

Domestic abuse safe accommodation led ‘by and for’ grants fund

Funding guidance

June 2025

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**Greater London Authority
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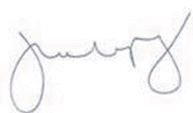
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Foreword

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. This helps them recover from the trauma they have experienced, and look ahead to a more hopeful future. Since 2021, City Hall has worked with a range of partners to deliver positive outcomes for over 23,500 survivors and victims of domestic abuse in London. The Mayor has overseen investment of more than £233m to funding initiatives that tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG) in all its forms. Most recently, and as part of our statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021), we have secured £26.4m to deliver new domestic abuse safe accommodation (DASA) funding programmes in 2025-26.

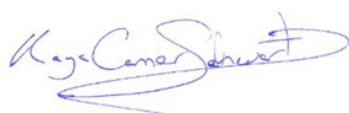
As part of the wider DASA programme, we are proud to launch a grants fund to provide for organisations led 'by and for' (organisations designed and led by the communities and people they serve). This fund will see up to £18m invested across three years. This fund aims to ensure that the most marginalised victims/survivors can access culturally competent, high-quality support that recognises the wider structural barriers that many face on their journey to accessing safety and justice. The DASA Needs Assessment 2025 found that organisations led 'by and for' achieve better outcomes than generalist support for marginalised victims/survivors.

We are proud of what we have already achieved, under the DASA programme, for marginalised victims/survivors across London. We know there is more to do to remove barriers for these groups, and we look forward to working with the led 'by and for' sector across London to address these. This new fund will build on our existing learnings from current DASA commissioning, and the VAWG Grassroots Fund, to ensure Londoners experiencing domestic abuse can access culturally competent and tailored DASA support meeting their diverse needs.



Tom Copley

Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development



Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Key terms

Meanings for the following key terms used in this prospectus are set out below:

- **Applicant** – the organisation submitting the funding application to the DASA Led 'By and For' Grants Fund.
- **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** – the Act places domestic abuse on a statutory footing. It introduces a new definition, and new duties for statutory agencies. These duties are aimed at: improving the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims/survivors of domestic abuse, and bringing perpetrators to justice; and strengthening the support for victims of abuse.
- **Domestic abuse safe accommodation (DASA)** – Part 4 of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act confers a duty on tier-one authorities to provide support to victims/survivors in relevant safe accommodation. Please see Appendices A and B.
- **Funding application** – the individual grant-funding request, submitted by the organisation, that will lead the delivery of the service under this grant fund.
- **Grant agreement** – the formal terms and conditions under which the grant is provided. This will include details about the service; outcomes collected; duration of the service; budget; monitoring; and reporting.
- **Greater London Authority (GLA)** – the tier-one local authority in London. It is responsible for supporting the Mayor in setting an overall vision for making London a better place for everyone who visits, lives or works in the city; and creating the plans and policies to achieve it.
- **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)** – funds the DASA duty.
- **The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)** – the Mayor of London takes on the role of Police and Crime Commissioner in London through MOPAC. It oversees the work of the Metropolitan Police Service – setting the priorities for policing and community safety, and commissioning victim support services.
- **Led 'by and for' organisations** – these are organisations designed and led by the communities and people they serve. This can include communities who may or may not live in the same local area, but who are connected by their protected

characteristics and shared experiences – for example, disabled women and/or Black female victims/survivors of VAWG. Please see page 9 for our full definition.

- **Tier-one local authority** – in London, this is the GLA.
- **Violence against women and girls (VAWG)** – this encompasses any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women or girls. This includes threats, coercion and arbitrary deprivation of liberty – particularly when directed at a woman because she is a woman, or when violence disproportionately affects women, although violence and abuse can affect people of any gender.

Introduction

Domestic abuse continues to devastate the lives of thousands of Londoners each year. It presents a particularly significant challenge to victims/survivors from the most marginalised backgrounds, who can often face further structural inequality and wider barriers, impacting their access to support and preventing effective recovery.

