

Have your say on commissioning Domestic violence and Abuse services in South Gloucestershire

South Gloucestershire provides Safe Accommodation and Specialist Support Services for people affected by Domestic Violence and Abuse. We will be recommissioning our services in 2023 and are keen to hear feedback from a wide range of individuals and organisations on how we can improve our support services and accommodation offering.

To have your say, please complete this survey by **20th October 2022**

Q1 Are you answering this survey as....?

- A domestic violence and abuse service provider
- On behalf of an organisation (other than a service provider)
- An individual in a professional or voluntary capacity
- A person who has experienced domestic violence and abuse
- A member of the public
- Other (please specify below)

Safe Accommodation

South Gloucestershire Council currently commission 19 refuge spaces which are made up of 2 male spaces, 2 single women with complex needs, 8 spaces for women and their children and 7 spaces for single women. These are all spaces in shared 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.

We are considering whether our offer of safe accommodation meets the needs of all those at risk of domestic violence and abuse in South Gloucestershire.

There are several options we could consider which include:

- Offering self-contained units of refuge accommodation

- Offering Dispersed Safe Accommodation (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained 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.

Data from our Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment showed that 53% of those victims of domestic abuse who responded to the survey stated that if they were safe to do so they wished to remain in their own homes. Options to support them to do this include:

- A Sanctuary Scheme - a survivor centred initiative which aims to make it possible for victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation. This is done by providing additional security – installing a 'sanctuary' – to the victims' property or perimeter.

- A flexible funding pot is a designated funding pot that domestic abuse support workers can access quickly and easily for victim/survivors to support them to achieve or maintain safe and secure housing. This can be managed by the provider or the local authority.

Q2 Please rank the following options in order of priority, with 1 being highest priority and 4 being lowest:

	1 (Top priority)	2	3	4 (Lowest priority)
Self contained refuge accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dispersed safe accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sanctuary scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexible funding pot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q5 If you have any other comments about safe accommodation please let us know:

Group Work

South Gloucestershire Council currently commission group recovery/support work which is delivered face to face and online. There is consistently a waiting list for these groups due to the high demand for group work support and positive outcomes from it. These groups are currently delivered by our commissioned service. The Freedom programme is the current course that we offer.

Q6 Please rank the following options to expand this service in order of priority, with 1 being highest priority and 4 being the lowest:

	1 (Highest priority)	2	3	4 (Lowest priority)
Running a range of group work programmes including the current Freedom Programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Running shortened group work programmes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considering other providers of group work programmes such as Children's Centres or community groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Running more group work online	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q8 If there are any other important factors please let us know:

Children and Young People

In England, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children as victims of domestic abuse if they “see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse”. South Gloucestershire currently commission refuge spaces for women and their children should they have to leave their homes as a result of domestic violence or abuse. This includes direct support with Children and young people while in refuge. There is a separate contract to provide practical and emotional support, information, and education for children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse. This includes group work, one to one outreach work and a preventative programme within schools

Q9 Thinking about which services to expand, please rank the following options in order of priority where 1 is highest priority and 4 is lowest priority:

	1 (Highest priority)	2	3	4 (lowest priority)
Co-located domestic violence and abuse specialist workers within social care and other organisations/departments relevant to Children and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting group support for those who have experienced domestic violence and abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist domestic violence and abuse support for young people in abusive relationships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic violence and abuse preventative work in schools and education settings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11 If there are any other services which you consider a priority please let us know:

Barriers to accessing domestic abuse services

The South Gloucestershire domestic violence and abuse Needs assessment identified that domestic abuse victims from the following groups were under-represented within Domestic Abuse Specialist services: Older adults, younger adults, men, those who identify as LGBTQ+, BAME, Those who identify as having a disability (physical, mental or learning disability)

The needs assessment identified certain barriers to accessing services which we would like to understand more about and address. We want to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse are able to access and engage with specialist domestic abuse services and that these services meet their specific needs.

Q12 Please rate how important the following options would be for helping more domestic abuse victims to access domestic abuse support services:

	Very important	Quite important	Not sure / Neutral	Not that important	Not at all important
Specialist workers within specialist domestic abuse services to work with the above groups such as an older adult IDVA, an LGBTQ+ IDVA	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Domestic abuse workers co located in departments and services such as adult social care, housing, mental health	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Financial advice/support for victims of domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Legal advocacy for victims of domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Domestic abuse communications campaigns which represent different groups of service users	<input type="checkbox"/>				
More domestic abuse awareness training for frontline workers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Community engagement with equalities forums and groups	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Q13 If you have any suggestions for other options to support a wider range of domestic abuse victims please let us know:

Partnership working

Domestic abuse is everyone's business, and all organisations share the responsibility to tackle domestic abuse and keep victims safe. In order to ensure that those who experience domestic violence and abuse have their needs met holistically we need to consider how organisations work together to support individuals and families

We would like to know what you think would make a difference for victims of domestic abuse who may have to receive support in different areas such as housing, health, social care, police etc and how partner agencies can work together to ensure this work best meets the needs of those service users.

Q15 How important do you think the following options would be to meeting service users needs:

	Very important	Quite important	Not sure	Not that important	Not at all important
One front door, a single contact point for domestic abuse services where professionals and service users can get information and support	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Specialist domestic abuse workers being co located in departments/organisations such as Children's Social Care, Adult social care Housing and Homeless teams etc	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Raising awareness of domestic abuse services in the community	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Domestic abuse champions within frontline services who can provide advice to colleagues and cascade information and are a point of contact for domestic abuse services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Increased training of frontline staff in recognising and responding to domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Streamlined referral pathways between services to ensure that information is shared and those experiencing domestic abuse receive appropriate priority and support	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Access to financial and legal advocacy and support for victims of domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please return your completed questionnaire to Freepost SGC, South Gloucestershire Council, Insight and Engagement Team, Council Offices, Badminton Road, Yate BS37 5AF

Any personal information that you have supplied will be held by South Gloucestershire Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations (UKGDPR) 2021. This information will only be used as part of this exercise and personal information will not be published or passed onto any other organisation. Your personal information collected as part of this survey will be kept for two years to help us improve services before being securely destroyed. Our privacy notice, which explains how we will process your personal information, how long we will retain it and your rights as a data subject, is available at www.southglos.gov.uk/privacy