

Services provided for Domestic Abuse Victims by Councils
in England and Wales

Survey by PARITY of 78 City/Metropolitan and County Councils
in Autumn 2014

Summary of Results

PARITY

December 2014



Equal Rights for Men and Women

PARITY

postmaster@parity-uk.org

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Introduction

1 During the period August to December in 2014, PARITY, using Freedom of Information Requests (see page 5), undertook a survey of a random selection of 49 City and Metropolitan Councils (City/Metro) and 35 County Councils, in England and Wales, to find out what services they provided or funded for victims of domestic abuse (DA) in their areas.

2 Information on such services was received from 45 City/Metro, and 33 County Councils. Three other City/Metro Councils advised that DA services were mainly provided by their County Council and not by them, and thus could provide only partial or no information. One other City/Metro Council relied on a Housing Association for such services and also provided no information. Two other County Councils approached provided only partial information.

Data on services

3 Overall, the majority of the 78 Councils responding provided some form of shared services generally for both male and female victims, although this extended only to outreach or support for male victims in the case of eleven authorities (6 City/Metro and 5 County). Two City/Metro Councils and two County Councils appeared to provide no routine or specific services at all for male victims. 62 Councils (33 City/Metro and 29 County) provided refuges or had access to refuge accommodation by Women's Aid or other organization for female victims and their children. Only two Councils, both County, provided specific refuge accommodation for male victims and their children.

4 Twenty two Councils (13 City/Metro and 9 County) provided emergency accommodation for both male and female victims. 49 Councils (27 City/Metro and 22 County) funded Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) services for all victims, and 29 Councils (20 City/Metro and 9 County) funded target hardening (improved house security) for both male and female victims.

5 A summary of the extent by type of services provided by Councils is given below in Table 1, and the proportions by type of service for all responding Councils shown in Chart 1. More detailed summaries are given for City/Metropolitan and County Councils in Tables 2 and 3 respectively below.

Table 1 Extent of services by type provided by responding Councils

Type of DA service provided	Number of Councils providing			Per cent of Councils providing		
	City/Metro	County	Total	City/Metro (45 total)	County (33 total)	Total (78 total)
For victims of both sexes						
IDVA	27	22	49	60	67	63
House security, target hardening	20	9	29	44	27	37
Emergency accommodation	13	9	22	29	27	28
Outreach	14	14	28	31	42	36
Support	24	21	45	53	64	58
Refuge	-	2	2	-	6	3
Specifically for female victims						
Refuge	33	29	62	73	88	79
Emergency accommodation	2	2	4	4	6	5
IDVA	2	3	5	4	9	6
Outreach	6	2	8	13	6	10
Support	6	5	11	13	15	14

Notes:

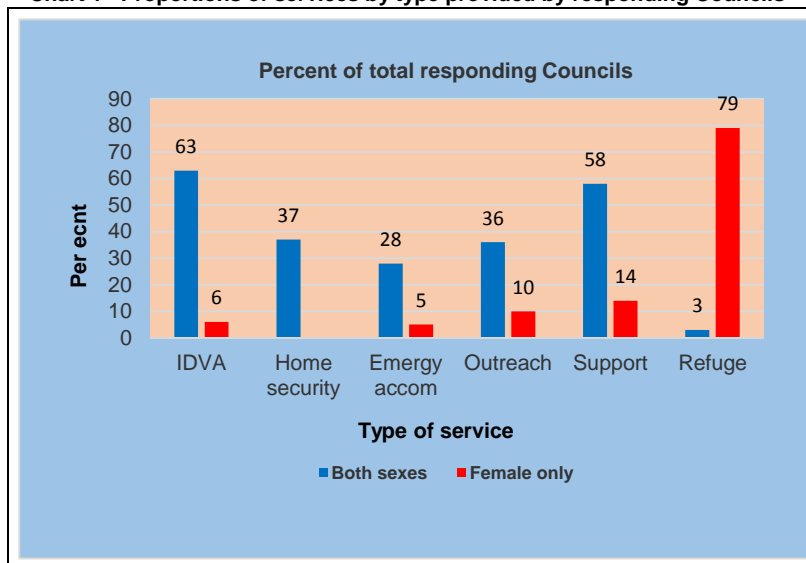
Outreach eg.. One-Stop-Shop, drop-in clinics

