with up to £4m revenue funding from the Part 4 duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This will enable the delivery of new and improved safe accommodation, with associated specialist support services, to improve outcomes for survivors in London.
- 3.3. The objectives of the programme are to:
- support the right of survivors to access physically and psychologically safe spaces where they and their children can recover safely from abuse, as set out in the [Mayor's 2025-28 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy](#)
 - reduce barriers to services faced by survivors, especially those in under-served groups, as set out in the [Mayor's 2024 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment](#)
 - increase buildings/bed spaces for survivors by acquiring or improving buildings to accommodate the needs of vulnerable survivors of abuse
 - increase the amount of specialist provision available across London for under-served groups (see below – 'Importance of specialist provision' at 3.8, below)
 - support the delivery of further specialist and supported housing, as set out in the [Mayor's London Housing Strategy](#)
 - encourage partnership working and joint bids from across the domestic abuse and housing sector.
- 3.4. Ultimately, the programme aims to address gaps in domestic abuse safe accommodation provision across London.
- 3.5. Bids will be welcomed for safe accommodation that meets the needs of domestic abuse survivors and their children. Safe accommodation is specified in the [regulations by the Secretary of State](#) as:
- refuge accommodation
 - specialist safe accommodation
 - dispersed accommodation
 - second-stage accommodation
 - other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation.
- 3.6. Further details of what this includes are set out at Appendix 1. It should be noted that while sanctuary schemes are also specified as safe accommodation in the statutory guidance, bids of this type are not eligible for this programme.

- 3.7. Any queries relating to this prospectus, or the programme more generally should be directed to dahousing@london.gov.uk.

Importance of specialist provision

- 3.8. The London Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, published in March 2025, highlighted the domestic abuse safe accommodation needs across the city. The needs assessment found, in particular, limitations in provision and support for survivors from disadvantaged backgrounds and with additional vulnerabilities. The 2025-2028 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy highlights the importance of commissioning services that support survivors with specific characteristics and needs.
- 3.9. The GLA recognises that groups from minoritised backgrounds can face more barriers due to intersectional discrimination, which can make mainstream services less accessible. Therefore, supporting specialist providers who are experts in reaching the communities they service is essential to ensure vital routes to safety and support are available to all.
- 3.10. Various revenue services have since been commissioned by the GLA to take forward these proposals, and increase the level and quality of provision for survivors and their children. DASAHP hopes to build on this work; as such, bids focusing on accommodation for groups known to be under-served will be prioritised under this programme. This includes, but is not limited to:
- disabled survivors
 - survivors with multiple children
 - Black and minoritised survivors
 - survivors with immigration issues
 - LGBTQI+ survivors
 - survivors with complex needs, and who face multiple disadvantages.
- 3.11. The programme aims to encourage partnerships across the domestic abuse sector with capital housing providers to address gaps in provision and to increase the availability of specialist services, including 'by and for' services.

Timeline

- 3.11. Bids for capital and revenue funding will be welcomed from March 2025, following the publication of this prospectus, through a period of continuous market engagement (CME) up to the end of December 2025, subject to available funds. Applications will be considered on an ongoing basis throughout the CME period.
- 3.12. Capital delivery of schemes funded under DASAHP must start on site by March 2026. Revenue funding for support will be available for up to three years (including up to two months of implementation costs before direct support delivery commences), up to 31 March 2030. Bids should demonstrate how revenue funding for support will be aligned with capital delivery.

4. Capital funding

Capital funding requirements

- 4.1. Organisations with projects approved for capital funding under DASAHP must be RPs, and qualify as a GLA investment partner, before they can enter into a contract with the GLA and receive a grant. Any organisation that is not an existing GLA investment partner, or that currently has restricted Investment Partner status, will need to apply for qualification.
- 4.2. The GLA's capital grant agreements require grant funding be paid directly to the landlord of the homes provided. The GLA is required by law to impose a further condition that the landlord of a home receiving GLA capital grant for Social or Affordable Rent is an RP.
- 4.3. DASAHP cannot fund bids submitted for capital funding only. It is expected that a capital bid is accompanied with an associated revenue for support bid to be eligible for the programme.
- 4.4. All bids must have the support of the local authority in which the intended project is located.
- 4.5. Further information on submitting a bid can be found in the section 'How to apply for DASAHP funding' under section 7.
- 4.6. The capital component of bids must adhere to the funding requirements of the AHP 2021-26. The funding guidance for this programme applies alongside the contents of the GLA's [Capital Funding Guide](#), with some additional requirements included in this document. Particular attention should be paid to the design, sustainability, building safety and equality requirements of the [AHP 2021-26 Funding Guidance](#). In particular, bidders should also refer to Section 2 of the [Capital Funding Guide](#) for updated requirements around building safety, including for acquisition models.
- 4.7. We will prioritise funding for bids that set out credible, well-developed plans to deliver quality accommodation at identified properties in a timely manner, although indicative bids will also be considered. Applicants will be required to submit delivery milestone information as part of their application. This will need to cover the pre-planning engagement period, internal approval processes, start on site and practical completion.