Under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Mayor has a duty to provide support to victims/survivors of domestic abuse, and their children, who are accessing safe accommodation in London. Since 2021, the Mayor's DASA programme has helped over 23,500 victims/survivors in London to find safety and rebuild their lives through the delivery of 81 new and enhanced services in 2022-24. The Mayor has pioneered an inclusive commissioning approach which has enabled access to vital funds for specialist services supporting marginalised victims/survivors, alongside funding for universal voluntary sector services and London boroughs.

The Mayor is now launching a grants fund for led 'by and for' providers to deliver much-needed services to victims/survivors of domestic abuse across London. The grants fund will provide £6m per annum over three years, subject to future MHCLG funding being allocated to the GLA. The grants fund builds on the £11.3m in ring-fenced funding delivered through the initial DASA funding programme, launched in 2022. Further, this acknowledges the findings from the DASA Needs Assessment 2025 which highlighted that victims/survivors from minoritised groups may need specific support services that reflect the different ways and contexts in which they experience abuse. The needs assessment also found that led 'by and for' organisations are uniquely well placed to offer this support owing to their specialised knowledge and lived experience around these issues.

This fund also builds on the learning and successes from the Mayor's VAWG Grassroots Fund, which was established in 2021, with an aim to strengthen the resilience and capacity of grassroots led 'by and for' providers who focus on ending VAWG. To date, the Mayor has invested a total of £6m across 2 rounds, which has supported 55 organisations in London. An overview of the successful outcomes achieved can be found here [\[insert link\]](#).

In March 2025, the Mayor published a refreshed DASA Strategy for 2025-28. This commits to making use of 'inclusive commissioning processes and requirements that recognise the value of smaller, specialist and "by and for" providers'. As such, we will deliver a phased funding programme, starting with a grants fund for services led 'by and for', followed by the recommissioning of further services. The recommissioning will involve a close consultation with a broad range of stakeholders including specialist VAWG organisations, London boroughs, registered social housing organisations and victims/survivors.

Grants fund overview

The grants fund for DASA organisations led 'by and for' has a value of £6m per annum. It will provide access to multi-year funding for three years, subject to future MHCLG funding being allocated to the GLA. Grant monitoring will be used to ensure good performance management.

Objectives of the led 'by and for' grants fund

The led 'by and for' grants fund aims to:

- provide an inclusive range of pathways for victims/survivors from marginalised communities to access holistic, tailored support – this allows them to recover, gain independence, and address the multiple issues they may face in accessing safety and justice
- ensure the availability of safe, sustainable and high-quality DASA provision across London
- support the resilience and stability of led 'by and for' organisations to successfully participate within the wider DASA system.

Focus of the fund

The scale and complexity of DASA need in the capital is intensified for some victims/survivors by intersecting factors, such as racism and discrimination against migrants, those with disabilities and LGBTQ+ people. This marginalises survivors from these groups, who can then face additional barriers to accessing help and support. This makes it even harder for them to safely rebuild their lives after abuse.

This is demonstrated in the 2024 London DASA Needs Assessment, which found that:

- victims/survivors from minority ethnic groups may need specific support services that reflect the different ways and contexts in which they experience abuse
- a fifth of victims referred to support have English as a second language
- LGBTQIA+ victims/survivors may need specific support services that reflect the different ways and contexts in which they experience abuse

- disabled victims/survivors have specific needs that are not fully met, taking into consideration physical and other needs
- disabled victims/survivors face barriers to accessing accommodation.

We also know that victims/survivors who are marginalised at a societal level benefit from specific, specialist support from organisations that reflect their lived experiences. These organisations – described as 'by and for' – are therefore best placed to support them effectively and appropriately.¹ However, they are often disadvantaged across the funding landscape: they are less likely to receive statutory funding, and more likely to close down.² This further reinforces the marginalisation faced by victims/survivors with intersecting needs who are in desperate need of support; it can also cause them to remain in unsafe conditions.

Therefore, the focus of this fund is on services that are designed for, and delivered by, people who are the most marginalised at a societal level³ – namely, those who are:

- Black or from other minoritised ethnic groups
- LGBTQI+
- Deaf and/or disabled
- migrants, including those with insecure immigration status
- belonging to a particular religion or faith community

City Hall definition of led 'by and for' organisations

Led 'by and for' organisations are defined as those with expertise and extensive knowledge in supporting victims/survivors from specific communities. They will be rooted in, and led by, the communities that they serve.