Support eg. temporary and/or supported accom, care pathways, abuse surgeries and DA nurses, family crisis and support, advice, 'floating care'

Data on funding

6 Seventy six Councils (43 City/Metro and 33 County) of the 78 Councils listed in Tables 2 and 3 below provided annual funding details (mostly for year 2013/14). Total funding by these Councils for the annual period amounted to £51.4 million (£25.9 City/Metro and £25.5 million County). 14 Councils were not able to provide a breakdown of their total. Total funding by the remaining 62 Councils amounted to £40.9 million (£21.7 million City/Metro and £19.2 million County). Of this, some £17.1 million funded shared services, an average proportion of about 43% of this total. However, in many cases, the proportion was much less than this. Almost all the remainder of total funding related to services specifically for female victims, either directly or through women's refuges. Only six of the Councils (3 City/Metro and 3 County) provided a breakdown for allocated funding specifically for male victims, this amounting to a mere £118 thousand.

Chart 1 Proportions of services by type provided by responding Councils



Comments

7 The information provided suggests that, except for an IDVA service, fewer than half of authorities responding claimed or appeared to provide some form of shared low-level support services, excluding refuge provision, on a gender neutral basis. Also, whilst 79% of Councils (73% City/Metro and 88% County) provided a refuge service for female victims and their children, only 28% (29% City/Metro and 27% County) appeared to provide emergency accommodation for male victims and their children in lieu of refuge provision.

8 Only two Councils (both County) provided actual refuge accommodation for male victims and their children. Despite an apparent background gender-neutral approach in the case of some authorities, the bulk of the funding for DA services by Councils is still directed at those for female victims, in particular dedicated refuge accommodation for women and their children.

9 The results also suggest that the majority of Councils do not take the provision of meaningful support services for male victims of domestic abuse (and their children) as seriously as equality law might expect. ['Equality' meaning 'equality between individuals'. 2006 Equality Act 8(2)]. Where refuge provision is provided by Councils for female victims, surely the least they can do in the name of equality and equal treatment is to provide also emergency accommodation of some form for comparable male victims and their children. Failure to do this is not only an injustice to male victims but also to their children. It also suggests that the actual needs and plight of male victims and their children, including the need for safe emergency accommodation, deserve more research and attention than has been the case so far.

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Table 2 Summary of type of services provided by City and Metropolitan (City/Metro) Councils

AUTHORITY	Services for victims of both sexes					Services specifically for female victims				
	IDVA	Home security	Emerg accom	Out-reach	Suppt	Refuge Safe rooms	Emerg accom	IDVA	Out-reach	Suppt
Birmingham City Council						#(SP)				#
Bolton Metro B.C.	#		#			#				#
Bradford Metro B.C.	#					#				
Brighton & Hove City Council					#	#(R)		#		
Bristol City Council	#			#	#	#(NL)				
Bury Metro B.C.	#	#		#	#	#				#
Cambridge City Council		#				#(WA)				#
Canterbury City Council	#			#						
City & County of Swansea	#	#			#	#(WA)				
City of York Council				#		#				
Coventry City Council	#	#			#		#		#	
Derby City Council	#					#				
Doncaster Metro B.C.	#		#							
Dudley Metro B.C.	#									
Ealing Council	#					#(SP)				
Gateshead Metro B.C.					#					
Gloucester City Council		#	#							
Hull City Council		#	#		#	#(WA,C)				
Kirklees Metro B.C.		#	#		#	#				
Knowsley Metro B.C.					#	#				
Leeds City Council	#	#		#	#	#(WA)			#	
Leicester City Council	#	#		#		#				#
Liverpool City Council		#		#	#	#				
Manchester City Council	#	#	#			#(WA)				
Nottingham City Council	#				#	#				
Oxford City Council		#		#						
Peterborough City Council	#	#			#	#(WA)			#(WA)	
Plymouth City Council			#	#		#(WA)				
Portsmouth City Council	#			#		#				
Preston City Council					#					
Sandwell Metro B.C.	#		#			#			#	
Sefton Metro B.C.					#	#(WA)				
Sheffield City Council	#			#	#	#				
Solihull Metro B.C.	#				#	#				
Southampton City Council	#			#	#	#			#(WA)	
South Tyneside Metro B.C.	#				#	#				
Sunderland City Council	#	#	#		#	#				
Tameside Metro B.C.	#	#	#			#				
Wakefield City Metro B.C.	#	#			#					
Walsall Metro B.C.						#	#	#	#	#
Wigan Metro B.C.	#	#	#	#	#	#				
Winchester City Council			#		#	#				
Wirral Metro B.C.	#	#								
Wolverhampton City Council			#	#	#					
Worcester City Council		#								
Totals	27	19	13	14	24	33	2	2	6	6