Delivery route

- 4.8. The objective of DASAHP is to increase the supply of high-quality safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse. This includes supported and specialist housing such as refuges; self-contained move-on accommodation; and other models aligned to the needs of survivors of domestic abuse and their children.
- 4.9. The following delivery routes will be eligible for funding through this programme (more detailed information can be found in the GLA's [Capital Funding Guide](#)):
 - purchase and repair of properties, either as freehold or on a long lease
 - acquisition of existing properties that require no or minimal work to bring them into use (known as 'existing satisfactory')
 - refurbishment and repurposing of existing stock

- development of new build properties (including using Modern Methods of Construction, where the requirements of the [Capital Funding Guide](#) are met).
- 4.10. Preference will be given to schemes that provide additional homes, or bring additional homes into use within the sector. This includes schemes that would involve significant modernisation, conversion or adaption – particularly where not undertaking such works would leave properties long-term vacant or to be disposed of.
- 4.11. In some circumstances, schemes using properties in which historical grant has been invested can be considered. Any historical grant must be highlighted to the GLA at the point of bidding.

Additional design requirements

- 4.12. In addition to the design, sustainability and building safety requirements outlined in the [AHP 2021-26 Funding Guidance](#), DASAHP schemes will be required to meet the following standards to be eligible for capital grant as set out in Section 5 of the [Capital Funding Guide](#):
- furniture and white goods
 - a telephone (either landline or digital connection, only required for self-contained units)
 - reinforced doors and windows, where feasible
 - extra door and window locks
 - spyhole in front door (only required for self-contained units)
 - encased, fire-retardant letterboxes
 - fire alarms and smoke alarms
 - intercom/video entry system, where appropriate
 - nothing that would identify the home as being designated for survivors of domestic abuse.
- 4.13. Applicants should also consider how to incorporate the principles and recommendations set out in the Secured by Design (SBD) initiative. The latest Design Guides – aiming to assist the build, design and construction industry to incorporate security into developments (both new-build and existing) and meet the requirements of SBD – can be found on [SBD's website](#).

Supported housing

- 4.14. Guidance regarding supported housing standards can be found under the [National Statement of Expectations](#). Bids to deliver supported housing will be particularly assessed against the standards in the section 'ensuring safe and good quality supported housing'.

Terms of occupancy, rents, and service charge

- 4.15. Schemes should adopt terms that provide the most security for the tenant, balanced against the operational and management needs of the scheme; these terms must be in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's [Tenancy Standard](#) (to the extent applicable). Schemes where the landlord and occupancy arrangements indicate that a licence agreement is appropriate can be considered. Tenancy length should be appropriate to the type of development, and the conditions attached to tenancy agreements should be designed to support the needs of the individual(s). For example, pets should not be

arbitrarily prohibited by the terms of the lease.

- 4.16. Rent must be set at Affordable Rent levels or Social Rent levels, with the latter preferred, and must be compliant with the Regulator of Social Housing's [Rent Standard](#) (to the extent applicable).
- 4.17. Service charges may be levied in addition to Social Rent and should be included within the Affordable Rent. Bids will need to demonstrate that proposed service charges are proportionate to the management services required and are genuinely affordable.

5. Revenue funding

Revenue funding requirements

- 5.1. Councils, other RPs, charities and support providers can submit bids for revenue to deliver support in capital-funded properties. We particularly welcome bids from 'by and for' providers. The revenue for support bids may be submitted and/or delivered by a different provider to that of the capital funding. Both the capital and revenue bids must make reference to each other on OPS.
- 5.2. Revenue funding for each project will be available for up to three years, including up to two months of implementation costs, before client support begins. The three-year support funding period will be measured from the start of revenue drawdown; and will apply to each project as a whole (rather than on an individual unit basis). Where not all units in a project become available for use at the same time, the agreed revenue profile on the OPS should reflect this phased delivery.

