



Ministry  
of Justice

# Ministry of Justice Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services

## Police and Crime Commissioner Funding Allocation Guidance

February 2021



## Background

1. On 1 February 2021 Ministry of Justice (MoJ) announced additional one-year funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV).
2. This guidance covers the uplift funding for SV and DA services, as well as the National ISVA and IDVA fund. The additional funding will be distributed via Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) as an uplift to the core victims grant and through an EOI process for the ISVA and IDVA fund. The national breakdown in the allocation of this funding is as follows:

Sexual Violence	£4.625m
Domestic Abuse	£8.95m
National ISVA and IDVA Fund	£16m

3. There will also be an additional £1.5m available through a 'critical support fund'. Further detail on how to access this fund will be provided shortly, but **applications will not open until after the SV and DA allocations have been finalised.**

## Allocation

4. In order to minimise the burden on PCCs and organisations, each PCC will receive an allocation based on needs assessments previously provided to the MoJ for their local areas. Additional funding can be accessed through the critical support fund should a PCC area be able to demonstrate that there is a critical need in their area.
5. Unlike the extraordinary Covid-19 funding provided in 2020/21, **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.
6. If a PCC thinks that they can most appropriately meet local need by allocating their funding to a Local Authority (LA) 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.
7. Each PCC area will receive notification of the allocation of funds as set out above. The total funding will be ringfenced for spend on SV or DA services only. Please notify MoJ in advance of submitting the needs assessment if it is anticipated that funding will need to be moved between pots. Any movement between pots will require MoJ approval.

## General Conditions

8. This funding is subject to grant agreement conditions which must be adhered to when allocating funds.
9. Organisations must be based in England and Wales to be eligible for this funding.
10. PCCs must undertake an assessment of need in relation to both SV and DA support services in their local area. PCCs must ensure that the assessment process fulfils a number of general conditions, as well as specific SV and DA ones set out in paragraphs 17-23. The general conditions are:
  - the process is open and transparent, and assessment criteria are published;
  - the process is open to all relevant support organisations in the PCC area – and encourages applications from small specialist organisations that support groups with protected characteristics;
  - the process is done in collaboration with LAs;
  - there are named contact points in each PCC office for queries; and
  - the names of all organisations that requested funding, and those that were successful, should be published on completion of the process.
11. PCCs will use the template we have provided to undertake this needs assessment. To ensure a fair assessment is made across all areas, PCCs will need to establish the following as part of their needs assessment process:
  - if an organisation is currently funded by them;
  - if the organisation supports victims with protected characteristics (BAME, LGBT, disabled victims); and
  - if the organisation supports male victims.
12. 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.
13. PCCs will need to undertake appropriate due diligence and fraud risk assessments in relation to organisations they fund through this allocation. **They are not required to undertake a full competitive bid process.**
14. Payment will be released by the MoJ upon return of the signed grant agreements and satisfactory completion of the needs assessment. Each needs assessment should be returned to MOJ including the written statement (see template) and a completed checklist at **Annex 1**.

## Domestic Abuse Funding Conditions

15. To be eligible for **DA specific funding**, the organisation must provide tailored support to female and/or male victims who have experienced DA 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.
16. DA support services could include, but are not limited to:
  - IDVAs;
  - CHIDVAs;
  - Family court support;
  - Face to face or remote counselling for individuals and / or their families; or
  - Support for particular groups such as BAME/ Disabled/ LGBT/male victims.
17. Funding for support for victims of DA in safe accommodation is subject to a separate funding process run by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). **MoJ funding must not be used to provide accommodation or the support services within it.**
18. 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 that funding may be limited in some areas 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, whether or not they currently fund them.**

## Sexual Violence Funding Conditions

19. To be eligible for **SV specific funding**, the organisation must provide tailored support to female and/or male victims who have experienced 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.
20. SV support services could include, but are not limited to:
  - ISVAs;
  - CHISVAs;
  - Court support;
  - Face to face or remote counselling for individuals and / or their families; or
  - Support for particular groups such as BAME/ Disabled/ LGBT/ male victims.
21. Funding for SV support services may come from a variety of sources; however, a significant proportion is provided nationally through the 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.**

## **National ISVA and IDVA Fund**

22. The National ISVA and IDVA Fund which will be distributed through Expressions of Interest (EOI). The template for the EOI is attached to this guidance. This funding is committed for two years - from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2023. Existing ISVA grants held by PCCs will be extended to 31 March 2023.