Notes:

= service provided

IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Adviser

Home Security = target hardening, home safety measures, sanctuary provision

Emerg accom = emergency accom, safe rooms/houses, respite accom, supported accom

Outreach = eg. One-Stop-Shop, drop-in clinics

Support = temporary accom, care pathways, DA abuse surgery, DA nurses, family crisis advice, 'floating' care

Refuge = Full-time hostel

WA = Women's Aid C = Women's Centre

SP = Supporting People

R = Rise NL = Next Link

Councils requested but excluded due to not having responsibility for DA services: Carlisle City, Exeter City, and Norwich City, or to incomplete information provided: Lincoln City,

Table 3 Summary of type of services provided by County Councils

AUTHORITY	Services for victims of both sexes						Services specifically for female victims				
	IDVA	Home security	Emerg accom	Out-reach	Suppt	Refuge	Refuge Safe rooms	Emerg accom	IDVA	Out-reach	Suppt
Buckingham C.C.	#	#					#(WA)				
Cambridgeshire C.C.	#	#		#			#				
Carmarthenshire C.C.	#	#			#		#				
Ceredigion C.C.			#		#		#				
Cumbria C.C.							#		#		
Derbyshire C.C.	#		#	#	#	#	#				
Devon C.C.	#			#			#(WA)				#
Dorset C.C.	#	#		#			#				
Durham C.C.	#		#	#	#		#				
East Sussex C.C.	#						#		#		
Flintshire C.C.		#			#		#(WA)				
Gloucestershire C.C.		#			#						
Hampshire C.C.				#	#		#				
Hertfordshire C.C.	#		#		#		#				
Kent C.C.	#				#		#				#
Lancashire C.C.	#				#		#				
Norfolk C.C.					#		#				
Northamptonshire C.C.	#						#				#
Northumberland C.C.	#	#	#		#		#				
North Yorkshire C.C.				#	#		#				
Nottinghamshire C.C.	#				#		#	#		#	#
Oxfordshire C.C.	#			#			#				
Powys C.C.			#		#		#(WA)		#	#	
Rutland C.C.	#	#			#						
Somerset C.C.	#		#	#			#				
Staffordshire C.C.	#				#	#					
Suffolk C.C.				#	#		#(WA)				
Surrey C.C.				#			#				
Warwickshire C.C.	#	#		#	#		#				#
West Sussex C.C.	#			#			#				
Wiltshire C.C.	#			#			#				
Worcestershire C.C.	#		#	#				#			
Wrexham C.B.C.			#		#		#				
Totals	22	9	9	14	21	2	29	2	3	2	5

Notes:

= Service provided

IDVA = Independent Domestic Violence Adviser

Home Security = target hardening, home safety measures, sanctuary provision

Emerg accom = emergency accom, safe rooms/houses, respite accom

Outreach = eg. One-Stop-Shop, drop-in clinics

Support = care pathways, DA abuse surgery, DA nurses, family crisis advice, 'floating' care

Refuge = Full-time hostel

WA = Women's Aid

SP = Supporting People

R = Rise

NL = Next Link

Councils requested but excluded due to incomplete information provided: Conwy County, Essex County

Freedom of Information Request

Would you please provide us with following information:

For the year 2012/13 (or latest year of complete record):

- 1 What services or provisions did the Council provide directly or indirectly to support specifically:
 - (a) female victims of domestic violence/abuse
 - (b) male victims of domestic violence/abuse.

- 2 What funding did the Council expend in the same period to provide such services for specifically:
 - (a) female victims of domestic violence/abuse
 - (b) male victims of domestic violence/abuse.