Support services

- 5.3. The support services to be provided should contribute to the following outcomes:
 - **Survivors being able to live independently:** providing support for survivors to rebuild their lives after abuse.
 - **Survivors being able to access physically and psychologically safe spaces:** supporting the right of survivors to be able to access safe spaces where they and their children can recover safely from abuse, supported by services rooted in a rights-based, trauma-informed and gender-informed approach.
- 5.4. The accommodation types that are considered suitable to be funded through the programme include those [identified in statutory guidance by the DLUHC](#):
 - refuge accommodation
 - specialist safe accommodation
 - dispersed accommodation
 - second-stage accommodation
 - other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation (see Appendix 1).
- 5.5. Further details on these accommodation types, as set out in the statutory guidance, are listed at Appendix 1.
- 5.6. The support service models to be provided should be guided by the type of safe accommodation; and the identified needs of the client group. Some domestic abuse safe accommodation services may fall under more than one of the above accommodation types. Other approaches will be considered if they are demonstrably appropriate for the identified client group and can credibly deliver the desired outcomes of the programme.
- 5.7. Depending on the target client group and support model, the support provider must ensure that all service users are supported:

- to help them recover from domestic abuse and its associated traumas
 - to manage their transition into maintaining their own tenancy
 - to engage with specialist services to meet identified health, employment, training, education and/or financial needs and goals
 - in due course and where appropriate, to move on (or step down) to more suitable accommodation, including (but not limited to) other supported accommodation, general needs social housing, and private rented sector accommodation.
- 5.8. It is expected that service users' needs and views are at the centre of service delivery and development. The support provider will encourage and support service users to be involved in the decision-making processes regarding the support service they receive.
- 5.9. It should be noted that sanctuary schemes, whilst included in the MHCLG definition of safe accommodation, will not be considered here, as it they do not meet the outcomes of this programme.
- 5.10. Everyone moving into DASAHP properties will require support to meet their identified needs; maintain their accommodation; and subsequently move on, as appropriate. While their support needs will vary in type, intensity and complexity, in broad terms, most new tenants would be unlikely to manage a tenancy in the community without the additional support offered. The service must assess everyone moving into the associated DASAHP-funded properties to determine the level of support they will require.
- 5.11. Applicants should explain their approach to providing the support service in their bid, including considering whether a Trauma Informed Care or Psychologically Informed Environment approach would be appropriate for the target client group. The support provider will address a range of needs, either directly or by accessing and engaging specialist services. A more comprehensive list of what this may include is set out at Appendix 2. The support should be delivered by an appropriately qualified provider. This may be a local authority, other RP, charity or other specialist or voluntary organisation.
- 5.12. All support provided under this programme should adhere to recognised industry quality standards, as set out in the [MHCLG Quality Standards](#). These include, but are not limited to, [Women's Aid National Quality Standards](#), [Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards](#), [Male Domestic Abuse Network Service Standards](#) and [DAHA Accreditation Framework for Housing Providers](#).

Partnership working

- 5.13. The support provider should work in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector organisations to assess needs and risk; and provide more comprehensive and effective support to service users by facilitating access to these services. These should include (but are not limited to): adult social care services, children and families services, health services, violence against women and girls services; probation services; substance misuse agencies; housing services; employment agencies; health care partners; sub-regional and pan-London homelessness services; and young persons' services.

Revenue-only projects

- 5.14. As this programme is specifically to increase the supply and quality of safe accommodation, revenue-only schemes will not be eligible to be funded through this programme. Other

programmes may be available for revenue-only funding – further information can be found on the GLA's webpage, [Domestic abuse safe accommodation and support](#), or by contacting dahousing@london.gov.uk.

6. Equality, diversity and inclusion

- 6.1. Bidders applying for capital grant funding through DASAHP should see paragraphs 54 to 66 of the [AHP 2021-26 Funding Guidance](#) for full details of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) requirements.
- 6.2. Bidders applying for revenue for support through DASAHP will provide a copy of their EDI policy via OPS. Applicants will keep their EDI policy under review for the duration of the contract; and will provide the GLA with any such revised EDI policy once available.

7. How to apply for DASAHP funding

DASAHP application process

- 7.1. The DASAHP application process consists of two elements: an individual capital and individual revenue funding bid (submitted by the lead organisation for each bid).
- 7.2. All bids should be submitted via the GLA's OPS system. Applicants should set out the OPS numbers of the associated capital and/or revenue bid(s) for a given scheme on OPS.
- 7.3. Organisations not currently registered to use the GLA's OPS are advised to request access using the details provided on the [OPS homepage](#).