This includes communities who may or may not be bound by geographical area, but who are connected by protected characteristics and/or shared experiences – for example, Deaf and disabled, and/or migrant women.

We would expect governance structures to reflect this in organisations wishing to apply for this fund. The desired level of staff and trustees would be a minimum of 80 per cent from the relevant protected characteristic or group. We recognise the distinctive challenges this

¹ Domestic Abuse Commissioner, [A Patchwork of Provisions](#), November 2022

² Domestic Abuse Commissioner, [A Patchwork of Provisions](#), November 2022

³ Crown Prosecution Service, [Policing and Marginalised Groups – Hate crime](#)

poses for organisations supporting Deaf and disabled victims/survivors; in this case, we would suggest a threshold of 70 per cent in this case.

There are no limitations on the size or turnover of an organisation to be classified as a led 'by and for' organisation.

Timelines

Applications will open in June 2025, and close on 12 August 2025. Following the online application deadline, all applications will undergo robust eligibility and due diligence checks to ensure governance compliance.

Eligible applications will then be assessed against the assessment criteria (see the section on assessment criteria, below). A decision-making panel will meet to review the full assessments of shortlisted applications, and agree funding awards. The outcome of all applications will be communicated to all applicants by autumn 2025.

Applicants are expected to start mobilisation after outcomes have been communicated. Services are expected to go live on 1 April 2026 and run until 31 March 2029, depending on funding availability.

Assessment criteria

Once applications have been submitted, they will be individually assessed by the GLA and MOPAC.

The following criteria will be used to assess each funding application:

- **Deliverability** – Services should be deliverable within the timescales of the grants fund. Applications should include plans for staff recruitment, including timelines; and how the service will be made accessible to victims/survivors. For organisations delivering support within their own safe accommodation (such as a refuge), organisations must demonstrate that they have these properties in place; or outline how they are acquiring properties in time for the start of delivery. Mobilisation is expected to commence once organisations are notified of award outcomes.
- **Outcomes and impact** – Organisations must show the outcomes and impact they hope to achieve, and how this aligns with delivering the objectives of the Mayor's DASA Strategy 2025-28. Organisations will be expected to demonstrate their reach in terms of support and any social value. Special consideration will be given to encourage organisations supporting service provision for particularly under-served groups, as identified in the Needs Assessment and through Strategy consultation. This includes, but is not limited to, services supporting trans victims/survivors; those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF); Black women; and LGBTQI+ individuals.
- **Addressing victim/survivor needs** – Organisations must demonstrate the need for a certain type of service, and submit qualitative and quantitative evidence to support this. Organisations are expected to show how victim/survivor voices have informed their application; and the ways they will capture and reflect the experience of victims/survivors throughout the lifetime of the service.
- **Support for staff** – Due to the nature of this work, MOPAC and GLA recognise the additional trauma staff face, and the wider systemic discrimination organisations delivering this support must navigate. Organisations will be expected to show the support they have in place for staff to effectively deliver provision for victims/survivors. To respond to recruitment and retention challenges, organisations will be expected to demonstrate how they will facilitate continued learning and development of new and existing staff.
- **Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)** – Organisations must ensure that they comply with the public sector equalities duty under section 149 of the Equality Act

2010. Organisations must demonstrate a commitment to ensuring EDI principles are embedded at all levels. This includes a commitment to anti-racism, intersectionality and wider anti-discrimination. Organisations will be expected to submit relevant EDI policies.

