



Ministry
of Justice

Ministry of Justice Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services and the National ISVA and IDVA fund

March 2022

Background

1. For 2022/23, MoJ has confirmed that PCCs will receive £69.1m 'core' funding, £27m ringfenced funding to recruit and retain 700 Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (ISVAs/IDVAs) and £15.7m ringfenced funding for domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV) support services. On 25 March 2022, we confirmed this funding will be delivered over a multi-year basis until the end of 24/25. **PCCs will be required to pass the multi-year commitment onto the local services they commission, to ensure frontline service providers receive the full benefits.**
2. It was announced at the 2021 Budget that Government would be increasing the number of ISVAs and IDVAs funded by the MoJ to over 1000 by 24/25. To reach this commitment, we will be recruiting an **additional 300** posts by 24/25.
3. In order to inform our funding allocations, we are asking PCCs complete a new needs assessment which will enable us to gain a more up to date picture of local need. This guidance (and accompanying template) covers:
 - the allocation of funding for the DA/SV ringfenced funding. The assessment should cover needs for 22/23 and any allocation of funding will be made on a multi-year basis. We will continue to work with PCCs over the SR period to provide some flexibility to ensure allocations continue to meet changing needs and demand.
 - the allocation of funding for an additional 100 ISVAs and IDVAs posts to be recruited in 22/23. Where posts are recruited in 22/23, funding will be guaranteed in 23/24 and 24/25. The profile of the recruitment of the remaining 200 posts will be determined at a later date. NB: the model of recruitment (i.e whether funding is provided via PCCs or funding is directly provided to 'By and For' organisations) will be determined by the outcome of this needs assessment.

Funding allocation

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence	£15.7m
ISVA and IDVA Fund for additional 100 posts recruited in 22/23	£3.75m

4. Organisations **do not need to be a registered charity, a charitable incorporated organisation, or a social enterprise to be eligible for this funding.** They must, however, provide support services which have the purpose of helping victims of SV or DA cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced.
5. If a PCC believes that they can most appropriately meet local need by allocating their funding to a Local Authority or other local body, they are permitted to do this provided they are able to evidence how this meets local need. Reporting will still need to come through the PCC and meet grant conditions.
6. Each PCC area will receive notification of the allocation of funds as set out above. The DA and SV ringfenced funding will be combined – we will not be specifying this year which proportion of this overall spend needs to be on DA or SV, which we hope will allow greater flexibility to allocate locally according to your needs.

General Conditions

7. This funding is subject to grant agreement conditions which must be adhered to when allocating funds.
8. Organisations must be based in England and Wales to be eligible for this funding.
9. PCCs must undertake an assessment of need in relation to both DA and SV support services in their local area. PCCs must ensure that the assessment process fulfils a number of general conditions, as well as specific Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and ISVA and IDVA conditions set out in paragraphs 13 – 30. The general conditions are:
 - the process is open and transparent, and assessment criteria is published;
 - the process is open to all relevant support organisations in the PCC area – and encourages applications from small organisations that support victims with protected characteristics;
 - the process is undertaken in collaboration with Local Authorities;
 - there are named contact points in each PCC office for queries;
 - the names of all organisations that requested funding, and those that were successful, should be published on completion of the process;
 - evidence is provided of:
 - how you engaged with local organisations including how they were invited to bid
 - how your subsequent bids to MoJ are informed by their requests
10. PCCs must ensure DA and SV organisations that have a proven track record of providing tailored services for particular groups such as LGBT, disabled, BAME and male victims are included when establishing local need, and ensure they are proportionately represented within funding allocations. PCCs must engage with other local commissioners, including the Local Authority, when establishing and assessing local need. PCCs may also wish to pool such requests with neighbouring PCCs.
11. PCCs will need to undertake appropriate due diligence and fraud risk assessments in relation to organisations they fund through this allocation.
12. PCCs will be asked to check that bids meet the stated eligibility, but all bids should be submitted to MoJ for further consideration. **No bids should be filtered out by the PCC at this stage.**

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Funding Conditions

13. To be eligible for **DA and SV ringfenced funding**, the organisation must provide tailored support to female and/or male victims who have experienced domestic abuse, rape or sexual abuse at any point in their life. This includes adults and children. The funding can be used to support existing clients as well as new referrals.
14. DA and SV support services could include, but are not limited to:
 - Family court support;
 - Court support;
 - Face to face or remote counselling for individuals and / or their families;
 - Support for particular groups such as BME/ Disabled/ LGBT/male victims.

