

Leicester  
City Council

## **MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2021**

**TIME: 5:30 pm**

**PLACE: Meeting Rooms G.01 and G.02, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115  
Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

### **Members of the Committee**

Councillor Thalukdar (Chair)

Councillor Solanki (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Joshi, Nangreave, O'Donnell, Waddington and Westley

One unallocated Labour group place

One unallocated non group place

For Monitoring Officer

#### **Officer contacts:**

**Anita Patel (Scrutiny Policy Officer)**

**Jacob Mann (Democratic Support Officer),**

Tel: 0116 454 5843, e-mail: [Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk)  
Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

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- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

### **Further information**

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact:

**Jacob Mann, Democratic Support Officer on 0116 454 5843.** Alternatively, email [Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk), or call in at City Hall.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151.**

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **AGENDA**

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#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

#### **3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Appendix A**

The minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held on 21 October 2021 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

#### **5. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

#### **6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

#### **7. DOMESTIC ABUSE - DRAFT SAFE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY**

**Appendix B**

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to summarise the new duties on the local authority emerging from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and seek feedback on the draft domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy 2022-25.

**8. CROWDFUND LEICESTER UPDATE**

**Appendix C**

The Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance submits a report on the CrowdFund Leicester initiative.

**9. HOMELESS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS STRATEGY**

**Appendix D**

The Director for Housing submits a report to provide a briefing to Members of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission on progress of implementing Leicester's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023, at the request of the Chair of Overview Select Committee.

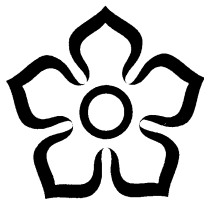
**10. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME**

**Appendix E**

The current work programme for the Commission is attached. The Commission is asked to consider this and make comments and/or amendments as it considers necessary.

**11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**





Leicester  
City Council

# Appendix A

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2021 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Thalukdar (Chair)  
Councillor Solanki (Vice Chair)

Councillor Joshi, Councillor Nangreave, Councillor O'Donnell, Councillor Waddington

In Attendance:

Councillor Claire, Deputy City Mayor for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Regulatory  
Services

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Westley.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair announced that the items on the agenda would be taken out of order, with the Public Safety Team Update being taken before the Litter and Fly-Tipping Strategy.

The Chair announced that Covid-19 updates would no longer be a regular item on the Commission and that any necessary updates could be brought by Officers when appropriate.

Officers stated they would update Councillor Waddington on the status of Fosse Library as it was currently being used as a Covid test site.

The Chair also joined Councillor Joshi in remembering and paying tribute Councillor Mo Chohan on the third anniversary of his passing.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held 9 September 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **5. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

#### **6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer reported that none had been received.

#### **7. GAMBLING POLICY 2022-2025**

Councillor Claire, Deputy City Mayor for Regulatory Services introduced the item, noting that the Gambling Act required Local Authorities to publish a Gambling policy. It was noted that the existing policy would expire in January 2022 and that a new policy was out for consultation and would be brought before the Licensing and Public Safety Committee and Full Council.

Deborah Bragg, Licensing Team Manager, presented the item. It was noted that:

- The Gambling Commission had updated its guidelines with some minor changes, reflected in the policy.
- The Local Area Profiles had also been updated.
- Various bodies such as the Police, other Council departments, and gambling charities had been consulted on the policy.

In response to Member's comments it was noted that:

- A previous Commission had led a task group on Gambling policy. Recommendations made by this task group had fed into the updated policy.
- The Government had introduced limits on fixed odds betting machines in betting shops.
- The Code of Conduct outlined by the Gambling Commission outlined procedural rules for Gambling premises which they had to keep in line with.
- A Gambling premises would need first to get approval from the Gambling Commission before getting final licensing approval from the Local Authority. The Local Area Profile was used in the licensing process.
- Applications for Gambling licenses were very rare, with the industry increasingly becoming online focused. There had been a Government call for evidence on the online gambling industry. Regulation of online gambling was not possible at the local level.



- A no casino policy had not been introduced in the city. There were 3 existing Casinos when the policy became an option and there had been no applications for a new Casino since then. If the policy were to be brought in it would need to be evidence based.
- Gambling premises had very stringent conditions on protecting vulnerable people.

#### RESOLVED:

1. That the Commission notes the report.
2. That the Commission recommends the Council to consider how a No Casino Policy would be implemented,
3. That the Commission recommends that the Council participate in the Government call for evidence on the online gambling industry.
4. That the Commission recommends that the impacts of television advertising of gambling be considered in the policy.

### **8. LITTER AND FLY-TIPPING STRATEGY**

Bob Mullins, Head of Standards and Development for Neighbourhood and Environmental Services, presented the item, it was noted that:

- A strategic approach to litter and fly tipping had been developed by the Council in 2016. Which led in a 15% reduction in fly tips from 2016-2019. However there had been a 24% increase in fly tipping in 2020-2021, in-line with national trends.
- There were various ways for residents to dispose of waste legitimately.
- Businesses had certain legal duties regarding the waste they generated.
- Local Authorities were only responsible for clearing fly tips on public land.
- The Council avoided a one size fits all approach to fly tipping, taking a more localised, targeted approach.
- There were partnerships with various agencies such as the Environment Agency and Canal and River Trust in order to understand and combat litter and fly tipping.
- There had been several successful campaigns on these issues in collaboration with local partners.
- There had been several successful area-based interventions such as on Tudor Road.
- It was hoped that the various ways of reporting local issues would all be recorded to the same online database, making the process more efficient.
- An Action Plan was in place to focus on the priorities of the service.

In response to Member's questions it was noted that:

- It was calculated that clearing up fly tips in Leicester cost the Council £374,000 in 2019, in 2020 it cost £847,000.
- The possibility of a telephone number to report fly tipping issues would be considered.
- The Action Plan was out for comment.

- The contract with Biffa would expire in 2028, opportunities to vary the contract had been explored such as with the green waste collection service.
- Parks and Open Spaces staff had fed into the Action Plan.
- There were communications between Highways and Cleansing services on the issue of abandoned vehicles.
- There was a webpage where people could volunteer to support cleansing efforts.
- A hot washer had been purchased in order to clean up Paan on the streets.

AGREED:

1. That the Commission notes the report.
2. That the Commission recommends the possibility of a telephone number for fly tipping reporting be considered.
3. That the Commission recommends that another campaign to address the issues relating to waste outside Paan shops.
4. That the Commission recommends that the cost of cleaning up litter and fly tips be highlighted in the Strategy and to the general public,

## **9. PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM UPDATE**

Govind Mandora, Team Manager for Public Safety, presented the item. It was noted that:

- Due to the pandemic, the priorities of the public safety team had changed since the last time the Commission was updated.
- The public safety team was a relatively small team and advised on health and safety legislation.
- The team had been busy during the pandemic, advising businesses on the latest rules and legislation. Enforcement action taken during the pandemic was limited.
- Covid risks were now integrated into consideration for projects of the team.
- The team was currently looking at high-risk premises.
- There was an 18-month recovery plan in place for the team.
- Shisha premises were a major issue for the team as there was presently no national licensing policy on the matter.
- There were a large number of new and unrated businesses which still needed to be reviewed.

In response to Member's questions it was noted that:

- Support was still being provided to businesses for creating risk assessments for premises.
- With regards to manufacturing premises, the Health and Safety Authority was primarily responsible. However the Council stepped in to help advise on Covid measures during the pandemic.

- The effort to assist public health during the pandemic was made across the range of regulatory services.
- The heavy workload of the team was managed by prioritising the most high-risk areas.
- Other premises where controls were limited continued to be an issue.

AGREED:

1. That the Commission notes the report and thanks the public safety team for their work.
2. That the Commission recommends that no further cuts be made in the budget to the public safety team.

#### **10. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair noted that any suggestions for future items for the Commission should be emailed to himself or the Scrutiny Policy Officer.

#### **11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.



# Neighbourhood Services and Housing Scrutiny Commissions

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## **Draft Leicester Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2022-2025**

Date of Commission meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Lead Director: John Leach

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## Useful Information:

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report authors: Daxa Pancholi, Katy Edge
- Author contact details: (37) 0203, (37) 0252

## 1. Summary

### Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the new duties on the local authority emerging from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and seek feedback on the draft domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy 2022-25.
- 1.2 The report outlines the current position of the local authority against the new regulations including:
  - New needs assessment
  - Establishment of the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board
  - New draft domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy.

### New legislation

- 1.3 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021<sup>1</sup> received Royal Assent on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. A draft statutory guidance framework document<sup>2</sup> was published in January 2021 and revised in July 2021 following a period of consultation.
- 1.4 The Domestic Abuse Act aims to:
  - Raise awareness and understanding about domestic abuse
  - Provide protection for victims
  - Bring perpetrators to justice
  - Strengthen support by statutory agencies
- 1.5 Measures introduced under the Act include:
  - A statutory definition of domestic abuse:

*“Behaviour of a person (‘A’) towards another person (‘B’) is domestic abuse if A and B are each aged 16 years or over, are ‘personally connected’ to each other, and the behaviour is abusive.”*
  - Recognition of children who have been exposed to domestic abuse as victims.

<sup>1</sup> [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [\[Title\] \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- Creation of the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
- New offences, including controlling or coercive behaviour, threats to disclose private sexual photographs/films, and non-fatal strangulation/suffocation.
- New powers: Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders (DAPN/DAPO).
- Protection for victims and witnesses in legal proceedings, including use of special measures and prohibition of cross-examination in person.
- Management of offenders, including polygraph testing for offenders released on licence.
- Additional local authority support.

#### **Requirements under Part 4 – local authority support**

- 1.6 Under Part 4 of the Act<sup>3</sup>, local authorities are required to prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse in their area. The effectiveness of the strategy must then be monitored and evaluated.
- 1.7 A further requirement under Part 4 of the Act is for local authorities to establish a domestic abuse local partnership board. The purpose of the board is to provide advice to the local authority regarding the exercise of its functions relating to accommodation-based support and the provision of other local authority support in the area.
- 1.8 Membership of each domestic abuse local partnership board must include:
- Representative(s) of the relevant local authority
  - At least one person representing the interests of victims of domestic abuse
  - At least one person representing the interests of children of domestic abuse victims
  - At least one person representing the interests of charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in the area
  - At least one person representing the interests of health care services in the area
  - At least one person representing the interests of policing or criminal justice in the area.

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<sup>3</sup> [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

### **Current position**

- 1.9 Consideration has taken place regarding the options and connections required for the domestic abuse locality partnership board, to ensure it works for the city and the existing sub-regional partnership structure. Considerations regarding efficiency of representation and reporting governance have been a key part of preparations to respond regarding the new legislative changes reflected in this report. In September 2021 it was determined at City Mayor Briefing to convene a city-specific Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board.
- 1.10 Officers have also drafted the domestic abuse needs assessment, reflecting the required information from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) template and bringing in data from the previous two needs assessments. This draft report has been shared with partners to add insight and check for accuracy and representation of the data. Public health colleagues within the authority have assisted with this task and many council services have contributed data.
- 1.11 The first meeting of the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board took place on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Further meetings are arranged for December 2021, with quarterly meetings to be held thereafter. A delivery group has also been established.
- 1.12 Following the initial meeting of the new partnership board, consultation with partners regarding the draft domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy opened. Consultation closed on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- 1.13 Work to adjust the strategy document in line with partner feedback is ongoing and will continue until the final document is published on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Feedback from this scrutiny meeting will also be incorporated by 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

## **2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny**

The scrutiny commissions are invited to consider and comment on the draft domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy for Leicester.



### 3. Supporting Information

#### Planning the strategy

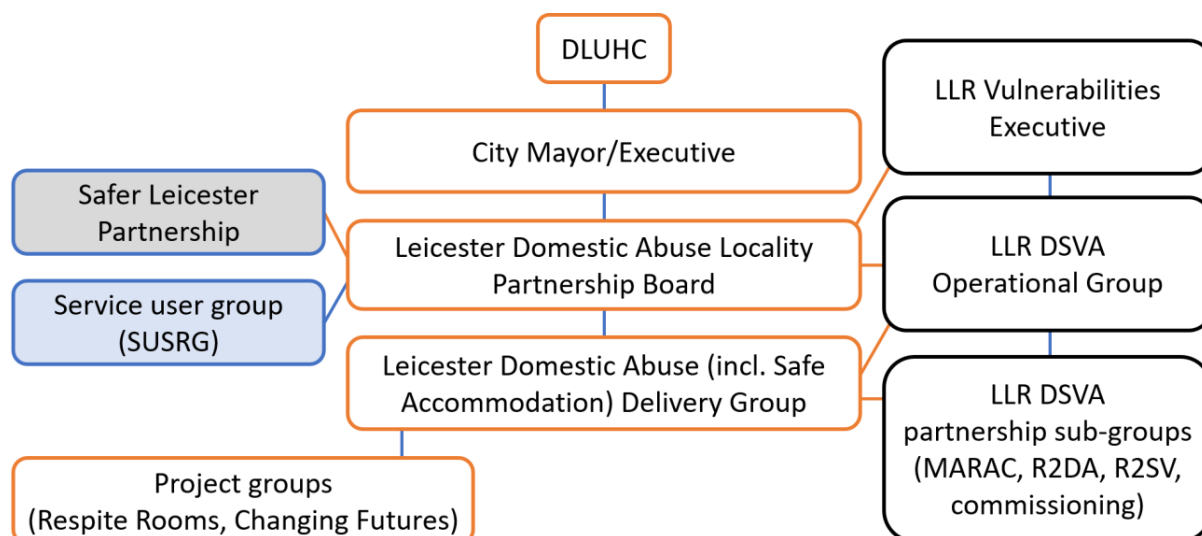
- 3.1 Planning and drafting the Leicester's domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy has involved:
- Completing a needs assessment of domestic abuse in Leicester, including review of existing documentation and provision, which has drafted recommendations for the partnership board;
  - Establishing the locality partnership board and responding to feedback from members, including their request for a delivery group;
  - Contact with Leicester's 14 'most similar group' of Community Safety Partnerships, including meetings to share learning and peer review other local authorities' safe accommodation strategies.
- 3.2 The draft strategy was published for the purposes of seeking partner feedback on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

#### Priorities

- 3.3 The strategic objectives for 2022-25 identified in Leicester's domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy are:
- i. To establish the locality partnership board;
  - ii. To commission the appropriate services;
  - iii. To establish and sustain an effective performance management structure for delivery of the domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy.
- 3.4 The draft recommendations suggest four themed priority areas for the next three years:
- i. To establish the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board;
  - ii. To improve our understanding of need in the city, and barriers to meeting those needs;
  - iii. To develop and support the workforce responding to accommodation related support for victim-survivors of domestic abuse;
  - iv. To expand the accessibility and suitability of the safe accommodation available in Leicester.