23. To access this funding, Police and Crime Commissioners are invited to submit EOIs by **3 March 2021** to [Rape.Support@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Rape.Support@justice.gov.uk).

### Scope of the Funding (Eligibility)

24. The purpose of the Fund is to increase advocacy support for victims and survivors of sexual violence (SV) and domestic abuse (DA) across England and Wales, including children. While we expect this to focus predominantly on increasing the number of ISVAs and IDVAs across local areas to expand service capacity in response to the pandemic, we are also interested in receiving EOIs for innovative models of advocacy support for these groups of victims.

25. We also expect every PCC area in the country to include 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.

26. The EOIs should ensure that funding is directed in full to the employment of additional advocates, including training and on-costs. Translation costs will also be considered.

27. We expect to see EOIs 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.

28. 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 specialist ISVAs and IDVAs

29. In addition, PCCs should also consider the following:

- 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 specialist 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 minoritized and underrepresented survivors in their EOIs.
- Where more than one advocate is being proposed, clearly describe the role of *each* advocate, and the specific demands the role will address.

### Outcomes

30. 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](#).

31. We expect all advocates 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, has 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.

32. 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'](#)

### Evaluation Criteria

33. Expressions of interest will be evaluated based on the information provided in the attached template for the following tabs: 1) Local assessment of need and 2) Detail of posts required. The evaluation criteria we will use is as follows:

*(1) Local assessment of need*

34. This tab in the template will enable the MoJ to understand need in your area. There are four sections in which we require your response:

- a. Part 1 requires information on the number of existing advocates in your area by specialism. It requires additional demand data relating to caseloads and waiting lists. **This information is for context only**. You will not be evaluated based on this information, it will simply provide the necessary information on the existing support provision in your area to allow us to understand the current situation.
- b. Part 2 requires '**Analysis of current unmet victim need in your PCC area and how your proposal will address these gaps**'.

We will evaluate this section against the evidence provided demonstrating:

- Analysis of victim need in your area (including additional pressures placed on services by Covid-19)
- Explanation of why current provision is unable to satisfy it
- How your proposal will address these challenges

- c. Part 3 requires '**Describe existing gaps in provision for underrepresented victims (such as those with protected characteristics and males) and how this proposal will address these**'

We will evaluate this section against the evidence provided demonstrating:

- A clear understanding of how underrepresented victims, such as those with protected characteristics are currently supported, and whether there is adequate tailored provision in your PCC area
- How your proposal will ensure proportional service provision for these groups

- d. Part 4 requires '**How do the roles you are proposing to fund align with existing provision?** (e.g. how these will work collaboratively with statutory and community services)'

We will evaluate this section against evidence provided demonstrating:

- Analysis of existing local provision for DA and SV has taken place, and roles have been designed to link in with these local structures
- What gaps in the existing provision exist, and how these proposals will address them

*(2) Detail of posts applied for*

35. This tab in the template is where you must detail information relating to the posts that are applying for funding for. **You must complete all columns and use a separate row for each post.**

36. You will also be asked to outline each role required, any tailored provision it will offer and a breakdown of cost. We expect to see EOIs for CYP and tailored towards underrepresented groups, such as those with protected characteristics, from every area in response to the local need identified.