15. Funding for support for victims of DA in safe accommodation is subject to a separate funding process run by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). **MoJ funding must not be used to provide accommodation or the support services within it.**
16. PCCs already fund DA support services, either directly or through the Local Authority, and will have a good understanding of need and service provision in their areas. However, we recognise the scope to fund new services and meet additional needs may be limited in some areas because of commitments that have already been made locally and, for this reason, when assessing how DA funds should be distributed, **PCCs must open up their process to all DA support services in their area, to ensure the needs assessment captures and reflects the need in the area, whether or not they currently fund them.**
17. Funding for SV support services may come from a variety of sources; however, a significant proportion is provided nationally through the Rape Support fund (RSF) and the NHS. All PCCs fund SV support services. The number of rape support services not funded by these organisations are small so **PCCs must open up their funding distribution process to sexual violence support centres beyond those that they already fund and demonstrate consideration of provision for men and boys.**
18. When assessing local need, we expect PCCs to consider demand that may be needed to support a response to a special investigation where there are multiple victims which creates a demand that cannot be met within existing support provision.

National ISVA and IDVA Funding Conditions

19. The National ISVA and IDVA Fund referenced in this document is in addition to the £27m fund which we expect you to continue to use to maintain the 700 posts already in place. The recruitment aim is for 100 new posts in the first year (2022/23). We will profile the remaining 200 based posts based on intelligence we gather over the coming months.
20. The purpose of this funding is to increase advocacy support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV) and across England and Wales, including children.
21. We also expect every PCC area to include in their needs assessment how they will work to support children and young people - to better support young people affected by crime and to minimise the negative impact this can have on their futures. We will expect to see a minimum of one bid from each PCC area for a child and young person ISVA or IDVA.
22. To ensure ISVA/IDVA posts are targeted to need, consideration must be given to where posts should be recruited through 'by and for' organisations – those run by and for the users and communities they aim to serve, e.g. a disabled ISVA supporting a disabled victim/survivor. Even where demand for these posts is low, and equates to less than 1FTE ISVA / IDVA in a PCC area, it is important that these needs are captured in the needs assessment.
23. The bids should ensure that funding is directed in full to the employment of additional advocates/advisors, including training and on-costs. Translation costs will also be considered.
24. We expect to see bids for services that:

- offer tailored support for under-represented survivors and those with protected characteristics;
- propose innovative advocacy models as well as for established roles such as IDVAs and ISVAs, for both adults and children;
- adopt hybrid models supporting both DA and SV victims, as well as violence against women and girls (VAWG) advocates and advisers, provided they will be supporting victims of SV and/or DA.

25. Specific roles eligible for this fund include: • ISVAs and ISVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)

- IDVAs and IDVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)
- Child ISVAs and IDVAs
- ISVAs and IDVAs who provide support to victims with protected characteristics

26. In addition, PCCs should also consider the needs to:

- Consult across public and statutory agencies, including local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), to understand the current advocacy landscape and where additional resource is required to meet local demand.
- Engage across DA and SV organisations in their areas, including; organisations that the PCC does not have an existing funding relationship with, organisations supporting victims with protected characteristics and 'by and for' organisations.
- Consult the BAME Commissioning Guidance framework and evidence the needs of minoritised and underrepresented survivors in their bids.

27. Where more than one advocate/advisor is being proposed, clearly describe the role of *each* advocate/advisor, and the specific demands the role will address.

Outcomes

28. ISVAs, IDVAs and other advocates for both adults and CYP will ensure that the rights and interests of survivors are always upheld - in accordance to the [Victims Code of Practice](#).

29. We expect all advocates/advisors to be working towards the following outcomes:

- a. Survivors have access to support that is individually tailored to their level of risk and support needs
- b. Survivors who want support to navigate the criminal justice system, and have been impacted by disruption in the criminal justice system, have an advocate to support them throughout all stages of their journey
- c. Survivors have someone to advocate on their behalf, to ensure their views and needs are heard and upheld, such as within the criminal justice process, the MARAC process, or in engagement with a range of other statutory and voluntary agencies.

30. Guidance on the key elements of the ISVA and IDVA roles can be found here:

- The role of an ISVA is detailed in the [Home Office document 'Essential Elements of the ISVA Role'](#)
- The role of an IDVA is provided by [Safelives](#)
- The role of a CYP advocate has not been specifically defined as this still a developing area of support provision. However, guidelines on safeguarding are detailed in ['Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018'](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

SV and DA ringfenced funding

1. Which organisations are eligible for this funding?

Organisations must provide tailored support services to help victims of DA and/or SV cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced. Unlike with the Covid-19 extraordinary funding, this funding can be allocated to other public bodies, as well as to third sector organisations and to fund directly commissioned posts, as long as this can be justified within the local needs assessment and funding criteria.

2. What can organisations spend this money on?

Funding can be used to provide support to domestic abuse and sexual violence victims and their families. Support services could include, but are not limited to:

- IDVAs or ISVAs
- Child IDVAs or Child ISVAs
- Court or family support;
- Face to face or remote counselling for individuals and/or their families; and
- Support for particular groups such as BAME/Disabled/LGBT/male victims.
- campaigning activities (this fund is to support the delivery of direct services for vulnerable people);
- religious activities outside of projects benefiting the wider community and not containing religious content;
- political or lobbying activities;
- loan repayments; or
- activities that make profit for private gain.