## Reporting and governance

3.5 Diagram of reporting structure, which shows how the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board relates to existing groups:



## Timeline

3.6 Following consultation and feedback from scrutiny, the final strategy is due to be published on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

3.7 Work to implement the strategy is ongoing.

## 4. Financial, Legal and Other Implications

### 4.1 Financial implications

The City Council received £857k in grant funding to meet the additional burdens associated with the Domestic Abuse Act in 2021/22. This incorporates the cost of supporting partnership arrangements, some of which are covered in this report. Linked to the Safe Accommodation strategy, a grant of £335k will be received to pilot the Respite Rooms project.

*Stuart McAvoy, Principal Accountant, ext. 37 4004*

### 4.2 Legal implications

Part 4, section 60 of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) states that Local Authorities must have regard to the Statutory guidance relating to the Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services (published 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021). Amongst other things the guidance requires Local Authorities to prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support for their local area having regard to the needs assessment. The Strategy must be published by the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 following a period of consultation with key stakeholders, including the Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board.

In respect of incoming funding for the pilot project mentioned in this the Authority will need to ensure it complies with any specified conditions imposed together with an assessment against subsidy control of the incoming funds, though it is likely in the circumstances detailed in the body of the report that these funds will be used to fulfil a statutory duty/public task and therefore likely to fall outside of this regime. Legal advice and assistance should be sought.

*Mannah Begum, Principal Solicitor (Commercial), ext. 37 1423*

### 4.3 Climate Change implications

There are no climate emergency implications directly associated with this report. However, in wider terms the strategy looks at increasing availability of accommodation options. As housing is a significant source of carbon emissions locally, projects around provision of accommodation should consider opportunities to reduce emissions where possible. This could include ensuring that properties are energy efficient and well insulated, as relevant and appropriate to individual projects. This may also deliver co-benefits in terms of reduced bills and increased comfort levels for occupants.

*Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, ext. 37 2284*

#### 4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have a continuing Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in making decisions and carrying out their activities they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

The draft domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy for Leicester should benefit people from across a range of protected characteristics by providing them with accommodation that fits their needs. It will help to ensure a vulnerable cohort of people are provided with suitable services and support, as well as having a clear statutory definition of domestic abuse.

Whilst the strategy is a strategic overarching document, key priorities for Leicester have been identified based around the gaps identified in the 2021 needs assessment, which will be further reviewed and developed during the early months of the strategy. Summary of unmet needs/gaps have been identified and these should be used to monitor delivery and track progress. Equality considerations should be embedded throughout these and it is recommended that Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are carried out as appropriate on identified key priorities/unmet needs/gaps, to ensure any impacts are identified and addressed, and mitigating actions put in place.

The equality impact assessment is an iterative process that should be revisited throughout the decision-making process and updated to reflect any feedback/changes due to consultation/engagement as appropriate

*Sukhi Biring and Surinder Singh, Equalities Officers, ext. 37 4175/4148*

#### 4.5 Other implications

N/A.

### **5. Background Information and Other Papers:**

None.

**6. Summary of Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Working Copy – Draft Leicester Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2022-25

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Presentation



Draft DA safe  
accomm strategy pres

**7. Is this a private report?**

No.

DRAFT Leicester Domestic Abuse  
Safe Accommodation Strategy  
2022-25

[Keeping victims of Domestic Abuse  
Safe *under Part 4 of the Domestic  
Abuse Act 2021*]

## Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Vision and Strategic Objectives.....	5
3. National and Local Drivers.....	6
4. Governance.....	9
5. Needs Assessment.....	13
6. Best Practice.....	19
7. Key Priorities for Leicester.....	27
8. Annual Review.....	27

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ("the Act"), local authorities are required to prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse in their area.

1.2 The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for the year ending March 2020 estimated that 20.7% of the population aged 18-74 years had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16, and approximately 5 in 100 adults had experienced domestic abuse in the last year<sup>4</sup> (7.3% of women and 3.6% of men<sup>5</sup>).

1.3 Based on these levels of prevalence and a mid-2020 population estimate for Leicester of 354,036, a level of local domestic abuse-related need can be deduced. It is estimated that in Leicester, since the age of 16:

- 35,529 females have been affected by domestic abuse
- 18,156 males have been affected by domestic abuse

1.4 The Act sets out the following statutory definition of domestic abuse:

- Behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") if:
  - A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
  - The behaviour is abusive.
- Behaviour is abusive if it consists of:
  - Physical or sexual abuse
  - Violent or threatening behaviour
  - Controlling or coercive behaviour
  - Economic abuse (behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B's ability to acquire, use or maintain money or property, or obtain goods or services)
  - Psychological, emotional, or other abuse
- It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.
- A's behaviour may be behaviour 'towards' B even if it consists of conduct directed at another person (such as B's child).

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<sup>4</sup> [Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/peopleandpopulation/healthandlife/articles/domesticabuseprevalenceandtrendsinenglandandwales/2020)

<sup>5</sup> [Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/peopleandpopulation/healthandlife/articles/domesticabusevictimcharacteristicsinenglandandwales/2020)



- Two people are considered to be 'personally connected' to each other if:
  - They are, or have been, married to each other
  - They are, or have been, civil partners
  - They have agreed to marry one another, whether or not the agreement has been terminated
  - They have entered into a civil partnership agreement, whether or not the agreement has been terminated
  - They are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship
  - They have, or have previously had, a parental relationship to the same child
  - They are relatives
- References to victims of domestic abuse include references to a child (someone under 18) who sees, hears, or experiences the effects of the abuse, and is related to A or B.

1.5 This strategy will guide the work of the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board ("the Board").

1.6 The Board will work to support, advise and work in partnership with Leicester City Council to ensure that victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support, and in particular safe accommodation, as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Members of the Board will work together to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach.

1.7 The Board will include representatives of the following key partners:

- Leicester City Council
- Criminal justice services
- Victims of domestic abuse
- Children of domestic abuse
- Charities and other voluntary organisations that work with victims of domestic abuse in Leicester
- Healthcare services
- Housing services

## **2. Vision and Strategic Objectives**

### **(A) Vision**

- 2.1 This strategy will support and contribute to the vision and strategic objectives of the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership.

‘To provide an effective Leicester locality partnership response to the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

### **(B) Strategic Objectives**

#### **2.2 The Strategic Objectives of the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board are to:**

- (i) Assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in Leicester for all victims and their children who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area.
- (ii) Prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area having regard to the needs assessment.
- (iii) Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning/decommissioning decisions).
- (iv) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
- (v) Report back annually to central government.
- (vi) Have regard to the statutory guidance in exercising its functions under Part 4.

### 3. National and Local Drivers

#### 3.1 Leicester's domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy intersects with the following key local documents:

- Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy

[Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023 \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy-2018-2023/)

Service users who are fleeing an abusive partner may become homeless or may otherwise be in need of safe accommodation.

- Tenancy strategy

[Draft Tenancy Strategy \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk/draft-tenancy-strategy/)

Some domestic abuse victims will be Leicester City Council tenants or live in council properties. Perpetrators of domestic abuse may also be council tenants who are in breach of their Conditions of Tenancy.

- Joint health and wellbeing strategy

[The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024 \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk/the-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2019-2024/)

Experiences of domestic abuse can impact on victims' physical and mental health and their ability to access healthcare services.

- Equality and diversity strategy

[corporate-equality-strategy-2018-2022.pdf \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk/corporate-equality-strategy-2018-2022.pdf)

Domestic abuse is generally understood to operate through power and control and have a 'cause and effect' type of relationship with inequality. An understanding of intersectionality is essential in responding appropriately.

- Early Help strategy

[Leicester Early Help strategy](https://leicester.gov.uk/leicester-early-help-strategy/)

Nationally, between 25-30% of children in the UK live in households with domestic abuse, and a third of all households in Leicester include dependent children<sup>6</sup>. Children who have been affected by domestic abuse of a parent are now recognised as victims.

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<sup>6</sup> Office of National Statistics – Mid-Year Population Estimates 2020

- Safer Leicester Partnership (SLP) plan

[Safer Leicester Partnership Plan](#)

Reducing the harm caused by domestic abuse forms part of the wider SLP vision to “Work together to reduce crime, disorder and vulnerability so that individuals and communities in Leicester feel safe and are safe in their homes, on the streets and in the places they go.”

- Alcohol harm reduction strategy

[Draft Leicester Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2021-2026](#)

Increased use of alcohol can increase the risk of harm when factoring in domestic abuse, in terms of severity and likelihood. Alcohol can also become a coping mechanism for managing the impact of domestic abuse and be a barrier to securing and sustaining safe accommodation.

- Knife crime and serious violence strategy

[Leicester Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy 2021-2023](#)

Domestic abuse may involve physical and/or sexual violence, including violence using weapons. Several Leicester domestic homicide reviews have been into deaths resulting from knife injuries. The current strategy therefore overlaps with the strategy to address knife crime and other serious violence in Leicester.

### 3.2 The local domestic abuse agenda also links into the following national strategies:

- Violence against women and girls (VAWG) strategy

[Tackling violence against women and girls strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

This national strategy aims to promote understanding of violence against women and girls, to prioritise prevention of such violent offences by supporting victims and pursuing perpetrators, and to build a stronger cross-system approach.

- Victims Bill

[Victims of Abuse \(Support\) Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)

This Bill, which has been started in the House of Commons and is currently at second reading stage (October 2021), aims to establish a right to specialist sexual violence and abuse support services for victims of sexual, violent and domestic abuse.

- Domestic Abuse Act

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

This recent piece of legislation set out a statutory definition of domestic abuse; introduced the role of Domestic Abuse Commissioner; created additional powers for dealing with domestic abuse; placed new duties on local authorities with regard to supporting victims of domestic abuse, convening local partnership boards and reporting; provided additional protection for victims and witnesses in legal proceedings; created a number of new offences relating to abusive acts; and made a number of further provisions, including polygraph testing for offenders released on licence. A national strategy and comprehensive perpetrator strategy will be published.

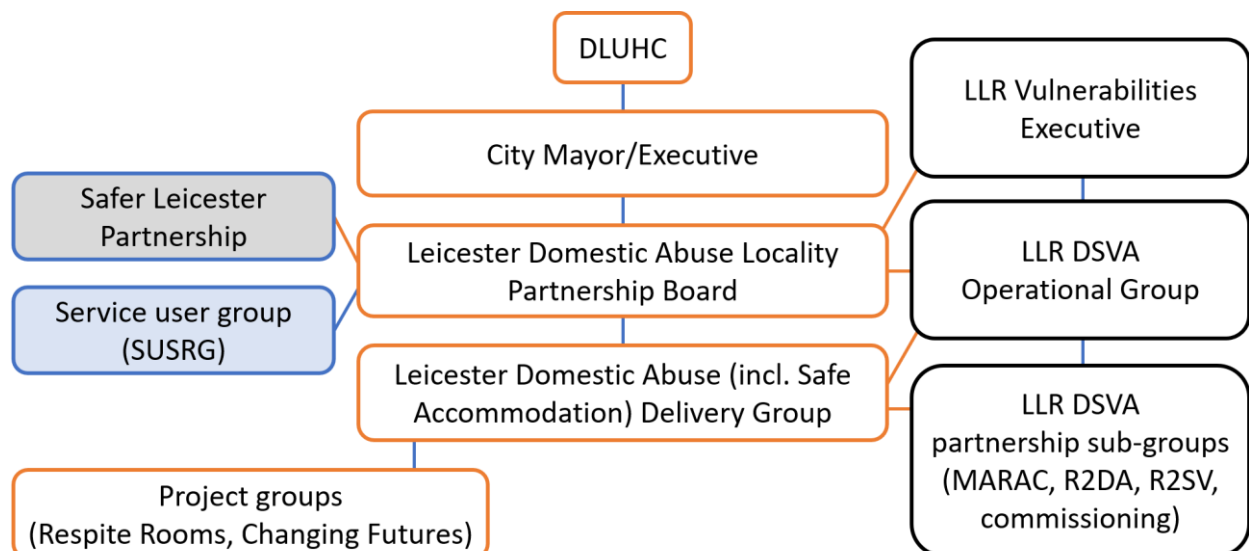
- Integrated health

[Integrated Care: Our Shared Commitment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

National and local health and care organisations have undertaken to deliver person-centred and coordinated care and support, communicating, and collaborating with other services in order to improve outcomes for service users and ensure they are receiving services that meet their needs.

## 4. Governance

- 4.1 In September 2021, the City Council made the decision to create a city specific Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board to fulfil its specific accommodation related obligations under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 4.2 The Board will work together to support, advise, and work in partnership with Leicester City Council to ensure that victims of domestic abuse have access to adequate and appropriate support and in particular safe accommodation as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 4.3 The Board will work together to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse, including their children, through a strategic approach that will also recognise the relationship with the wider Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Sub-Region and broader domestic abuse agenda.
- 4.4 The Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board will formally report in to Leicester City Council, who will retain overarching responsibility for ensuring that the obligations placed on the local authority are met.
- 4.5 Diagram of the local and sub-regional governance structure



4.6 Meetings of the Board will have sections for open and closed business, with the closed section addressing matters relating to commissioning and City Council administration.