- **Value for money** – Organisations will be required to complete their service delivery cost breakdown, which will be thoroughly assessed by the panel. The value for money will be assessed across all aspects of an application, and underpinned by quality, equity and impact in proportion to the cost of the service. Organisations must show a meaningful return on investment for those whose needs cannot be met with a generic provision. The costings and complexity of need are required to be justifiable – including the number of victims/survivors that will be supported; the service user group to be supported; the social value of the service to be delivered; and the intended outcomes. When considering value for money, assessors will consider:
 - **Quality** – does the service achieve an optimal use of resources to deliver high-quality and survivor-centred support? As part of this, we will consider the scope and effectiveness of the service delivery model.
 - **Equity** – does the service reflect and respond to complex and intersecting needs of marginalised communities, and the need for bespoke specialist services? (For example, delivering services such as language interpretation, accessibility adaptations or immigration advice.)
 - **Impact** – what is the impact and reach of the service? Is budget planning proportionate and transparent? Does it support positive change in a sustainable manner? (For example, user satisfaction and/or staff wellbeing and retention.)
- **Equitable partnerships** – Is the partnership/consortium an equitable arrangement? Partnership or consortium funding applications must demonstrate an existing working relationship, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of each organisation. A formal agreement does not need to be in place at the application stage. However, organisations must demonstrate examples of existing partnership working, such as sitting on relevant forums together.

Weightings

The weighted scoring system provides an average final score per application. Applications will be ranked on average final scores. The assessment criteria will be weighted using the following proportions:

Criteria	Percentage weighting for individual applications	Percentage weighting for partnership/consortium applications
Deliverability	30%	30%
Outcomes and impact	20%	20%
Addressing victim/survivor needs	15%	15%
Support for staff	15%	15%
EDI	10%	5%
Value for money	10%	5%
*Equitable partnerships	N/A	10%

How to apply for grants funding

Who can apply for the grants programme?

Applicant eligibility

To be eligible to apply, organisations must:

- Meet the given definition of led 'by and for' organisations – this is applicable to individual organisations. Where organisations are applying as part of a partnership or a consortium, then all organisations within the partnership or consortium must meet the definition.
- Currently be providing services delivering provision responding to VAWG and/or domestic abuse in London for the communities referenced under the led 'by and for' definition.
- Have a track record, going back at least three years, of providing services to victims/survivors impacted by VAWG and/or domestic abuse. This is applicable to all organisations within a partnership or consortium.
- For partnerships and consortiums, organisations must demonstrate an existing working relationship at the time of application. A formal partnership agreement or equivalent must be in place for partnerships by 1 April 2026.

We will accept applications from organisations with the following legal structures provided there is a signed governing document in place appropriate to the legal structure.

Organisation types eligible are:

- registered charity
- charitable incorporated organisation
- charitable company
- Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee
- company limited by guarantee

- registered society.

We are unable to accept applications from:

- organisations that do not meet the led 'by and for' definition outlined in section 4
- organisations without a track record in delivering provision focused on VAWG and/or domestic abuse
- any organisations promoting either a religious belief or a political party
- individuals
- organisations that are overdue with any annual reporting requirements with their relevant registry body
- organisations undertaking activities outside the scope of their governing document
- statutory organisations.

Service eligibility

Services must meet the definitions under the Part 4 guidance detailing what constitutes 'safe accommodation' and 'support'.

Services in scope include those providing:

- support within safe accommodation
- support to access safe accommodation
- support for children of victims/survivors
- advice services, e.g., focused on prevention, immigration, housing rights, NRPF
- outreach services
- counselling and therapy services
- management of services
- support for the day-to-day running of services.

Please see appendices A and B outlining the relevant definitions for a full list of eligible service provision.

Services that are not in scope under this fund include:

- housing costs, e.g., rent deposits
- capital costs
- perpetrator intervention/management

Governance

To meet governance requirements, applicants must:

- have at least three unrelated members responsible for the governance of the organisation, e.g., trustees/directors/management committee, as appropriate.
- be a constituted not-for-profit organisation that is either a registered company or charity; or that is registered with another regulatory body
- be able to demonstrate an annual income of over 50 per cent of the annual figure requested in the application; any exceptions to this limit will need to be agreed with MOPAC's Contracts and Grants team before the application is submitted
- have submitted required financial information to the Charity Commission/Companies House for the last two completed financial years
- have a bank account in the same name as the lead organisation applying, which has a minimum of two unrelated signatories by the grant agreement start date
- be restricted to costs for delivery of services within the Greater London area, and to victims/survivors residing in safe accommodation within the Greater London area
- have internal financial controls that demonstrate how the charity, and associated funds and assets, are protected from fraud and/or mismanagement; this includes having measures in place to prevent bribery and corruption
- have robust measures in place that comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Safeguarding

The GLA has a duty to ensure safeguarding practices of funded organisations are fit for purpose to deliver any funded project. As part of the application process, we therefore require all applicants, including all partners within a partnership application, to provide a safeguarding policy for their organisation. This will be reviewed as part of our due diligence.