Capital funding

- 7.4. Bids for capital funding for delivery routes eligible through the GLA should be submitted via the GLA's OPS. Capital bids will be made through the AHP 2021-26 route using a bespoke project template for this element of the Supported and Specialist Housing – Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation programme. Guidance for using OPS to submit bids under the AHP 2021-26 can be found on the [GLA website](#).

Revenue funding

- 7.5. All bids for DASAHP revenue funding in London should be submitted via OPS using the Revenue for Support DASAHP template. Guidance on how to use OPS can be found on the [GLA website](#).

8. Assessment criteria

- 8.1. Applicants should note that there will be separate capital and revenue grant assessments; but the scheme will be viewed as a whole and success in both bids for the revenue and capital grants will be required for a scheme to receive allocations.

Capital bids

- 8.2. Bids for capital funding will be assessed in line with the criteria under the AHP 2021-26. Key criteria include value for money, deliverability and strategic fit. Further details of the assessment criteria can be found in paragraphs 101-114 of the [AHP 2021-26 Funding Guidance](#).
- 8.3. Bids assessed and funded under this programme will be classified as specialist and supported housing. In addition to the assessment guidance provided in the AHP 2021-26, specialist and supported schemes are also assessed against the following criteria:
- The design strategy as it relates to this type of supported or specialist housing. Bidders should address criteria in this prospectus regarding design and space standards. Bidders will be expected to upload design plans to OPS; and demonstrate that design standards (including minimum space standards), as set out in the London Plan and [Capital Funding Guide](#), are being met (where applicable). Under exceptional circumstances the GLA may agree to design exemptions using the established exemption process as set out on the GLA webpage, [Design and sustainability – Further guidance](#).
 - Whether the scheme involves remodelling/refurbishment; and, where it does, details of energy-efficiency retrofit measures and the expected EPC rating.
 - Details of how [SBD](#) has been considered, and how the level of security reflects the client group and location.
 - Whether there is local authority support for the project and, if there is not, the reasons for that.
 - How and from where residents will be referred to the scheme (including the proportion of lettings for pan-London referrals), and how tenancies will be managed.
- 8.4. Additional information may be required to support bid assessment; and providers may be asked to respond to clarifications.

Revenue bids

- 8.5. The following criteria will be used to assess each bid:
- **Strategic priorities.** This prospectus sets out the key objectives and requirements for the programme. Bids will be assessed based on best fit with these priorities. Bidders will be expected to demonstrate how their project contributes towards achieving the strategic objectives as set out in the [London-wide Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy](#). Where appropriate, they should also show that they have taken into account local strategic needs and priorities. Bidders should set out how their service meets gaps as identified in the [2024 Needs Assessment](#), with the views of the target client group reflected in the bid.

Strong bids will demonstrate clear and thorough evidence of partnership working with the capital partner, including how this collaboration will continue throughout delivery.

- **Deliverability.** Schemes should be sustainable and deliverable within the timescales of the programme. Bids should include plans for staff recruitment, including timelines; and set out how the support service timelines will align to capital delivery. Applicants should evidence effective consideration of delivery risks and credible mitigation options where possible as well as consideration of a longer-term exit strategy for the property should it cease to be needed for its intended purpose.
- **Sustainability.** Bidders will be expected to set out how the scheme will meet the needs of the target client group, including how they will ensure the scheme is affordable; and how they will provide robust support to service users in order to meet their long-term needs, including plans to work with other organisations to achieve this. Bids will be expected to outline a clear and thorough plan for move-on from the service.
- **Value for money.** Bidders will be expected to demonstrate that they have taken steps to maximise value for money (including revenue cost per person per unit, and alignment of capital and funding requests). Strong bids will demonstrate clearly how their proposed service delivers value for money, with the costs being justified in line with the service being delivered. Bidders should demonstrate appropriate staffing numbers for the target numbers of clients and clear evidence of effective monitoring and continuous improvement processes.
- **Design.** Bidders should consider quality and sustainability of the accommodation, ensuring it is fit for purpose, and that the accommodation is suitably located and integrated with relevant services and amenities. Bidders should also consider the quality and appropriateness of support proposed, ensuring it takes into account the individual needs of the service user. Bidders should demonstrate how the service will be delivered; how it will meet the requirements in the 'revenue funding' section; and how their proposed approach will ensure a high level of service delivery in a fair and accessible way.