4.7 A delivery group of key departments in the City Council, with partners, will support the work (required actions relating to the Strategy) of the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board.

4.8 The Board will link into other key partnership bodies:

- Children's Trust Board

[Family Information | Our vision \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Part of the Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (LSCB), which also includes the Early Help Strategic Board, the strategy aims to provide early stage help to children in Leicester, enabling them to "support – strengthen – thrive".

- Health and Wellbeing Board

[Health and Wellbeing Board \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Leicester's Health and Wellbeing Board works in partnership with local communities and healthcare providers to develop and deliver health and wellbeing strategies.

- Homelessness Charter

[Leicester's Homelessness Charter \(leicesterhomelessnesscharter.co.uk\)](#)

Leicester's Homelessness Charter aims to improve the way organisations and individuals work together to tackle homelessness in the city, and to harness the enthusiasm of those who want to get involved but don't know how.

4.9 Delivery plan

To ensure delivery of the Leicester Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy with a focus on Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 a delivery plan will be developed with partners. This will be supported by the Leicester Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Delivery Group that reports into the Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board.

4.10 Data updates

Quarterly performance monitoring headline data specific to Leicester and from across the sub-region will be provided to the Locality Partnership Board.

#### 4.11 Review of progress

An annual review of progress will be carried out and reported to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC).

#### 4.12 Accountability

Overall accountability for the delivery of this strategy (once approved) will rest with the City Mayor Executive at Leicester City Council.

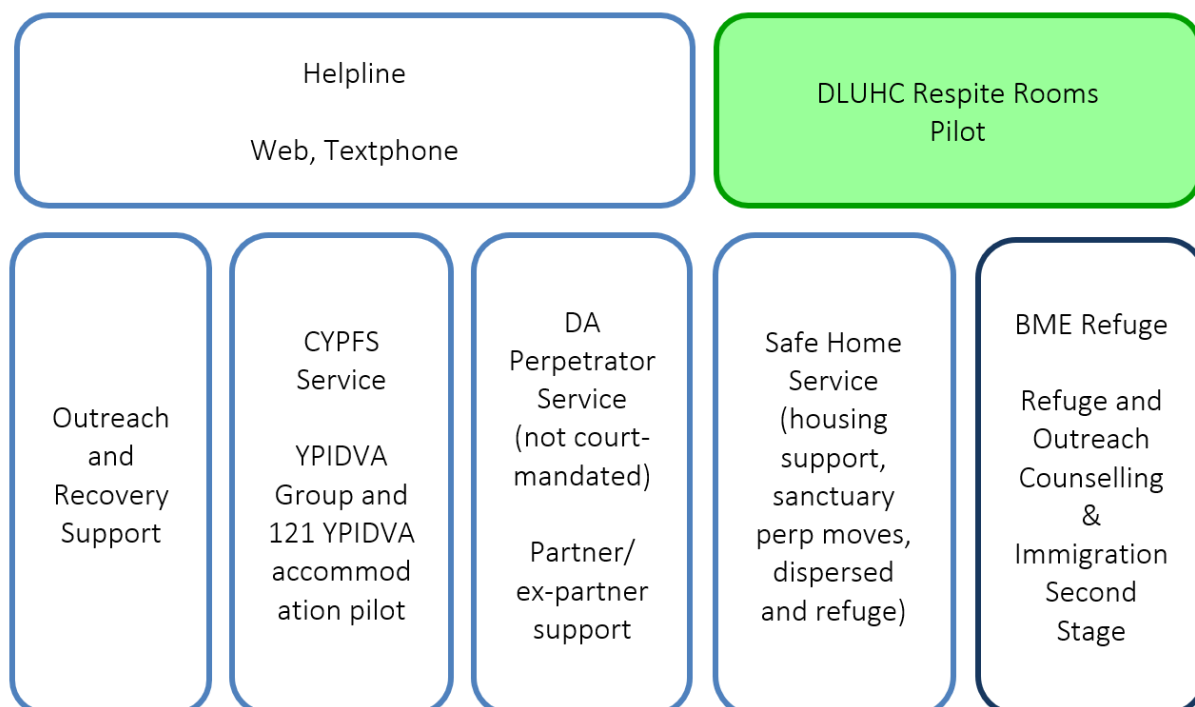


## 5. Needs Assessment

The Leicester Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021 has commenced and contains a full overview of the data available regarding domestic abuse relating to victims, their families and those who are perpetrators. It builds on previous needs assessments for the locality published in 2019 and 2017 and references the Leicester Domestic Homicide Review Data Report 2020.

### 5.1 Diagram of current service model for domestic abuse specific commissioned services

United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA) provide all of the provision coloured light blue in the diagram below, having done so since December 2015. UAVA is a consortium of Women's Aid Leicestershire Limited (WALL), Living Without Abuse (LWA) and Freeva. Panahghar Safehouse deliver the service coloured dark blue and have done so directly commissioned by city council since April 2021, previously direct through the DLUHC. The service in green below is a DLUHC funded pilot project running October 2021-September 2022. There is wider provision of Council housing and homelessness provision which also provides accommodation related support but which might not be classed currently as 'safe accommodation' within the remit outlined in the statutory guidance.



[Insert table of provision basics]

## Prevalence

The Crime Survey for England and Wales<sup>7</sup> (CSEW) population estimates of domestic abuse prevalence amongst adults since age 16, would equate to at least 18,000 men and 35,000 women in Leicester. The figure is likely to be far higher.

483 referrals were made to the city council commissioned services for victims at high risk of homicide or serious injury and 684 to outreach services, Leicester 2020-21. A further 179 referrals to high risk victims came through the hospital based high risk victim service.

Leicester police recorded 3,230 domestic abuse related incidents and 7,700 domestic abuse related offences during 2020-21.

There is a higher number of victim-survivors accessing services with no recourse to public funds (27%) in the City compared to the national Insights dataset (13%). This has consistently been higher than the national dataset over the last three years, with an average of 29% of service users having no recourse to funds, although the numbers of individual victims identified has remained stable.

## Accommodation related need

The city council commissioned specialist domestic abuse 'Safe Home Service' recorded 789 referrals in 2020-21. This figure has risen each of the last three years.

The Hope Project<sup>8</sup> recorded 264 referrals in 2020/21 from/of victims who had an accommodation related need plus another need such as immigration support, mental health, substance misuse. Mental health related need was more prevalent than substance use need.

Housing need amongst the victim population known to the city council commissioned specialist domestic abuse support and information service is showing a year on year increase and is higher than the national Insights dataset.

Mental health figures for Leicester show as higher than the national Insights dataset (57% compared to 44%) and is also showing an increase during 2020/21.

Housing need for adults with children appears to be increasing at a faster rate than previously. Insights data shows that housing need is the highest need

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<sup>7</sup> Year ending March 2020

<sup>8</sup> DLUHC funded partnership project 2018-2021

among victims (73% in 2020-21), compared to mental health need (57%), financial need (14%) and alcohol need (4%).

Referrals to the sanctuary scheme delivered through the Safe Home Service have dropped over the last three years.

The most common reason the Safe Home Service were unable to accommodate a victim in Leicester was due to their support needs meaning they were not suitable for the available safe accommodation. The second most common reason was recorded as 'no current domestic abuse'. The third most common reason in 2020-21 was a lack of suitable safe accommodation.

In 2020-21 19% of accommodation directly provided through the Safe Home Service was not available due to cleaning or maintenance, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic.

Timely move on is only occurring in 50-60% of cases, meaning that victims are staying in refuges longer than they would wish and less emergency access refuge spaces are available for those needing safe accommodation.

In the last year Leicester City Council Housing Options supported 87 people affected by domestic abuse. This is a significant increase compared to previous years, although significantly less than those referrals made to the Safe Homes Service in Leicester. Of those accessing Housing Options with a domestic abuse related housing need in 2020-21.

Homelessness applications where domestic abuse was recorded increased to 248 in 2020-21. There has been a year on year increase for those with physical ill health and disability.

Police figures consistently show that around 74% of reports of domestic abuse offences are made by females. Females account for 95% of referrals to UAVA's Support and Information Service and for 71% of victims of domestic homicides in Leicester. Women also account for the highest proportion of repeat victims.

Data collected by UAVA support and information contract shows 3% of cases where the victim identified as LGBT. In 89% of cases service users identified as heterosexual, and in the remaining 8% of cases they did not disclose this information. The LGBT population in Leicester is around 5-7%.

Referrals to IDVA and Outreach show lower referrals from those of an Asian Indian background compared to the census population. This gap is less evident for other Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) populations. BME groups may be at risk of experiencing longer lengths of abuse compared to the White

British population, with an average length of abuse of 6.5 years compared to 5.0 years.

An interpreter was required in 11% of UAVA Support and Information cases during 2020-21. The languages an interpreter was most frequently required for included Gujarati, Polish, Punjabi, and Hindi.

Both UAVA and police data show gaps in identification for those aged over 54 years. Insights data also suggests that older victim-survivors are more likely to suffer longer terms of abuse. There are also indications that the younger age groups might be at risk of high levels of abuse and also less likely to sustain or access safe accommodation.

Data for Leicester IDVA and Outreach services for 2020-21 shows that approximately 43% of the population referred to the services identified as having a disability, compared with a census population of 25%. The average length of abuse for those with a disability is slightly longer than those without. Mental health impairment and physical disability accounted for a third of all disabilities disclosed.

Domestic abuse is the most common type of violence to be experienced on a repeated basis<sup>9</sup>. In 2020-21, 2,170 repeat victims were identified by police in Leicester, accounting for 28% of all victims of domestic abuse offences. The last year has seen increases in the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse, and some victims have suffered high numbers of repeat incidents (one with 25 instances reported).

Those aged 25-34 years accounted for the largest age group among the repeat victim population (42%), which is significantly higher than the census population for this age group in Leicester (16%). There is also a possible over-representation of BME victims in the repeat victim population compared to the overall domestic abuse victim profile.

In 2020-21, 61% of all adult victims accessing the support and information service provided by United Against Violence & Abuse (UAVA) had children<sup>10</sup>. During this period, there were 18 referrals to the support and information service for children (aged 13-18 years) who were recorded as a 'primary victim', and 746 children and young people (under 18 years) who were recorded as a 'secondary victim'.

During 2020-21, 7% of primary service users identified as being pregnant while accessing city support and information services. Pregnant service users were more likely to experience high severity physical abuse (53%) than non-

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<sup>9</sup> Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) for year ending March 2018

<sup>10</sup> Leicester Insights Data for 2020/21

pregnant service users (43%). The length of time service users had experienced abuse before accessing abuse was shorter during pregnancy: 24% of pregnant service users had experienced abuse for less than a year, compared to 9% of service users who were not pregnant<sup>11</sup>.

In 2020-21, 23% of contacts with Children's Social Care recorded a domestic abuse factor. 31% of all children were of primary school age (6-11 years).

During 2020-21, 44% of adult social care enquiries had a domestic abuse factor. Adult Social Care enquiries from males with a domestic abuse related need have seen an increase year on year.

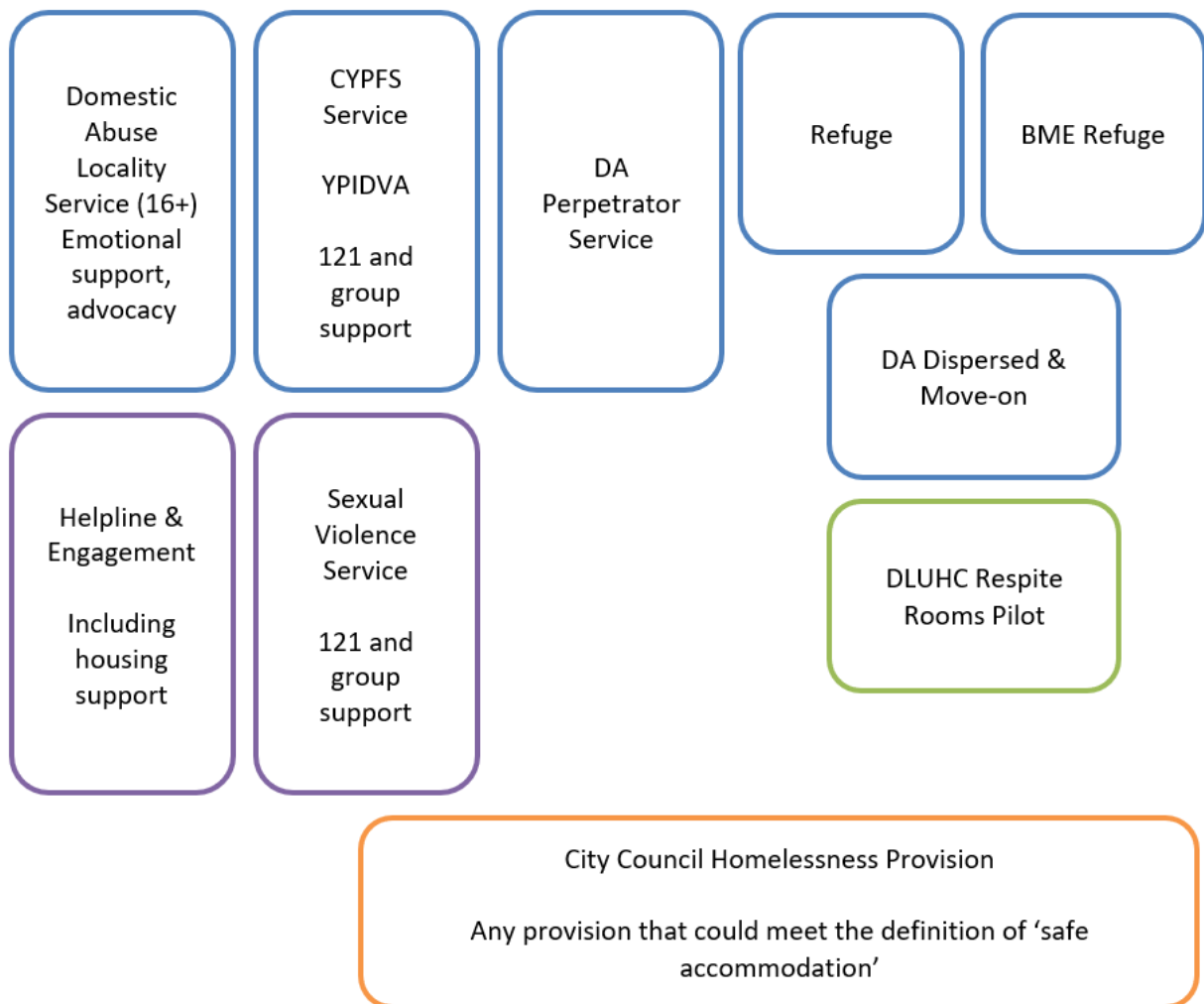
## 5.2 Diagram of future domestic abuse service model

New services have been procured to begin April 2022. This follows a joint commissioning exercise undertaken across the sub-region with the police and crime commissioner, Rutland county council and Leicestershire county council and builds on significant learning and consultation. These core foundation services are contracts lasting three years with a potential extension of a further 24 months.