Once an organisation is funded, the GLA also has a duty to investigate patterns of safeguarding incidents and serious incidents that occur in, or in relation to, the services it commissions; and to ensure they are dealt with appropriately by the organisation. Throughout the lifetime of the grant, funded organisations will be required to report safeguarding concerns and serious incidents to MOPAC. These will be reviewed and, if appropriate, escalated through the GLA's safeguarding procedures.

Living Wage Funder

MOPAC and the GLA are Living Wage Funders. This means that MOPAC and the GLA aim to support all grant-funded staff posts to be paid at or above the real Living Wage for London. This includes funding that MOPAC is managing on behalf of the GLA and MHCLG.

Applicants should therefore take this into account when applying for funding for any staff costs. Applicants should seek to budget any posts – whether sessional workers, freelance, zero hours, full-time or part-time – at the real London Living wage or above. You can find more about the Living Wage Funders Scheme at the Living Wage Foundation's information page on [Living Wage Funders](#).

Due diligence

As part of the application process, we require all applicants to upload a whistleblowing policy and/or protocol for their organisation. This will be reviewed as part of our due diligence. As part of the selection criteria, successful applicants will also be required to provide additional regulatory policies, such as GDPR and anti-bribery policies.

Application process

Individual and partnership submissions

Organisations will be able to apply for grant funding that covers the full cost of running their proposed service. Services can be delivered by individual organisations, or through formal partnerships or consortia.

For individual organisations, only one application is eligible. This single application can seek funding to deliver multiple elements within one service. This covers, for example, a wraparound service that has different forms of support within this, delivered by a range of staff with differing expertise.

For organisations delivering within a partnership or consortium, there is no set limit to the number of organisations within this arrangement. However, organisations must demonstrate an existing working relationship at the time of applying. Further, partnerships or consortiums must have a formal partnership agreement, or equivalent, in place prior to a funded-service start date. This means partnerships can form during the application window.

For organisations wanting to apply both individually and within a partnership or consortium, you can apply for one of each. For example, you may submit one application as an individual organisation, and one as either a lead partner or a partner within a partnership.

Please see the table below detailing the minimum and maximum funding envelope for applications:

Organisational delivery	Funding envelope amount per annum	Additional information
Individual organisations	£125,000 – £500,000	The funding is available for individual applicant organisations, as outlined in 'Organisation eligibility'. Funding requests cannot exceed 50 per cent of the applicant organisation's annual income, unless agreed with MOPAC's Contracts and Grants team in advance. This funding is specifically for services delivered by individual organisations. Applications from partnerships are not eligible.
Partnerships/ consortiums	£500,001 – £1,500,000	The funding is available for partnerships or consortiums as outlined in 'Organisation eligibility'. Funding requests cannot exceed 50 per cent of the total annual income for organisations in a consortium or partnership, unless agreed with MOPAC's Contracts and Grants team in advance. This funding is specifically for services delivered by partnerships or consortiums.

Flexi-Grant and online submission

Applications will be accepted through the Grant Application Portal only. The portal used for this fund is called Flexi-Grant. This is an online system used by MOPAC to manage and administer grant applications and related processes. It simplifies the application, monitoring and reporting procedures for organisations receiving grants. Flexi-Grant allows applicants to submit their proposals, track progress, and manage reports on funding usage, all in one place.

To apply to the led 'by and for' grants programme, applicants must first contact the dedicated inbox (dasabyandforgrants@mopac.london.gov.uk) to complete an eligibility assessment. Upon completion of the assessment, eligible applicants will then be instructed to register on the Flexi-Grant system. They will receive a unique link to access the online application form. For partnerships or consortiums, the lead organisation will take responsibility for submitting the online application.

A training session on using Flexi-Grant will be held in June, when the application window is open.