Funding allocations must adhere to the grant conditions in grant agreements.

3. Are there any restrictions on how PCCs can spend the funding?

In line with usual government grants, PCCs must ensure that organisations **do not** use the funding for any of the following activities:

- campaigning activities (this fund is to support the delivery of direct services for vulnerable people);
- religious activities outside of projects benefiting the wider community and not containing religious content;
- political or lobbying activities;
- loan repayments; or
- activities that make profit for private gain.

Funding must not be used for capital works e.g. building repairs but can be used for other capital costs such as ICT equipment to enhance your communications and help reach local people.

Funding allocated for 2022/23 cannot be used to pay for goods or services that have been bought or ordered before 1 April 2022 or after 31 March 2023.

Funding cannot be used to pay for any outstanding debts prior to 1 April 2022.

4. Can we use the funding to support victims of other types of crime?

No, this funding has been ringfenced to provide tailored provision for domestic abuse and sexual violence victims only.

5. Our assessment of need indicates that we do not require the full amount of funding that has been allocated to our area. What should we do?

PCCs should notify us of any funding they do not require as soon as possible to allow it to be redistributed.

6. Will any underspend returned to the MoJ impact the baseline amount provided for future years?

The MoJ will consider the amount returned and circumstances for doing so on a case-by-case basis.

7. In the guidance document it states payment will be released by MoJ upon satisfactory checks of paperwork. Will PCCs receive this paperwork in advance to ensure the needs assessment and internal due diligence checks address what is being asked?

Yes. A template for the needs assessment is provided along with the guidance document.

8. If PCCs are not required to undertake a full competitive bidding process how is due diligence going to be carried out?

PCCs must be confident and able to evidence when reporting to the MoJ they have met the expectations set out in their grant agreement for managing public money.

PCCs will also need to carry out a fraud risk assessment for organisations they do not currently commission.

9. Are 'honour based' (which includes forced marriage and FGM) abuse charities eligible for domestic abuse funding?

Honour based abuse falls within the government definition for domestic abuse. Any organisation that provides tailored support to victims of domestic abuse and their families is recognised as a domestic abuse support service.

10. Are stalking charities eligible for domestic abuse funding?

Stalking carried out by a former intimate partner or by a family member falls within the government definition for domestic abuse. Any organisation that provides tailored support to victims of domestic abuse and their families is recognised as a domestic abuse support service.

National ISVA and IDVA Fund

11. MoJ invested £27m in IDVAs and ISVAs during 2021/22. Will this funding continue?

Yes, this funding will continue to the end of 2024/25 to retain the 700 ISVA/IDVA posts recruited in 2021/22.

To meet the commitment to increase the number of ISVAs/IDVAs funded by the MoJ to over 1000 by 2024/25, we will be recruiting an additional 300 posts. We will be providing an additional £3.75m p.a over the SR period to recruit and retain an additional 100 posts. The profile of the recruitment of the remaining 200 posts will be determined at a later date.

12. Will you be funding a minimum level of ISVAs, IDVAs and other advocates in each area?

No, we will not be funding a minimum level of advocates in each area. We will be evaluating the bids to assess local need and funding accordingly.

13. Will bids for new types of CYP advocates be accepted?

Yes – provided the bid meets the requirements discussed in this document and is supporting child victims of DA or SV.

14. Is this funding exclusively for services for female victims?

No, this funding is for male victims as well, and we are expecting to see this demographic specifically addressed in bids.

15. Will you accept applications for tailored or specialist ISVAs and IDVAs, such as those supporting survivors with disabilities?

Yes, we encourage bids of this nature, and expect to see proposals for tailored or specialist ISVAs, IDVAs and other advocates, including innovative models. We are particularly interested in understanding the need for 'by and for' ISVA / IDVA posts.

16. Will you only consider bids for roles that support survivors through the Criminal Justice System?

No, we understand that not all IDVAs, ISVAs and other advocates have a role in supporting survivors through criminal justice proceedings, however ideally we would expect ISVA and IDVA services to provide end-to-end support for victims and survivors, including those involved in criminal justice proceedings. All bids must specify how the funding will meet local pressures and unmet demand.

17. Will you accept applications for other forms of advocacy roles? Such as Young Person Violence Advisers and Independent Gender Violence Advocates?

This fund is designed to increase the number of child and adult ISVAs and IDVAs. We will be accepting bids for innovative models of advocacy, but only if they are providing tailored, end-to-end DA and SV support.

18. Do we need to submit separate bid documents for ISVAs, IDVAs and CYP?

No, you will need to submit one bid document, however you should use a different line on the application form for each individual role so each role, its cost, parameters and impact are clearly

defined. This document should clearly state the funding requested, for how many roles, and the details of each of these roles.

19. Is this funding for third sector organisations only?

No, we will accept bids for funding ISVAs, IDVAs and other advocates in other public sector agencies such as; SARCS, primary and acute health settings and local authorities.