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<sup>11</sup> SafeLives report for UAVA – 12 months to January 2019

Domestic abuse service system from April 2022:



Key:

Blue = city council commissions 2022-25 (possible extension up to 24 months)

Purple = PCC commissions

## 6. Best Practice

6.1 The following assessment of existing provision in Leicester can be used to inform the safe accommodation strategy:

Safe Accommodation	Needs, gaps and priorities
Refuge provision	Data might indicate a need for more variety of locations so those not safe in one area of the city can flee to another to be safe
Specialist safe accommodation	Data might indicate a need for a specialist safe accommodation option for young people
Dispersed accommodation	Data on those not being placed might indicate a greater need for this type of accommodation
Sanctuary scheme properties	This is in place to some extent but not tracked or used widely outside of 'target hardening'
Second stage accommodation	This is not routinely commissioned at this point but has been included in the 2021-22 pilot with the BME specialist provider.
Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation	Respite rooms is a pilot for 12 months.
Support Type	
Advocacy	delivered to those victims of domestic abuse with a housing need through in-house staffing and through other domestic abuse provision such as the helpline, outreach and recovery services. Referral across the service system into and from those in safe accommodation is not clearly evident at this point.
Prevention advice	As above.
Specialist support	There is specialist CYPFS and BME domestic abuse support provided. The picture is not currently clear about referrals and support provided from across the range of provision into those in safe accommodation.
Children's support	As above. There is a service provided, with a specific remit to support CYP within safe accommodation.

Housing related support	Core service within all accommodation related service specifications. Might be a need to expand dedicated provision in homelessness services [for those in safe accommodation] as this has worked well with the Safe Home Service.
Advice service	As above.
Counselling and therapy including group support and emotional support	Provision of services (outreach and emotional support) is contained within the current support and information service contract and the future domestic abuse locality service contract. There is also a pilot 2021 project for emotional support and trauma informed accommodation provision.

## 6.2 Mapping against components from Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse's "In Search of Excellence" report 2021:

Key questions	Recommendations	Baseline/RAG rating
CCR component: Survivor engagement and experience		
<p>1. Are a diverse range of survivor's voices heard within the partnership?</p> <p>2. Is survivor engagement safe and trauma informed?</p> <p>3. Is there a system and process for embedding the experience of survivors into the CCR?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stages of service delivery should be informed by survivor experience and engagement, using co-production.</li> <li>• Attention should be paid to ensuring a diversity of survivor voices are heard. Specialist services can help with this.</li> <li>• Survivors should be consulted across a range of mediums.</li> <li>• Engage with local services e.g. women's centres, disability and migrant rights organisations and 'by and for' services.</li> <li>• The voices of children as survivors should be heard and reflected in survivor engagement processes.</li> <li>• All survivor engagement must be safe and trauma informed. Using the Survivor Voices Charter can support this.</li> <li>• Building financial and safeguarding arguments to support the need for survivor informed change is key.</li> <li>• A formal system to ensure the results of survivor engagement are embedded is key for an effective CCR.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p>Victim-survivors are represented in the partnership and measures are in place to ensure their voices are heard.</p> <p>Engagement is safe and trauma informed.</p> <p>There is a system for embedding experiences.</p>



CCR component: Intersectionality		
<p>1. Do all members of the partnership have an understanding of intersectionality and how it relates to the experiences of survivors?</p> <p>2. Is intersectionality a genuine strategic priority?</p> <p>3. Does your CCR include a wide range of communities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intersectionality should be treated as a true priority. This means being practical, flexible and learning to meet the specific needs of different local communities.</li> <li>Staff and volunteers at all levels should be given appropriate and comprehensive capacity building to ensure a better understanding of intersectionality.</li> <li>Engagement with 'by and for' and community groups can help to greater understand the local population, survivor's help seeking methods, and barriers to accessing support. 'By and for' agencies should be properly remunerated for their work.</li> <li>Working with communities in an intersectional way means empowering survivors so that they know where they can go to receive support, without them losing their existing networks.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AMBER</b></p> <p>Intersectionality is understood to differing levels across the partnership. The CCR includes a wide range of Leicester's diverse communities.</p>
CCR component: Shared vision and objectives		
<p>1. Is there a shared vision?</p> <p>2. Can partners name the objectives?</p> <p>3. Do they recognise the need to collaborate on equal terms?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure a shared vision, with identified outcomes, which goes beyond go beyond deliverables and data, is in place.</li> <li>The vision will be a snapshot of the ambition of the partnership and is underpinned by the objectives of the CCR.</li> <li>Shared responsibility across the partnership, which takes into account differing dynamics between partners and which articulates clear contributions from each agency and organisation involved in the CCR, is essential.</li> <li>A shared theory of change should be in place – for all partners to be able to effectively engage with developing the vision, training may be needed to increase knowledge of the impact of DA, trauma informed practice and survivor engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p>There is a shared vision and partners have a good understanding of the objectives, which are simply expressed. Partners recognise the need to collaborate on equal terms.</p>
CCR component: Structure and governance		
<p>1. Do all partners understand the governance structure?</p> <p>2. Does the governance structure allow for challenge from smaller agencies?</p> <p>3. How do you know the structure is effective?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DA/VAWG governance and the CCR should be reflected in all local governance structures and strategies.</li> <li>A Terms of Reference and Business Delivery Plan should be used to agree roles and responsibilities of partners.</li> <li>Having both strategic and operational authority and structures should be in place to make and enact decisions.</li> <li>There should be a bi-directional flow of information and influence between strategic and operational groups.</li> <li>Appropriate representation on both strategic and operational governance structures across partners, agencies and all relevant organisations is essential.</li> <li>Clear monitoring and evaluation frameworks should be in place to assess how effectively the CCR being delivered to meet local need and whether the roles and responsibilities and corresponding allocation of resources, enable this.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AMBER</b></p> <p>The governance structure is in the process of being updated to reflect the fact that the locality partnership board will be city only. It is expected that the revised structure will allow for challenge and will be effective, but this needs to be tested.</p>

CCR component: Strategy and leadership		
<p>1. Do the strategic objectives of the partnership and action plan include prevention and early intervention alongside high-risk responses?</p> <p>2. Are all statutory agencies aware of their responsibility to deliver multi-agency responses effectively as well as the specialist sector?</p> <p>3. Does your strategy incorporate an intersectional, gendered, survivor-led and trauma-informed approach?</p> <p>4. Do you have a VAWG/DA Strategic Coordinator to support strategy delivery?</p> <p>5. How is the learning from DHRs embedded in your local strategy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategy/strategic plan with SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) strategic aims, agreed by all partners, should be in place.</li> <li>• Strategies that connect to the shared vision and objectives (section 3) of the CCR and the structure and governance of the CCR (section 4).</li> <li>• A strategy/strategic plan which is formulated with reference to the national policy landscape, but grounded in local context, knowledge and the intersecting experience of survivors is essential.</li> <li>• Ensure proper analysis of data sets which can evidence need and measure progress, alongside a living, breathing action plan which is also aligned to the learning and action plans resulting from local domestic homicide reviews, takes place.</li> <li>• A strategy that highlights and outlines the critical role and value of specialist services and the unique expertise they bring to the partnership is crucial.</li> <li>• A focus on early intervention and prevention, alongside high risk interventions in order to keep people safe, prevent DA from taking place, and provide cost savings opportunities. This means ensuring a strong focus in the strategy both on the role of the statutory sector which is where survivors at the early stages of their abuse are most likely to come into contact with services, and on specialist, expert services.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p>The strategic objectives and action plan include preventative as well as responsive work. Agencies are aware of their responsibilities. The approach is intersectional, gendered, survivor-led and trauma-informed. A process for learning from DHRs is embedded in the strategy.</p>
CCR component: Specialist services		
<p>1. Is there sustainable funding for specialist services?</p> <p>2. Are there gaps in service provision for survivors?</p> <p>3. Is the statutory sector playing its part in responding to survivors?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service commissioning should take into account the expertise of small specialist organisations and be sustainable to ensure resources are used most effectively.</li> <li>• Provision for women only support should be ensured.</li> <li>• Needs should be assessed on an ongoing basis in each area as part of the CCR.</li> <li>• All those who have a responsibility to survivors should act as advocates for these people, including with other agencies.</li> <li>• Existing resources need to be used in the most effective and joined up way e.g. through partnership working.</li> <li>• Funding should be protected and extended for DA services, including those prioritising prevention and early intervention.</li> <li>• Survivors who have no recourse to public funds must be supported appropriately.</li> <li>• Agencies need to work together to provide a range of seamless services to victims, working to overcome any gaps or potential gaps in service delivery.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p>Funding for specialist services is currently secure. There are some gaps in service provision which have been identified and work to address these is ongoing. The statutory sector is playing its part in responding to survivors.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with perpetrators, and training staff to do this work effectively, is important from both a reduction in DA and cost saving perspective.</li> <li>• Partnerships must address the needs of children as victims.</li> <li>• A range models of support and funding, such as sanctuary schemes, mobile advocacy, colocation work and flexible funding programmes, should be piloted and evaluated and where successful integrated across CCRs.</li> <li>• Local specialist services will be best commissioned, funded and delivered where there is real understanding of the diversity of local need and where specialist organisations are resourced appropriately.</li> </ul>	
CCR component: Representation		
<p>1. Are key agencies represented at the relevant level?</p> <p>2. Is strategic leadership supported by resources?</p> <p>3. Are 'by and for' agencies able to engage meaningfully?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each Clinical Commissioning Group and Foundation Trust should map out the best person to participate via their domestic abuse and / or safeguarding lead.</li> <li>• Exclusion of voluntary sector agencies in CCR partnerships can be addressed by separating out commissioning decision making from the business of strategic meetings.</li> <li>• Partner dynamics should be mapped and managed to ensure that partners from the voluntary sector can be heard and included.</li> <li>• Strategic leads from different agencies should be held accountable in meetings, not just for attending but for agreed actions and contributions.</li> <li>• Clear terms of reference which map out partner representation should be in place.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p>Key agencies are represented. Strategic leadership is supported by resources. 'By and for' agencies are able to, and do, engage meaningfully.</p>
CCR component: Resources		
<p>1. Does the CCR grasp the scale and costs of the problem?</p> <p>2. Is DA embedded within each agency's own planning?</p> <p>3. Are strategic partners working to improve capacity within specialist services?</p> <p>4. Are commissioning practices undermining partnership working?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The added value brought by local, specialist services should form part of the overall funding and resourcing strategy.</li> <li>• Ensure partnerships take a broader view, recognising the wider effects of VAWG on society, public services and the economy.</li> <li>• Take time to make the business case for increased and more strategic resource allocation for DA and connected services.</li> <li>• Ensure partners and agencies are aware of the costs of not addressing DA or putting it into their strategic plans.</li> <li>• Commissioning cycles and processes should be longer and more collaborative to prevent competition and to enable partners to coordinate and integrate their work.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p>The scale and costs are well grasped by the CCR. DA is embedded within agency planning. Partners are working to improve capacity within specialist services and partnership work is not undermined by commissioning practices.</p>