The deadline for applications is **12pm (midday) on 12 August 2025**. Please note we are unable to consider applications that are submitted after the deadline, or that do not include the relevant, up-to-date supporting documents. If you have any concerns, or experience any problems with your application, please get in touch with MOPAC at dasabyandforgrants@mopac.london.gov.uk before the deadline.

Next steps following outcome notification

If an application is successful, funding recipients will need to meet the requirements detailed below, before they can receive grant funding from the GLA.

Grant terms and conditions

Applicants will need to enter into a grant agreement with the GLA and MOPAC to secure grant funding through this programme. The grant agreement template to be used will be shared with applicants as soon as it is available. Successful applicants will be sent a final grant agreement via Docusign, following outcome notification. They will need to sign the agreement electronically, to accept the terms.

The grant agreement will outline monitoring requirements, payment terms, agreed delivery milestones and standard clauses that all GLA and MOPAC grantees need to adhere to. MOPAC will monitor performance of applicants against these delivery milestones on an ongoing basis.

We aim to adopt a flexible-funder approach – providing flexibility when issues with programme delivery are flagged at an early stage. But the GLA and MOPAC reserve the right to: review a provider's grant allocation where delivery is impacted; issue a grant modification to agree changes to the service; or terminate the grant agreement where delivery is no longer achievable.

Payments

Grant funding will be paid to providers quarterly in arrears, in line with the payment schedule and process to be outlined within the grant agreement.

For partnerships or consortiums, payments will be made to the lead organisation that submitted the application. Lead organisations will be responsible for making payments to all other members of the partnership, as per the terms of their own partnership agreements.

Start fees can be requested as per the service types identified as eligible below.

Services eligible for start fees are:

- new services

- existing services, where the service has expanded and introduced new provision to target a specific need (for example, a new team focused on supporting mental health needs).

Services ineligible for start fees are:

- existing services with no change to their DASA provision
- existing services, with additional roles to support existing delivery of the same provision.

Services must be delivering provision and supporting victim/survivors from 1 April 2026. For services that will be delivered through new accommodation, we require confirmation that this is secured and in place to align with expected delivery timeframes.

Monitoring and reporting requirements

Initial delivery and mobilisation

Throughout the mobilisation period, providers will need to keep the DASA Contracts and Grants team updated on progress, and on any risks to mobilisation activity and service delivery timelines.

By the end of quarter two of the first year of delivery, the DASA Contracts and Grants team will arrange a formal monitoring visit or meeting. This will ensure all services are officially delivering provision and supporting victims/survivors.

Ongoing grant management

Once services have been mobilised, and delivery started by 1 April 2026, organisations will be expected to comply with a schedule of quarterly reporting, capturing DASA outcomes and case studies, as outlined within their grant agreement. Formal quantitative and qualitative monitoring data will be requested as part of this quarterly outcomes monitoring and will inform formal grant management. Reports will be submitted via the Flexi-Grant system – the template for which will be shared within the grant agreement.

Organisations will also be required to complete the monitoring requirements of the MHCLG annual data collection. Data is collated from providers following the conclusion of each financial year (throughout April and May). It is then submitted to the MHCLG in June, in line with statutory expectations. Organisations will be supported by the MOPAC Contracts and Grants team to deliver this. Lead partners in consortium or partnership arrangements will be responsible for collating monitoring data from their partners.

As a minimum, the DASA Contracts and Grants team will organise quarterly meetings with organisations to monitor the quality of service delivery, discuss progress and hear key updates. However, applicants should expect more regular meetings and/or additional reporting requirements to be put in place, depending on: the delivery stage of the service; if risks are raised about delivery; and/or concerns are raised about the performance being reported.

Appendices

Appendix A – MHCLG Statutory guidance on Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021: domestic abuse safe accommodation

Description of 'relevant accommodation' (also referred to as 'safe accommodation' throughout this guidance) is specified by the Secretary of State in regulations as follows.

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

- 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.

- 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.

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 DASA services may fall under more than one of the above descriptions.

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 DLUHC 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 Organisations.

Appendix B – 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 organisations).
- **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).

Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment

Link to Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the DASA led 'by and for' grants programme. <To be added once published on GLA Webpage>

Appendix D – London Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy, 2025-28

[London Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-28](#)

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