9. Next steps following bid approval

- 9.1. Following a successful application, applicants will be notified of the intended allocation. This will be subject to the following requirements being met and due diligence.

Registered provider status

- 9.2. Capital grant recipient organisations, which should be the landlord of the homes built with capital funding for Social or Affordable Rent from the GLA, must be registered as an RP with the Regulator of Social Housing. Organisations must be registered before any funding can be drawn down and the accommodation is let. Applications to become an RP can take time to process, assess and achieve registration. Allocations to non-registered organisations will not be made via the GLA if their registration is not already well progressed. For more information on timescales and the RP application process, please see the [RP guidance](#). Non-registered organisations interested in delivering DASAHP homes are strongly encouraged to partner with a local RP to deliver their scheme(s).

Investment partner qualification

- 9.3. Organisations with projects approved for capital funding under DASAHP must qualify as a GLA investment partner before they enter into a contract with the GLA and receive a grant. Any organisation that is not an existing GLA investment partner, or that currently has a Restricted Investment Partner status, will need to apply for qualification. Further information about the GLA investment partner qualification process can be found on the GLA's webpage on [Investment Partner Qualification](#).

Terms of grant

- 9.4. Applicants will need to enter into a standard form contract with the GLA to secure grant funding through this programme. Contracts may vary slightly depending on the applicant and projects being funded, but ultimately all funding agreements will retain the key provisions of the standard form contract. Template contracts for standard delivery agreements will be published on the GLA website in due course.
- 9.5. Project details set out on the GLA's OPS will form part of the funding recipient's contractual commitment and must be kept up to date. The contractual commitment will detail the agreed delivery milestones. The GLA will monitor performance of funding recipients against these delivery milestones on an ongoing basis. The GLA will be flexible when issues with programme delivery are flagged at an early stage; but will reserve the right to review a funding recipient's grant allocation where a partner cannot deliver a project or use their indicative allocation within the programme's timescales.

Payment

- 9.6. Grant funding from the GLA will be paid via OPS following completion of the required contract and once the relevant milestones are claimed as achieved on OPS. Payments will be made to the lead organisation that submitted the OPS bid. This is the case with both revenue and capital funding.
- 9.7. For capital grant payments, providers will be eligible to draw down grant allocations as

agreed on OPS. These will usually be in two or three tranches, reflecting the majority of payment at acquisition, and start on site; and a final payment at practical completion. The amounts may be varied subject to GLA agreement on certain projects.

- 9.8. Revenue grant payments will be made quarterly in arrears according to the agreed payment schedule set out in the OPS. Funding may be claimed for up to three years, as detailed in paragraph 5.2.

Subsidy control

- 9.9. While the GLA has designed this programme to comply with subsidy control rules, applicants also have a responsibility to ensure they are not overcompensated from the point of view of the subsidy control rules.
- 9.10. The GLA will require applicants to make returns about the actual costs incurred and income on the project for both public accountability and subsidy control compliance.
- 9.11. If any providers are found to have been over-compensated, they will be required to repay any over-compensation to the GLA.

Initial delivery and implementation

- 9.12. Applicants will be required to report regularly against agreed milestones as specified in the relevant named project, and to update GLA officers on progress and any delays as they occur.
- 9.13. Applicants will be required to keep forecasts and delivery expectations up to date in the OPS, and to report on delivery at regular intervals.
- 9.14. As part of programme and contract management, the GLA will carry out an annual procedural compliance audit on a sample of capital schemes to ensure requirements have been met. More information about this is available in the programme management guidance in the [Affordable Housing Capital Funding Guide](#).

Ongoing service delivery

- 9.15. Once support services have started, revenue grant recipients will be expected to comply with a schedule of regular (monthly) reporting, including submission of KPI data (such as support caseloads, occupancy levels and tenancy ends) via OPS.
- 9.16. A quarterly project report will also be required in order to claim revenue payments. Details of the monitoring and reporting requirements will be specified in the relevant grant agreement.
- 9.17. The GLA will complete an audit of a sample of support services throughout the life of the programme. Funding recipients and their partners will be required to support and comply with this process.

Appendix 1 – Statutory guidance on domestic abuse safe accommodation¹

Description of ‘relevant accommodation’ (also referred to as ‘safe accommodation’ throughout this guidance) is specified by the Secretary of State in [regulations](#) as:

Refuge accommodation

A refuge offers single-gender or single-sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation. The address will not be publicly available. Victims, including their children, will have access to a planned programme of therapeutic and practical support from staff. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, but in both cases the service will enable peer support from other refuge residents.