CCR component: Coordination		
<p>1. Are partners aligned with the principle of a coordinated approach?</p> <p>2. Are partners committed to collaboration?</p> <p>3. Is the significance of the coordinator's role acknowledged and supported?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each CCR should recognise the importance of having a coordinator to bring agencies together.</li> <li>Don't over rely on one person to coordinate everything; this won't work. Getting the balance right between having a coordinator and coordinating role but not overloading them or passing all responsibility to them, is important.</li> <li>Ensure all partners are clear on their roles in the coordination process, as well as the wider work to address DA/VAWG.</li> <li>Each CCR should give agencies and partners time and resources to address and mitigate for any coordination issues in order to improve joint working.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AMBER</b></p> <p>A coordinated approach is valued by partners but the structure is in the process of change. Partners are committed to collaboration and roles are acknowledged and supported.</p>
CCR component: Training		
<p>1. Is there a common understanding amongst staff of the dynamics of domestic abuse?</p> <p>2. Do colleagues at all levels have the skills and knowledge to identify and respond to domestic abuse?</p> <p>3. Is there a policy for service users and staff?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The partnership should discuss and decide key training messages regarding the nature, scope and impact of DA.</li> <li>Managers and supervisors should be trained first.</li> <li>Ensure trainers are well briefed on current local and operational issues for each agency.</li> <li>Deliver multi-agency training where appropriate, to strengthen partnership links in this setting.</li> <li>Utilise multiple opportunities to continually upskill staff.</li> <li>Ensure training covers the expected standards for each service, is trauma-informed and intersectional, and has the survivor experience at the heart of it.</li> <li>Use information given by participants in training sessions to provide detailed feedback about operational and systemic gaps that need to be addressed. Training should be continually revised and updated based on feedback.</li> <li>Ensure that participants leave the training with a clear idea of what is expected of them, what is possible, and what is safe in their practice around domestic abuse issues.</li> <li>Boost participants' confidence and competence through training that builds awareness and understanding of DA dynamics, a knowledge base about procedures, resources and legal requirements, and skills they can put to use.</li> <li>Organisational processes must keep domestic abuse on the agenda e.g. is domestic abuse part of assessments, referral pathways, supervision sessions and staff meetings?</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p>There is a common understanding among staff of the definition and dynamics of DA. Colleagues have the skills and knowledge to identify and respond to DA, and access to refresher training. Relevant policies are in place for service users and staff.</p>
CCR component: Data		
<p>1. Has the partnership mapped existing data?</p> <p>2. Do all partners contribute data that is collated for the whole partnership?</p> <p>3. Does the partnership have an</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map existing data collection within agencies and assess that alongside what data the wider partnership needs.</li> <li>Agree a CCR wide definition of what success looks like, to ensure better data collection and effective use of resources.</li> <li>Look to specialist services as experts in data collection and monitoring and evaluation within your CCR.</li> <li>Ensure a dedicated member of staff exists who can collate data and monitor performance on behalf of the partnership.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p>Existing data has been mapped. All partners contribute data that is collated for the partnership. The partnership has agreed methods of</p>

agreed method of defining and measuring success?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure every partner is clear on what data they should be collecting, why and what it is used for, including enabling the partnership to show the value of the work it does.</li> <li>• Make sure that data is collated and analysed centrally in the CCR as well as by partner agencies and organisations.</li> <li>• Address concerns around confidentiality and competitiveness through training in GDPR and changes to commissioning processes to encourage collaboration.</li> </ul>	defining and measuring success.
CCR component: Policies and processes		
<p>1. Does the partnership have policies and protocols to work with other strategic boards effectively?</p> <p>2. Are policies and procedures evidence based and survivor informed?</p> <p>3. Do all partners have a clear understanding of information sharing?</p>	<p>The following should be in place across partner agencies and organisations, and for the CCR partnership itself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding policies &amp; processes</li> <li>• Risk assessments</li> <li>• Assessment Conferences</li> <li>• Domestic abuse policy for staff</li> <li>• Governance policy – see section 4 on structure and governance.</li> <li>• Communication policy – this policy and accompanying procedures will define how messages (and information on data) will be agreed and published internally and externally,</li> <li>• Domestic Homicide Reviews – see section on DHRs. An effective CCR will have a clear process and procedures agreed for commissioning, delivering, and implementing learnings for any DHR they are involved in.</li> </ul>	<p>AMBER</p> <p>The partnership has appropriate policies/ protocols but will need to adjust to recent changes in structure. Policies/procedures are evidence based and survivor informed. Partners understand information sharing.</p>
CCR component: Domestic Homicide Reviews		
<p>1. Are DHRs embedded within the CCR?</p> <p>2. Does your area have processes in place to communicate lessons learned and ensure accountability?</p> <p>3. Are there structures in place to measure the impact of action plans?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to engage family and friends in the DHR process should be considered, constructive, supportive and timely.</li> <li>• DHR panels should include a DA specialist and specialist community agencies. This will better reflect communities' specific needs and experience and be able to better ensure intersectional and trauma-informed analysis in the report.</li> <li>• Panel composition and equity should be ensured throughout, including during report writing.</li> <li>• DHRs should not be rushed.</li> <li>• Local areas should have a system in place to ensure action-plans are completed; goals should be SMART.</li> <li>• DHR panel chairs should be victim-led, and able to facilitate panel discussions to identify meaningful lessons.</li> </ul>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>DHRs are embedded within the CCR. Processes are in place to communicate lessons learned. There are structures in place to measure the impact of action plans.</p>

## **7. Key Priorities for Leicester**

7.1 Work to be done will revolve around gaps identified in the 2021 needs assessment. This will be reviewed and developed significantly over the early months of the strategy.

### **7.2 Summary of unmet need/gaps**

- New strategy and structure – work will need to be done to embed and embed correct representation
- Increased safe accommodation options
- Specialist Black and Minority/Minoritized Ethnic Community provision
- Specialist young people provision/support
- Under-reporting (areas/risk populations) particularly in housing management and homelessness figures
- Decline in MARAC cases and MARAC referrals against recommended volume
- Lack of use of sanctuary schemes
- Delay in move-on from safe accommodation
- Lack of single-sex temporary accommodation outside of refuge/respice rooms
- Possible disproportionality in repeat victim populations
- Delays in accessing support
- Barriers to securing occupation orders/ staying in own home safely
- Young people accessing/ sustaining safe accommodation
- Not all safe accommodation currently meets WAFE/Imkaan quality markers (commissioned services do)

### 7.3 Strategic Priorities

Strategic Objectives	Summary of unmet need/gaps	Priorities 2022-25	Indicators of success
Prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of accommodation based domestic abuse support in Leicester	New strategy and structure – work will need to be done to embed and support active representation	Establish the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board	Formulation of new Locality Partnership Board and sign off Leicester Domestic Abuse Strategy
Commissioning relevant services to meet local need	<p>Under-reporting (areas/risk populations) particularly in housing management and homelessness figures</p> <p>Decline in MARAC cases and MARAC referrals against recommended volume</p> <p>Lack of use of sanctuary schemes</p> <p>Lack of move-on from safe accommodation</p> <p>Lack of single-sex temporary accommodation outside of refuge/respice rooms</p> <p>Disproportionality in repeat victim populations</p> <p>Delays in accessing support</p> <p>Barriers to securing occupation orders/</p>	<p>Expand the accessibility and suitability of the safe accommodation and accommodation related support available in Leicester</p> <p>Develop and support the workforce delivering safe accommodation and accommodation related support in Leicester</p>	<p>Improved identification of forced marriage and “honour”-based abuse</p> <p>Service access reflects the local population</p> <p>Average length of abuse reduces</p> <p>Mental health support/trauma informed supported accommodation offer</p> <p>Needs identified can be evidenced as met</p> <p>There is a reduction in the number of victims who could not be safely accommodated</p> <p>Increase in the number of victims safely accommodated</p>

	<p>staying in own home safely</p> <p>Young people accessing/ sustaining safe accommodation</p> <p>Not all safe accommodation currently meets WAFE/Imkaan quality markers (commissioned services do)</p>		Learning from the Respite Rooms project
Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy	Review the data performance sheet in light of the new safe accommodation strategy	Improve understanding of the need in the city and barriers to meeting those needs	<p>Numbers of victims in and sustaining safe accommodation increases</p> <p>Understanding of barriers to securing and sustaining safe accommodation increases.</p>

7.4 The delivery plan as discussed at 4.9 will measure progress in the above areas. Priorities will be reviewed over the first 3-6 months of the strategy and commissioning intentions shaped in line with the findings.

## 8. Annual Review Document

8.1 An annual review document, giving an update on progress as the strategy is implemented, will be produced, and published on the Leicester City Council website.



# Neighbourhood Services and Housing Scrutiny Commissions

43

## Draft Leicester Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2022-2025

December 2021

# Background/context

## Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Aims to:

44

- Raise awareness and understanding about domestic abuse
- Provide protection for victims
- Bring perpetrators to justice
- Strengthen support by statutory agencies

# Background/context

## Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- Part 4 – local authority support

“Each local authority in England must:

- (a) assess the need for **accommodation-based support** in its area,
- (b) prepare and publish a **strategy** for the provision of such support, and
- (c) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.”

# Planning Leicester's Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy

- Establishing a locality partnership board
- Needs assessment including review of existing documentation and provision
- Contact with 'most similar group' of Community Safety Partnerships
- Consultation period (26<sup>th</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> November)
- Adjustment in line with feedback
- Publication and implementation

# Strategic Objectives

- To establish the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board
- To commission the appropriate services
- To establish and sustain an effective performance management structure for delivery of the domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy

# Themed Priorities

1. Establish the Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board
2. Improve our understanding of need in the city, and barriers to meeting those needs
3. Develop and support the workforce
4. Expand the accessibility and suitability of the safe accommodation available in Leicester

# Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board

- Requirement of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Established to advise and support the council in the delivery of its functions

- Representatives of:

Leicester City Council

Victims of domestic abuse

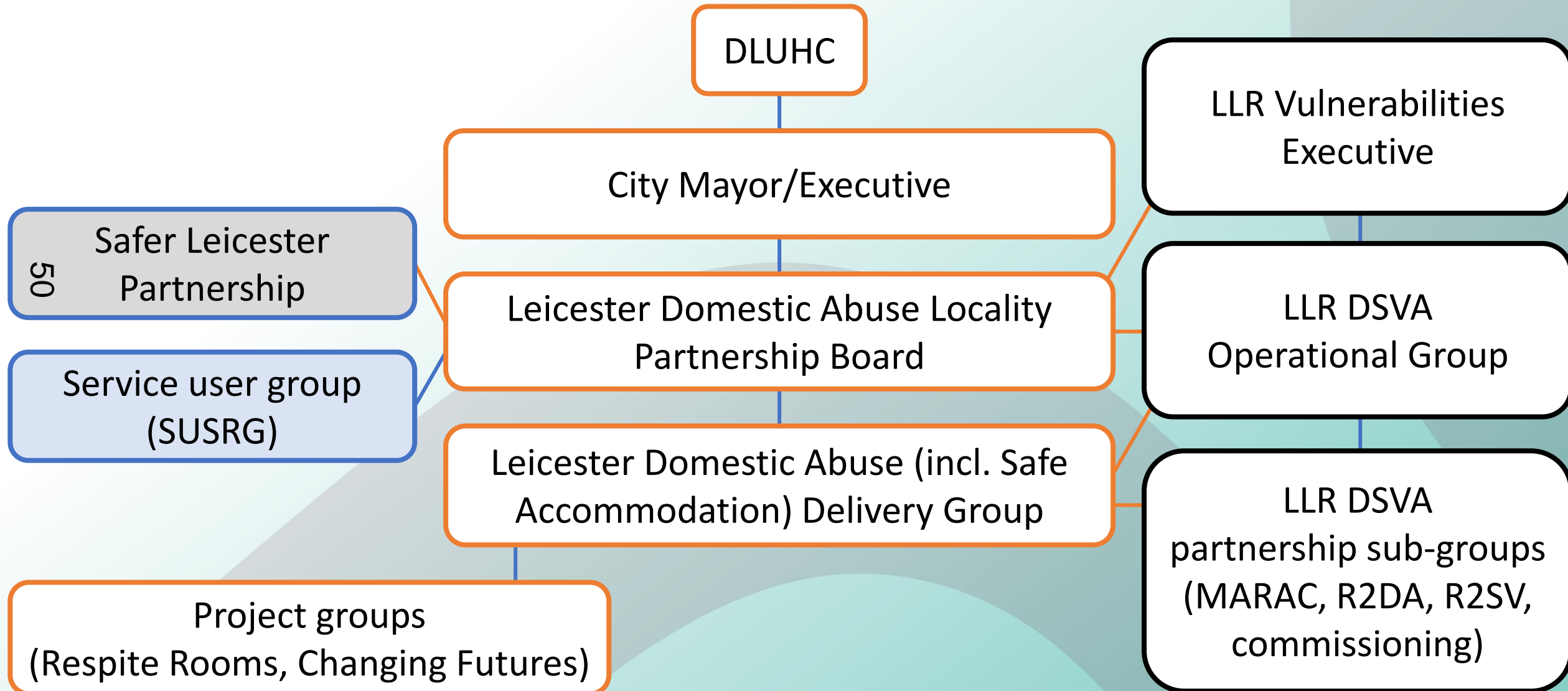
Children of victims

VCS specialist providers

Health care services

Police/criminal justice

# Governance & Reporting





# Resources

## Income Summary

- £857,364 for 2021-2022
- £15,025 allocated to fulfilling new homelessness duty in 2021-2022
- £334,956 for one-year Respite Rooms Trial Programme Oct 2021 – Sept 2022
- £? From DLUHC for 2022-23

## Spend Summary

- BME specialist refuge, second stage, counselling, immigration support
- Substance use domestic abuse recovery worker
- Young people safe accommodation project
- Additional capacity within the team to deliver the objectives
- Further community engagement with specific groups highlighted in EIA
- Trauma informed domestic abuse accommodation pilot
- Additional dispersed accommodation, referral management and improved data picture

# Timeline

- Publication of draft strategy – October 2021
- Updating of draft strategy – December 2021
- Publication of final strategy – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Delivery of strategy – ongoing
  - Leicester Domestic Abuse Locality Partnership Board
  - Delivery Group

# Contacts

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53

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# **Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission Report**

**CrowdFund Leicester**

**November 2021**

## **Useful information**

Ward(s) affected: All

Report author: Georgia Humby / Andrew Shilliam

Author contact details: ext. 37 0668

Report version number: V1.0

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 In recent years, with increasingly challenging financial circumstances, and now the additional pressures posed by the coronavirus pandemic, many Local Authorities have been and continue to look at ways of operating differently. A number of Local Authorities have developed civic crowdfunding platforms to generate and distribute donations collected locally, grant funds, and funding in kind, often collected to support voluntary and community sector related activities and causes.
- 1.2 Spacehive is the only dedicated civic crowdfunding platform in the UK, whereby it is their mission to work with local people to improve their local areas. This ethos has provided Spacehive with the ability and experience to partner with Local Authorities throughout the country to collaborate by working together to engage and support local communities bring their ideas to life.
- 1.3 In 2017 and in partnership with Spacehive, the City Mayor launched CrowdFund Leicester, a donation based civic crowdfunding initiative to connect people, communities, businesses and resources. The initiative has demonstrated the power and potential of crowdfunding and officers continue to work to further enhance the Mayoral initiative by seeking to work with other services within the Council, as well as external partners to encourage people, communities and organisations across Leicester to bring forward and support ideas through a crowdfunding.
- 1.4 CrowdFund Leicester is aimed at enabling the City Mayor and services across Leicester City Council to engage with communities, residents, and businesses in order to celebrate and improve civic and community spaces and relationships by harnessing their creativity and interests. This platform maximises the impact of interest, funding and support from a range of sources, including in-kind donations such as materials and/or voluntary time in addition to the traditional financial donations.
- 1.5 To date, over 2,100 people across Leicester, including the City Mayor and Leicester City Ward Councillors, have supported projects through the initiative to successfully help 26 very different campaigns hit their crowdfunding targets in excess of £537,000.