## Allocation Timeline

Date	Action
<b>Tuesday 9 February</b>	Allocation letters sent to all PCCs. This also includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guidance for allocating the funding</li><li>• Needs assessment template for the SV and DA funding uplift</li><li>• The process and application form for the IDVA/ISVA joint fund</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday 3 March</b>	Deadline for submitting bids for the ISVA/IDVA joint fund.  Deadline for PCCs to inform MoJ if they do not require the full funding uplift they have been allocated.
<b>w/c Monday 15 March</b>	Funding offers communicated to PCCs and grant agreements sent.
<b>Monday 22 March</b>	Grant agreements signed by PCC areas and returned to MoJ, along with the completed needs assessment templates for the funding uplift.
<b>From Thursday 1 April</b>	Payments will be made, subject to satisfactory completion of needs assessment forms.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## SV and DA Uplifts

### 1. Which organisations are eligible for this funding?

Organisations must also 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:

- 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.

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 cannot be used to pay for goods or services that have been bought or ordered before 1 April 2021 or after 31 March 2022.

Funding cannot be used to pay for any outstanding debts prior to 1 April 2021.

Funding must be spent within the grant funding period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 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 need more funding than has been allocated to our PCC. Is there an opportunity to request further funding?**

Yes, you will be able to request funding through the 'critical support fund'. Guidance is provided above.

**6. 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 **by 3 March**.

**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 £4m in ISVAs during 2020. Will this funding continue?**

Last year, MoJ invested £4m to recruit more ISVAs across England and Wales. This funding was distributed via Police and Crime Commissioners and resulted in the recruitment of c.120 ISVAs across England and Wales.

This funding will continue and will be *extended* from March 2022 until March 2023. Police and Crime Commissioners have been notified of the extension of this fund.

**12. How much money are you investing in this Fund?**

Of the £16m investment over 2 years, £4m has already been committed in ISVA grants to PCCs. Through this new EoI process, £4m will be made available for ISVAs and £8m will be made available for IDVAs and other DA advocates.

This investment is part of a holistic funding package across national remote, community-based domestic abuse and sexual violence services.

**13. How long is the duration of this fund? And will we be able to carry over funds beyond March 2023?**

The fund will be for a period of 2 years, until 31 March 2023. No, the funds must be spent by 31 March 2023, in line with grant conditions.

**14. 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 EOIs to assess local need and funding accordingly. There will be a minimum quality threshold for EOIs and if this is not met we will be unable to fund provision in this area.

**15. Will EOIs for new types of CYP advocates be accepted?**

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

**16. 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 EOIs.

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

Yes, we encourage EOIs of this nature, and expect to see proposals for 'tailored or specialist ISVAs, IDVAs and other advocates, including innovative models.

**18. Will you only consider EOIs 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 EOIs must specify how the funding will meet local pressures and unmet demand, including those exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**19. Will you accept applications for other forms of advocacy roles? Such as Young Person Violence Advisers and IGVAs?**

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

**20. Do we need to submit separate EOI documents for ISVAs, IDVAs and CYP?**

No, you will need to submit one EOI 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.

**21. Is this funding for third sector organisations only?**

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

## Annex 1: PCC Needs Assessment – Checklist

1. PCCs must undertake an assessment of need in relation to both SV and DA support services in their local area. PCCs must ensure that the assessment process fulfils a number of general conditions, as well as specific SV and DA ones.
2. The process must be open and transparent, and accessible to all relevant support organisations in the area.
3. For ease, we have included a checklist of everything that should be included in a local needs assessment. Please ensure when carrying out assessments that the below has been captured and the checklist is returned alongside the needs assessment.
4. If 'no' is answered to any of the below, please provide a short explanation why it has not been considered or included.

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
Engagement with other local commissioners	
Provision for men and boys for SV funding	
Provision for victims with protected characteristics for both DA and SV	
Consideration of funding the Local Authority for DA funding	
Consideration of organisations that don't already receive PCC funding	
Due diligence checks	
Named point of contact in a PCC office for queries	