Specialist safe accommodation

Specialist safe accommodation offering single-gender or single-sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share particular protected characteristic(s) (see section B5) and / or who share one or more vulnerabilities requiring additional support (see section B5). Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, and the address will not be publicly available.

This includes ‘by and for’ services where victims are able to see themselves reflected in the staffing, management and governance structures. ‘By and for’ services are designed and led by those that share the same protected characteristic(s) as the victims they aim to serve. For example, a specialist domestic abuse organisation that is led by Black and minoritised women and children, for Black and minoritised women and children.

Dispersed accommodation

- i. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained accommodation with a similar level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge with communal spaces, and/or where peer support from other residents may not be appropriate, due to complex support needs, or where older teenage sons cannot be accommodated in a women only refuge, for example. Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single-gender or single-sex.
- ii. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained ‘semi-independent’ accommodation which is not within a refuge but with support for victims who may not require the intensive support offered through refuge, but are still at risk of abuse from their perpetrator/s. Where two or more units share any part of the accommodation, including shared hallways or access routes, provision should be single-gender or single-sex.

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¹ Extract from the DLUHC statutory guidance: “Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services”, published 1 October 2021 (latest version as at the time of publication of this prospectus).

² The description of sanctuary schemes has been removed. Whilst sanctuary schemes are also specified as safe accommodation in the statutory guidance, bids of this type are not appropriate for DASAHP.

Second-stage accommodation

Accommodation temporarily provided to victims, including their children, who are moving on from other forms of relevant accommodation and/or who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and settled accommodation. Where second-stage accommodation is in shared housing it should be single-gender or single-sex. There is no expectation that every victim will require this. Many victims are ready to move straight to a settled new home from refuge. However, second-stage accommodation (sometimes known as 'move-on') may be helpful in some cases.

Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation

A safe place (single-gender or single-sex, secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) with domestic abuse support tied to the accommodation to enable victims to make informed decisions when leaving a perpetrator and seeking safe accommodation. For example, short term (e.g., two to three weeks) accommodation providing victims with the space and safety to consider and make informed decisions about the options available to them.

Some domestic abuse safe accommodation services may fall under more than one of the above descriptions.

Local authorities must carry out their duties relating to the provision of accommodation-based support by providing support within such accommodation in line with the above descriptions in the Regulations.

All support provided under the duties must be provided to victims of domestic abuse, including children, who reside in relevant safe accommodation as set out above. Such support should meet the MHCLG Quality Standards (see [Annex B](#)); [Women's Aid National Quality Standards](#), [Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards](#), [Male Domestic Abuse Network Service Standards](#) and/or [DAHA Accreditation Framework for Housing Providers](#).

Appendix 2 – Statutory guidance on domestic abuse support

This guidance, in line with [statutory guidelines](#), describes domestic abuse support within relevant safe accommodation as follows:

- **Overall management of services within relevant safe accommodation** – including capacity building; support and supervision of staff; payroll; financial and day-to-day management of services; and maintaining relationships with the local authority (such functions will often be undertaken by a service manager).
- **Support with the day-to-day running of the service** – for example, scheduling times for counselling sessions and group activities (such functions may often be undertaken by administrative or office staff).
- **Advocacy support** – development of personal safety plans, and liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers).
- **Domestic abuse prevention advice** – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent re-victimisation.
- **Children’s support** – including play therapy, child advocacy or a specialist children worker (for example, a young people’s violence adviser, independent domestic violence advocate (IDVA) or outreach worker specialised in working with children).
- **Housing-related support** – providing housing-related advice and support (for example, securing a permanent home; rights to existing accommodation; and advice on how to live safely and independently).
- **Advice service** – including play therapy, child advocacy or a specialist children worker (for example, a young people’s violence adviser, IDVA or outreach worker specialised in working with children).
- **Counselling and therapy** (including group support) for adults and children, including emotional support).
- **Specialist support for victims**, including support designed specifically for:
 - **victims with relevant protected characteristics** (including ‘by and for’): this support includes, among other types, faith services; translators and interpreters; immigration advice; interpreters for victims identifying as Deaf and/or hard of hearing; and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victims
 - **victims with additional and/or complex needs**: this support includes, among other types, mental health advice and support, and drug and alcohol advice and support, sign-posting accordingly.

This list of support is not exhaustive and other relevant support services can be put in place (based on victims’ needs).