## **2. Crowdfunding**

- 2.1 Crowdfunding allows anyone with a project idea to share it openly with the public to attract interest and seek support from the crowd, whether that be cash or in-kind such as materials or voluntary time, to make the idea become a reality. Project ideas may be permanent, for example a playground, or temporary, such as an event, and can include revenue as well as capital costs.
- 2.2 Civic crowdfunding is about bringing people together to shape their community and benefit from it. It puts local people in control and allows the community to be involved every step of the way, from bringing forward an idea, sharing it with the crowd to support those ideas they really want to make happen and if successful delivering the project for the benefit of the community.

## **3. Spacehive**

- 3.1 Spacehive is an online civic crowdfunding platform which aims to bring ideas to life by supporting and empowering local communities to improve local places. The aim of the platform is to provide a springboard for communities to bring forward and support the ideas they really want to see happen to shape their area.
- 3.2 As the UK's only dedicated civic crowdfunding platform, Spacehive specialise in working with local people to make their ideas a reality, from creating or sprucing up a community allotment, investing in equipment to make a local playground accessible or running a befriending service to putting on a street part.
- 3.3 To date, Spacehive have helped 1,750 civic crowdfunding projects throughout the UK reach their target, raising £23m. They have a 60% campaign success rate, though this figure increases when a partner also pledges their support to a project as the community are more likely to see it has organisational support and pledge too.
- 3.4 Spacehive have experience of working with many councils, companies and foundations throughout the UK. When partnering with Spacehive, 'movements' are created, such as CrowdFund Leicester, which provides organisations with a microsite within the Spacehive platform to share information, advertise funds and ultimately host local crowdfunding campaigns to help bring those project ideas to life.
- 3.5 There are currently 29 movements within the Spacehive platform, some examples of those include Make London created by the Mayor of London, Crowdfund Liverpool by the Mayor of Liverpool, Crowdfund North of Tyne by North of Tyne Combined Authority, Crowdfund Sunderland by Sunderland City Council, The Doncaster Movement by Doncaster Council, Crowdfund Swansea by Swansea Council and many more, including CrowdFund Leicester.
- 3.6 This is a mechanism that provides assurance to those with movements, such as the City Mayor, as it protects both the project creator and the crowd pledging their support to projects. By way of project creators, it means those that have pledged a financial contribution of a specific amount are able to fulfil their donation. This ensures if the project hits the campaign target the project creator will receive the total expected amount rather

than finding that whilst an individual pledged to donate, they do not have the sufficient funds when the project comes to an end.

- 3.7 It also provides confidence to members of the crowd as they can be assured that whilst their financial contribution is taken at the point of pledging, whereby there may still be a number of days left of the campaign and/or an amount still to be raised, their contribution will only be transferred to the project creator at the point in which the target is met, and if the project is unfortunately unsuccessful, their contribution will automatically be returned.
- 3.8 As a Mayoral initiative, this is fundamental for providing trust and confidence in the public and other supporting organisations to encourage people to come forward with their ideas to run a crowdfunding project and also the crowd to pledge their support.

### **Crowdfunding process**

- 3.9 These are a number of simple steps involved in the process with Spacehive that can help project creators develop their ideas, share them with the crowd and attract support to make their local community a better place to live, work, visit or study, no matter how big or small. A visual representation of these steps and a successful project can be found at Appendix A.

#### **1. Build and then share the idea**

The first step is to build and then share the idea by creating a project page through the Spacehive platform. This is where the details of the project can be found, including more about what the project intends to achieve, where it will be delivered, who it will benefit, when it will be delivered, why it is a good idea, and how much it will cost to gain support from the crowd. All of this information is set out on the online crowdfunding page to make it clear and transparent to anyone looking at the project and to help them decide whether to support it or not.

Spacehive work with project creators throughout the UK and therefore have expert knowledge when it comes to supporting and advising project creators so they are able to develop their idea and online crowdfunding page before it is made live for the public to see. We also provide some support and assistance directly to project creators, though prefer that Spacehive do this in the first instance.

If a project requires specific materials, skills or volunteer time to make it happen, the Spacehive platform has a function that enables project creators to include a wish list on the project page to enable the crowd to see and have the option to donate in-kind as well as financially. Project creators can also choose the 'overfunding' option whereby if they hit their crowdfunding target for the essential costs to deliver the project, additional contributions can be received and used for desirable items.

When a project page has been created it will automatically be matched to any of the 29 or so other relevant Spacehive Movements – those projects that will be delivered and/or benefit people of Leicester will automatically be matched to CrowdFund Leicester and an alert sent to the City Mayor's office to review whether they would like to accept the project on their Movement pages for local people to see. This provides an opportunity for the project to be reviewed, shared with colleagues for promotion



and/or seek advice about any potential issues before establishing whether it can be visible on the movement.

## 2. Pitch to funds

As part of the Spacehive platform, as well as being automatically matched to other Movements, projects will also be matched to relevant funds, both locally and nationally. When developing the project page, project creators will be asked a series of questions related to the category that best reflects the project, the intended impact of the project and its location to help the platform determine whether the project may be suitable to apply to any of the funds hosted through the platform. If the platform identifies trends it will match the project to the funds for the project creator to review and consider applying for.

Spacehive will also manually flag other funds that the project may be eligible to apply to, but may require an offline application to be submitted, for example Leicester City Ward Community Funding through CrowdFund Leicester.

Each fund has its own eligibility and criteria that are set out on the Spacehive platform. If a project is matched to a fund and the project creator has checked they meet the eligibility and criteria, they may wish to apply to the fund for the organisation to review and consider when the project is live.

## 3. Verification

Before any crowdfunding project can begin, unlike other crowdfunding platforms, the project creator must submit evidence related to the project costs and any relevant licences or permissions that may be needed to deliver the project for independent verification.

Locality are an external organisation, a membership network in fact that supports local community organisations to be strong and successful. Their role with Spacehive is to independently verify the viability of proposed projects, something which includes looking into the background of project creators, reviewing the evidence submitted and deciding whether the project costs are appropriate, as well as ensuring they are not undervalued or overvalued, and checking that any relevant licences and/or permissions are satisfactory and there are no costs, licences and/or permissions that may be outstanding before the crowdfunding project can commence.

This step is essential for both project creators and any potential backers to a crowdfunding project as it provides an independent and objective organisation to review the project proposal to ensure it has everything required to be delivered if the project is to go on and secure the target amount.

## 4. Crowdfunding campaign

Once a project has been verified, the costs associated to the project will have been approved and the campaign target set, the project creator must decide how long they intend to run a campaign and seek to obtain the support from the crowd to reach this target amount. Spacehive will work with project creators and be able to advise using their expertise how long a campaign would usually run based on the project target. The project creator is then able to set a target date and begin their crowdfunding campaign.

Spacehive have various tools and will support projects throughout their campaign to generate support from the crowd.

Once a project is live, any funds that the project creator has applied to will be notified to enable them to review an application. Each organisation will have their own processes, timeframes and conditions on what needs to be met which Spacehive are able to advise project creators on, for example review dates, number of supporters or a percentage of the crowdfunding target that must be met before an application is considered.

#### 5. Deliver your project

If a project is successful in securing support from the crowd to meet the crowdfunding campaign target, all financial contributions will be transferred from Stripe to the project creator. Any organisations or individuals who offer materials and/or in-kind contributions will be notified when the project is successful too, so they can make arrangements to fulfil those commitments.

#### 6. Delivery report

In order to ensure everyone that has contributed to a crowdfunding project is informed and assured that their contribution has indeed been used to deliver the intentions as set out in the project page, project creators are required to complete an online impact assessment when the project has been delivered to evidence what has been achieved. Those reports are reviewed by the Council and additional information requested where necessary.

### **Crowdfunding costs**

- 3.10 Whilst it is free to create and commence a crowdfunding project with Spacehive, there is a 5% platform success fee and associated transaction fees. Project creators are not required to pay any fee upfront, instead the fees will automatically be calculated when the project costs have been verified and added to the total campaign target.
- 3.11 This process provides transparency to the amount of commission Spacehive will receive for supporting project creators and to ensure they can continue to develop and maintain the online platform.
- 3.12 The crowdfunding project target will only be collected if the project is successful – as the fee is added to the campaign target, the project creator will always receive the verified amount needed to deliver the project and will never be transferred anything less.

### **Spacehive model**

- 3.13 Spacehive is an all-or-nothing model which means the crowd can support online crowdfunding projects by pledging as much or as little as they want to individual campaigns, (£2 minimum), and it will only be transferred to the project creator if/when the target funds have been met.
- 3.14 At the point a member of the crowd pledges their support to a project, if financial, this will be taken and held with Stripe, the current payment provider, until the end of the campaign. When the campaign has finished, if the project is successful the total amount of money that has been crowdfunded will be transferred to the account of the project creator to deliver the project.

- 3.15 If, however, the full target amount has not been reached, and therefore the project is deemed unable to be successfully delivered on the amount that is short of the target, then the monies that have been pledged by the crowd will automatically be refunded to backers by the payment provider Stripe.

#### **4. CrowdFund Leicester**

##### **Contractual arrangements**

- 4.1 Spacehive were first commissioned in 2017 and recommissioned earlier this year following a full procurement exercise. As part of the contract, CrowdFund Leicester has a dedicated platform from which we can to display information about the initiative, showcase crowdfunding projects in a designated space for local people to find and view easily, promote internal and external grant funds, and to demonstrate the impact of the initiative.
- 4.2 As experts in civic crowdfunding, Spacehive work alongside officers within the City Mayor's office to promote CrowdFund Leicester, to mobilise ideas, and to support them through the steps outlined above to become successful. This is done through hosting project creator workshops, both virtually and face-to-face, attending public events and engaging with other council service areas and/or organisations that have an interface with voluntary and community groups to promote the initiative as an option if people have ideas and/or need to generate funds.
- 4.3 Spacehive are also work with us to generate support from local, regional and national funders that may also be able to support local crowdfunding projects in Leicester. To date, CrowdFund Leicester projects have seen contributions from other funders beyond the City Council, including the former Police and Crime Commissioner, the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, BID Leicester, St Matthews Big Local, Canal & River Trust, De Montfort University and many others.
- 4.4 There is a dedicated account manager and project liaison from Spacehive who are assigned to support and promote the CrowdFund Leicester movement. Project creators are also supported by the back-office project development, project success and technical support teams. The City Mayor's office has bi-weekly calls with the account manager and regular discussions with the project liaison to ensure the requirements of the contract are being delivered and to update on any projects that are developing.
- 4.5 The cost for the software licence and associated support and services for Spacehive is £19,000 per annum. In the initial year however, there was an additional £5,000 charge for the creation, activation, and launch of the CrowdFund Leicester Movement.

##### **CrowdFund Leicester**

- 4.6 Leicester is full of creative people with innovative ideas that can make a positive change in their communities. In 2017, the City Mayor launched CrowdFund Leicester as Movement within the Spacehive platform as a way to engage with communities, residents, and businesses to celebrate and improve civic and community spaces and enhance relationships by harnessing creativity and interests.

- 4.7 The Mayoral initiative is part of the Council's commitment to helping VCSE organisations find innovative ways to generate funds, particularly by mobilising the power of online platforms.
- 4.8 CrowdFund Leicester aims to connect local people, communities, businesses and resources to ideas that will make our City an even better place to live, work visit and study. It puts local people in control of the ideas that come forward, and enables the members of the public, the City Mayor, Ward Councillors and businesses to support to collaborate to make those ideas a reality.

### **City Mayor's Community Engagement Fund**

- 4.9 The City Mayor's Community Engagement Fund is a £100k fund intended to provide grants to organisations with innovative project ideas that address the general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty, which is concerned with:
- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
  - Advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 4.10 The fund was established to support activities, initiatives and projects that can make a real difference to communities across Leicester which are able to demonstrate that there is a genuine need and the idea isn't being met in any other way.
- 4.11 Historically, organisations from the Voluntary and Community sector were able to apply to the Community Engagement Fund for a grant to fund their projects through an application process alone. However, with the launch of CrowdFund Leicester, the fund is now advertised through a new mechanism which has in turn attracted a variety of other groups from the Voluntary and Community sector to come forward with ideas and benefit by receiving a grant fund as part of their crowdfunding campaign.
- 4.12 Through CrowdFund Leicester, innovative crowdfunding projects that meet the eligibility and criteria of the Fund to help address the general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty may receive a financial contribution of up to 50% of the project target, capped at £10k. As the Fund is channelled through a crowdfunding platform, it therefore requires the project creator to also seek support from the crowd, as opposed to the Fund contributing the full amount for the project.
- 4.13 When creating a crowdfunding project page with Spacehive, the platform will automatically match projects to those Funds based on information supplied that they may be eligible for. The Community Engagement Fund requires those who are intending to deliver the project to be a constituted organisation. If an individual has an idea they can be supported to become or join suitable organisation to fulfil this requirement.
- 4.14 If the project creator has reviewed the eligibility and criteria and seeks to apply to the Community Engagement Fund, they will be required to complete an online application through the Spacehive platform. As part of this application, the applicant must demonstrate how the project will help to promote and include those with protected

characteristics by addressing the general aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty in a way that isn't already being met.

- 4.15 The City Mayor's office will receive a notification when a crowdfunding project has applied to the Community Engagement Fund and their project has begun campaigning. This will allow the team to track the project in order to establish whether the project has the support from the community.
- 4.16 An officer panel reviews, independently of each other, the application against the eligibility and criteria stated above, before moderating scores as a panel to share with the City Mayor for final review. If the decision is to support the project, this may be attributed to the crowdfunding campaign without any conditions if it is evident that there is community support, however conditions may be imposed before the contribution is added if it is thought more support needs to be generated in the first instance. If a project has been unsuccessful the application will be rejected using the Spacehive platform and project will be alerted.
- 4.17 To date, the City Mayor has supported 17 of the 26 applications to the Community Engagement Fund which can be seen at Appendix B.

#### **City Mayors land offer**

- 4.18 The City Mayor is also looking to support crowdfunding projects that can make better use of land and spaces across the city. There are over 400 small sites across Leicester that require management which have associated costs. The City Mayor's land offer could therefore see local groups or organisations taking responsibility for land, in the short, medium or long term.
- 4.19 It was hoped that by engaging with Voluntary and Community groups to share their ideas for their local areas that we would support them with crowdfunding to redevelop or provide a new purpose for underused or surplus land in communities. Unfortunately, the offer has not yet had the impact we had hoped, but as we look ahead to next steps and engaging with others to promote the initiative we would also like to explore and match groups who are interested in particular areas of land and/or identify suitable land for project ideas that come forward to be delivered.

#### **Ward Community Funding**

- 4.20 Each of the 21 wards across Leicester are allocated a yearly budget managed by the elected ward members. It is the intention of these budgets to support projects that bring benefit to the community within the ward for which the elected ward members represent.
- 4.21 Since the launch of CrowdFund Leicester, there have been a number of elected ward members that have also supported crowdfunding projects, either to be directly delivered within their ward and also where individuals they represent will benefit from a project that may be delivered in a different ward, using their allocated ward community funding budgets.
- 4.22 Elected ward members from Abbey, Aylestone, Beaumont Leys, Castle Eyres Monsell, Fosse, Saffron and Western wards have to date pledged their support to crowdfunding projects. As CrowdFund Leicester continues to develop, we would like to engage with

more community groups and elected ward members across the city to develop and support ideas for the benefit of communities.

- 4.23 Supporting crowdfunding projects with CrowdFund Leicester has not altered the process in which the Ward Community Funding team uses. As aforementioned, there are funds that are not integrated within the Spacehive platform, but instead are advertised and flagged with project creators to apply to externally.
- 4.24 The City Mayor's office will then liaise with the Ward Community Funding team about live campaigns to share information as to whether crowdfunding projects have applied to ward community budgets. If a project has, then this will be tracked by both teams to understand how the project is developing to inform the Ward Councillors, and if they wish to support the project the City Mayor's office will arrange for the contribution to be added to the project page with Spacehive.
- 4.25 This process allows for the amount the Ward Councillors want to contribute to be added as an offline donation, meaning that the contribution is not processed through Spacehive but instead will be released to the project creator like other grant funds allocated from ward budgets once the project has successfully hit the target.

#### **The impact of CrowdFund Leicester**

- 4.26 Since launching CrowdFund Leicester in 2017, over 2,100 backers have pledged in excess of £537k to support 26 very different successful crowdfunding projects. A full list of successful projects, number of backers, amount raised and contributions from the City Mayor and Ward Councillors can be found at Appendix B. A summary of those projects are outlined below.
- Phoenix Access Cinema – to purchase 26 new infrared headsets and 16 new ear caps to help people with sight and hearing loss enjoy the cinema experience.
  - The Urban Equestrian Academy – to purchase a minibus to transport inner-city children to participate in equine activities.
  - Little Theatre Centenary Challenge – to conduct a feasibility study for the renovation and extension of the Little Theatre.
  - Friends of Goddard – Roof appeal – to help restore and preserve the Grade II listed building for future community use.
  - Brass of the Saff – to purchase 60 new instruments and uniforms for a community youth brass band who will record a CD.
  - Stop the fighting and unite – to deliver a 12-week music project to promote positivity, provide mentoring and create a soundtrack to highlight the consequences of violence.
  - Kayak Launch Appeal – to reconstruct the kayak launch at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

- Culture Crafts – to host workshops for women to come together in a safe and secure place to share experiences whilst crafting.
- Create Leicester Day Event – to host a digital business event.
- Art of Thinking Workshops – to host fun, thought provoking discussions around topical themes and/or issues.
- Pure o2 – to purchase an outlet installation pipe to enable people needing oxygen treatment to have options who cannot enter the oxygen tank.
- Dogs Improve Wellbeing – to purchase outdoor equipment for a dog agility course.
- Beaumont Leys Drums – to purchase drums to enable the community to learn and perform in a community parade.
- Joe Orton Statue Appeal – to create a public commemoration of Joe Orton.
- Project Hive – to conduct a feasibility study to bring the former Eco House back into community use to create a social space for activities and learning.
- Global Kitchen – to host and train volunteer chefs from the refugee and asylum seeker community to share home country recipes and cooking skills.
- Switch the Pitch – to replace the sand-based pitch with a quality water-based pitch at Leicester Hockey Club.
- Woodgate Community Food for Fosse Ward – to create a temporary food bank to support individuals during the pandemic.
- Coronavirus Education Support Initiative – to provide educational materials to individuals during the pandemic.
- 20 years of Woodgate Music Centre – to enable young musicians to rehearse in order to perform with Leicester Symphony Orchestra.
- Avenue Community Garden – to purchase equipment to transform a disused piece of land into a community garden.
- Watermead Memorial Walk – to create a memorial walk at Watermead Country Park where visitors can enjoy a natural space to relax and reflect.
- Our Planet Our Fosse – to empower the local community to take an active role in making their area a cleaner and greener space.
- Beaumont Leys Project Bees – to create a community apiary and host workshops on the importance of bees.

- Leicester Cathedral Revealed – to purchase interpretation and interactive displays for visitors to find out more about the historical significance.
  - Make Monsell Move – to purchase equipment for a community gym as part of a health and wellbeing hub.
- 4.27 Leicester City comprises of 21 wards and to date 10 wards have successful crowdfunding projects that have or are to be delivered. These include, Abbey, Beaumont Leys, Castle, Eyres Monsell, Fosse, North Evington, Rushey Mead, Saffron, Western and Wycliffe as illustrated in the map at Appendix C.
- 4.28 It should be noted however that residents from across the city are usually involved and engaged with raising funds to help successfully reach crowdfunding project targets and there are many successful projects that benefit people from across the city and not just residents living within those wards. For example, it can be argued that there is a high proportion of projects located in Castle ward, but with the inclusion of the city centre, projects delivered within this ward are often central to enable residents from across the city to participate.

### **Economic Impact**

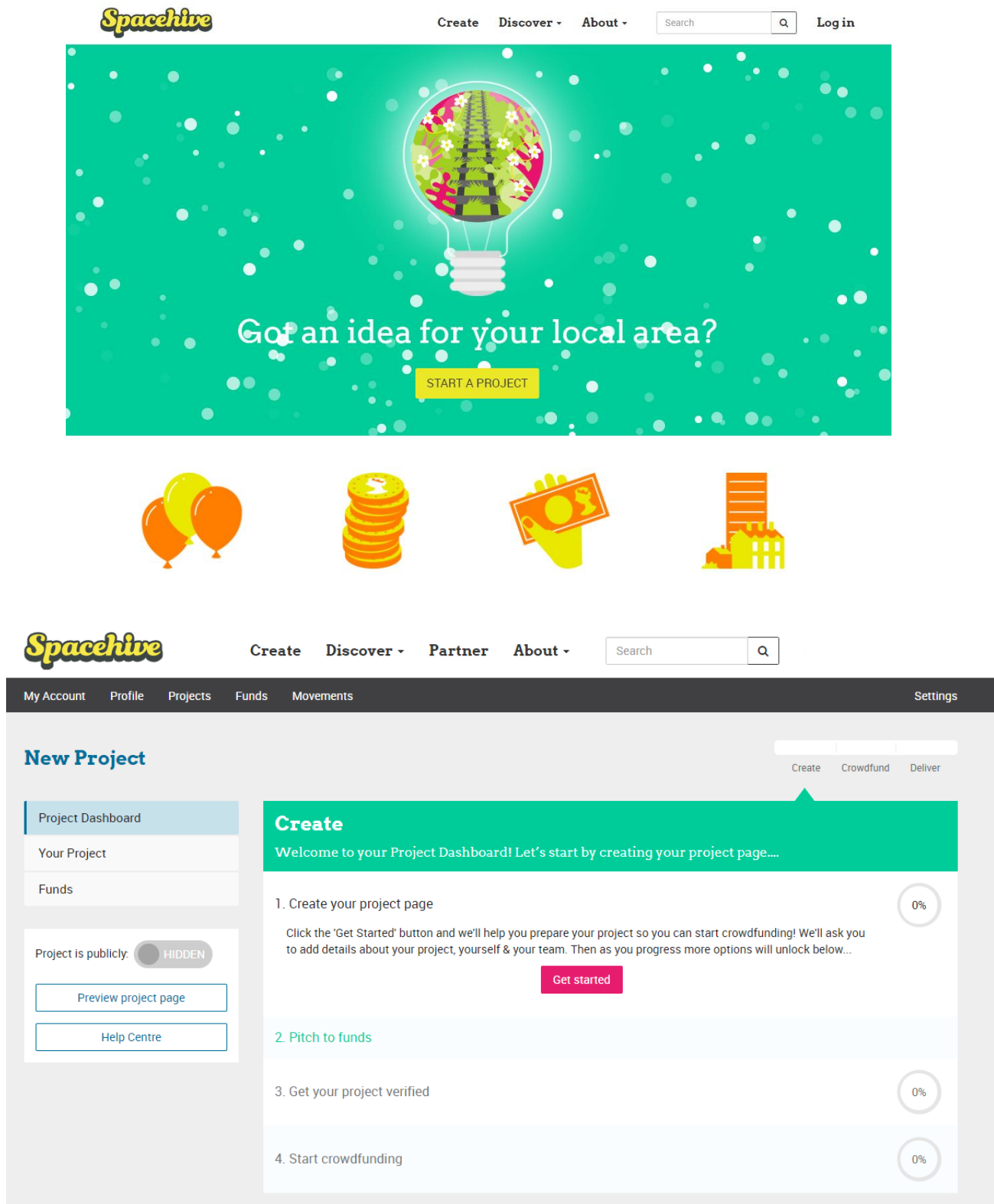
- 4.29 Since the launch of CrowdFund Leicester, £537,213 has been raised, of this the City Mayor has contributed £42,000 to projects that have demonstrated how they meet the eligibility and criteria of the Community Engagement Fund. Likewise, £15,400 has been contributed by Ward Councillors that have felt projects have either brought benefit to their ward or will benefit people within the ward – for example if they are able to travel and participate in a project.
- 4.30 The multiplier effect of collaborating through crowdfunding therefore means that for every £1 that has been contributed through Council funds, whether that be the City Mayor's Community Engagement Fund or Ward Community Engagement Funds, £9.36 has been generated through the crowd.
- 4.31 What has become evident through CrowdFund Leicester, that when the City Mayor or Ward Councillors contribute to a crowdfunding project, it is more likely that the crowd will also support as there is visible endorsement and are often larger pledges to provide the campaign with momentum and leverage to hit the target.
- 4.32 This Mayoral initiative has demonstrated the power and potential of crowdfunding – whilst historically the Council were relied on to completely fund projects, collaborating and using online tools to connect people, communities, business and resources enables others to also support projects which in turn allows for Council funds to be used further during a time of financial pressures.

## **5. Next steps**

- 5.1 Having seen the benefit of crowdfunding, both economically and socially, and having recently recommissioned Spacehive, our vision for the next 12 months is to enhance the knowledge and awareness of this Mayoral initiative, both internally and externally, to further support the voluntary and community sector within Leicester.




- 5.2 An internal workshop and focused discussions with service areas have now commenced to make others who work with the community and/or distribute discretionary grant or other funding within the Council aware of the platform – some of those service areas include economic regeneration, conservation and heritage, walking and cycling and public health.
- 5.3 It is not intended that funding generated through Crowdfund Leicester replaces statutory funding. There may be occasions where contributions through the platform adds to other allocated funding in order to allow enhanced delivery though.
- 5.4 It is anticipated that by making more services aware of CrowdFund Leicester, the initiative can be promoted to encourage more people across the city to come forward with ideas, and be seen as an option for those needing to secure funding.
- 5.5 It also provides an opportunity, similar to that with the Community Engagement Fund and Ward Community Funding, to enable service areas with grant funding to promote the funds to a wider audience to support projects that meet the aims of those funds. Similar to what we have seen with the successful projects so far, it would be intended that those grants would see the crowd also contributing to projects, at a time where budgets are constrained and decisions being made about fund values, this has much benefit as the economic multiplier has already been demonstrated.
- 5.6 CrowdFund Leicester is an integral part of the ongoing work with the Voluntary and Community sector, although as has been highlighted in this report it provides an opportunity for the council to work collaboratively with other public sector organisations and the private sector too.
- 5.7 As such, over the next 12 months we also intend to onboard more funds that can support local projects by engaging with public and private sector organisations locally, regionally and nationally. Spacehive have a partnership programme and have demonstrated with other Movements throughout the UK how these organisations can work together to support communities. For example, CrowdFund Sunderland comprises of Council funding, CCG funding and National Lottery funding.
- 5.8 By onboarding additional funding to CrowdFund Leicester, it should encourage different types of projects to come forward and provide more opportunities to receive financial contributions whereby we are aware that support from a partner is more likely to result in the crowd also contribution and thus increasing the likelihood of a project to be successful.
- 5.9 Whilst CrowdFund Leicester only supports projects within the city's administrative boundary, we are aware of more local authorities looking for alternative ways to distribute grant funds and support the voluntary and community sector. Neighbouring authorities have expressed an interest in Spacehive and CrowdFund Leicester, and therefore we are also keen to explore the possibility of onboarding neighbouring authorities which could offset some of the contractual costs.



Buildings

Farming

Infrastructure

Your intro. Capture your project in a line: 

We want to create a farm and community café  
on top of a multi-storey car park!



Project Home

You & Your Idea

Your Idea



Location



Video and images



About you



Project Delivery Manager



Permissions



Expected Impact



Milestones



Costs

CMS

Verification

## Prepare

1 of 4. Tell us about you and your idea

87%

### Costs

Incomplete

List what you're raising money for! We recommend being detailed to encourage pledges (e.g. 8 cost items) and where possible upload quotes or evidence. Note that once you start your campaign you can't swap out your campaign costs for items donated in-kind — you must raise the full amount. However, if you have already received in-kind contributions then list them below.

### Costs

List all the costs involved in delivering your project. Be detailed, attach evidence where you can, and make sure you [include VAT](#) where appropriate. It all helps to build trust.

Item	Cost (£)	Evidence / quotes?
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Upload



You got your first pledge!

Just now



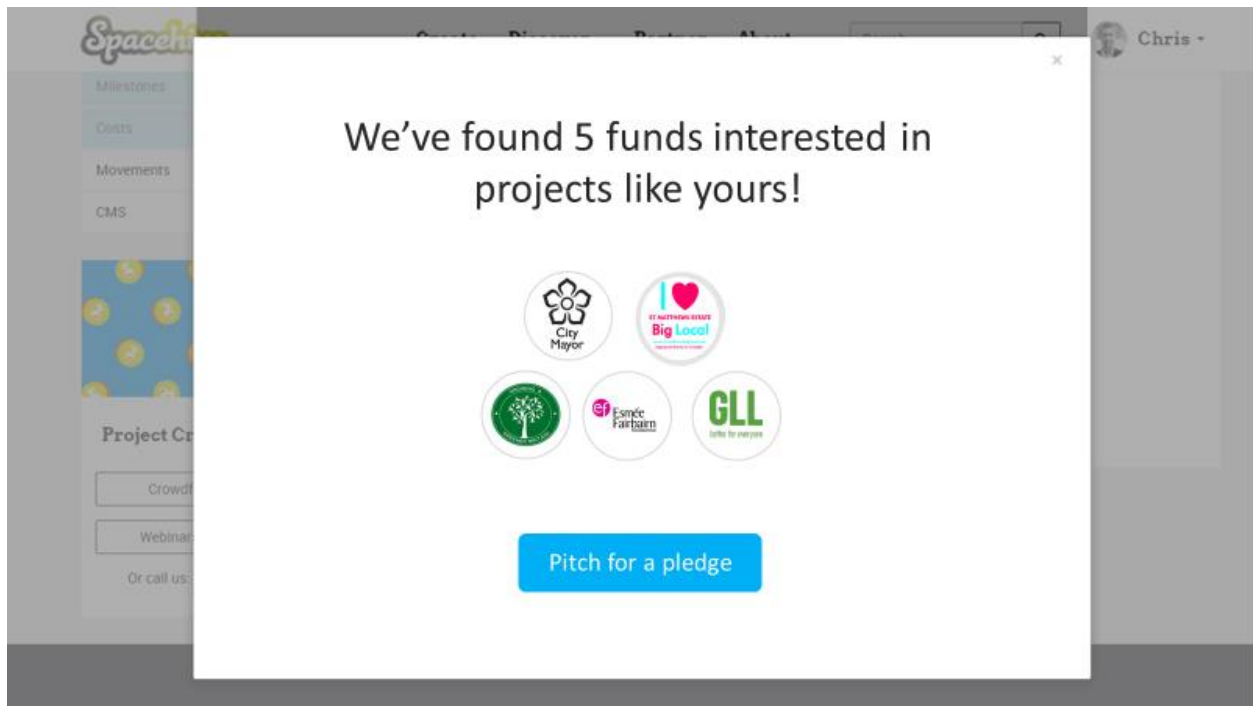
Your project got Verified by Locality!

1 hour ago



Your project launched on Spacehive!

3 days ago



# The Brass of the Saff

By Drum and Brass CIC Leicester Delivery



Share this project

Like 4 Comment Follow 111

A community youth brass band for Saffron Lane with a youth leadership model and volunteering at its heart.



133 backers

£8,673 raised

Drum and Brass CIC

About me

Brass\_and



Idea Gallery Costs Backers Wish List

In April this year 30 primary school children from the Saff went to the National Youth Brass Band Championships in Warwick. Against the best bands in the country and with just a few months preparation they came home with the award for Band showing most potential. Quite an achievement. But it is only the start. This project is about pride, identity and the power of music to transform lives. A local action group has set itself the challenge to

- make the band a community asset,
- embed brass in the community,
- raise the standard of playing through peer to peer learning and leadership and
- celebrate diversity.

We are working with Marriott Primary School, who are providing premises, staffing and venue for the project, for 2 hours a week for 60 weeks!

## What we'll deliver:

- To provide 60 new instruments by December 2018
- To provide uniforms for the players by April 2019
- To provide 30 Music Medal opportunities by June 2019
- To record a CD of band music by June 2019

## Why it's a great idea:

This project started when Marriott Primary School decided to tackle under-achievement by offering brass playing to 3 whole year groups. There was some resistance at the start but soon the brass players won over the community. Over the last 3 years the children have shown musical skill and passion surpassing all expectations. Drum and Brass, the Leicestershire Schools Music Hub and Southfields Concert Brass Band have helped the school to form its own band. And now we are backing local families to set up a permanent youth band with a clear progression and youth leadership model. The Brass of the Saff is the only youth brass band in Leicester City. And it is about transforming lives, building confidence and generating pride and resilience. We are run by and for the local community and we actively promote young leadership, cultural diversity and strong local partnerships.

## Steps to get it done:

- Set up management committee
- Launch the band
- Play our first concert
- Play at National Youth Brass Band Championships

Our first volunteer is a 16 year-old child care student. She volunteered to help out with the after-school band simply to pass the time while waiting for her brother. She felt it would be useful experience for her own career. She has since picked up an instrument and learned to play too. In just a year she has passed her Silver Music Medal and now coaches the cornet section in the band. She has blossomed into a capable and popular role model who inspires younger players.

Our latest volunteer used to be really quiet when she started playing. After a year in the band she has passed her Bronze Medal, performs in public with the band and is preparing her first solo. She has grown into a confident and valued player who is happy to support less experienced members. These are two of many similar stories of the transformational power of music. The Brass of the Saff is inclusive and supportive and while music is our core activity, wellbeing, pride and sense of community are our core aims.

- Less

## Journey

Follow this project for updates to your inbox



Honour for the Brass of the Saff 2 years ago



We are thrilled that "Brass Bands England" has invited band organiser Julie Maxwell to join its Board of Trustees. This is a great honour for the band and it

+ More



National Youth Brass Band Championships 2019 2 years ago



2019 National Youth Championships at Warwick This was it then! The milestone for the band – the Youth Champs in Warwick! We spent the whole of the

+ More



The Brass of the Saff published their Delivery Report! 2 years ago

Click on the pink tape measure to see the report!



Band Camp success 2 years ago



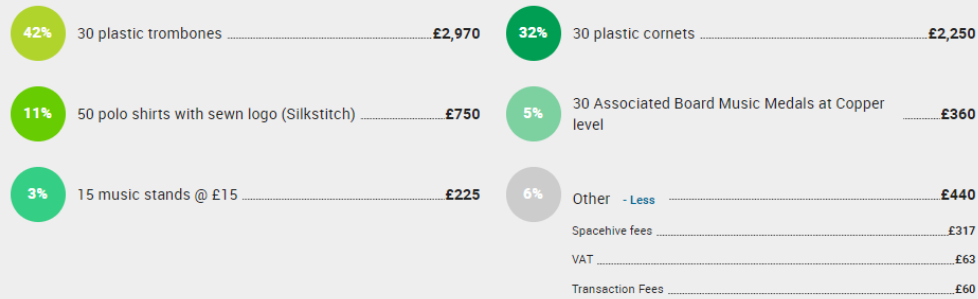
How will the money be spent?

Total **£6,995**



### Costs Breakdown

This shows how money raised for the project will be spent. These costs have been confirmed by the project's Delivery Manager and verified.



### Overfunding

This project is enabled for overfunding. If the project hits its funding goal before the end of the campaign period, any extra funds raised will be spent (in order of priority) on:

- We'll use any extra funding to add more instruments and enable more children to play in the band.

Total **£6,995**







Who's pledged what?

£8,673 pledged of £6,995



137 Pledges from 133 backers

[LATEST](#) [BY PLEDGE SIZE](#) [IN-KIND](#)

	<b>Saffron Ward Councillors</b> ..... <b>£2,250</b> 3 years ago
	<b>Leicester City Mayor</b> City Mayor's Community Engagement Fund ..... <b>£2,000</b> 3 years ago
	<b>Anonymous</b> ..... <b>£1,000</b> 3 years ago
	<b>Esmée Fairbairn Foundation</b> Esmée Fairbairn Community Fund - Organisations ..... <b>£500</b> 3 years ago
	<b>Steven Greenall</b> ..... <b>£360</b> 3 years ago
	<b>Community Bucket Collection Saffron Lane Community</b> ..... <b>£284</b> 3 years ago



## Our Wish List

We're currently looking for people to offer skills and stuff to develop our project! Check out the list of what we need below and then use the 'Offer Something' button to the right to get involved.

- Brass players - could you come and work with individual players at rehearsals? We can organise DBSs
- Admin skills for our management group - e.g. record-keeping and bookkeeping

## Want to help?

Do you have stuff or skills to contribute to this project? Use this tool to offer something to the project creator.

[Offer something](#)

## Offers



Kirstyanne Atkins offered

I can offer organisation skills. Keeping a diary of the bands performances up to date, making appointments, Filing paperwork, sorting music folders, Phone calls that kind of thing if any good as and when needed to help. The 6 hours would be available every week for as long as you needed

## The Brass of the Saff

Funded on Spacive 29 November 2018 Delivered 24 February 2019

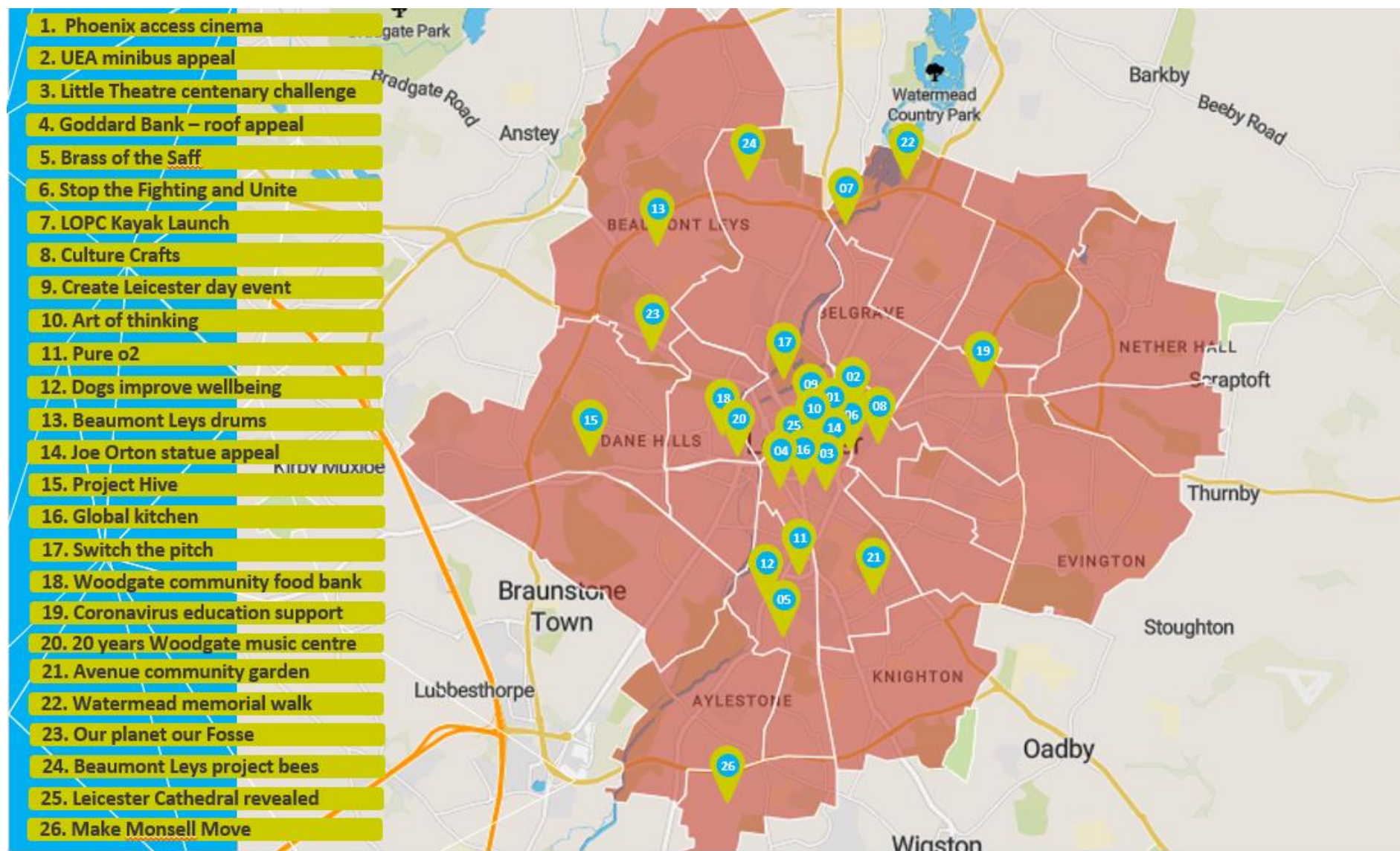


## Successful CrowdFund Leicester Campaigns

Crowdfunding Campaign	Backers	CEF	WCF	Total
Phoenix Access Cinema	53	£ 1,000.00		£ 2,060.00
Minibus Campaign	122	£ 1,500.00		£ 8,252.00
Centenary Challenge	165			£ 17,510.00
Save Goddard Bank - Roof Appeal	65	£ 10,000.00		£ 112,536.00
The Brass of the Saff	133	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,250.00	£ 8,673.00
<b>2018 Total</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>£ 14,500.00</b>	<b>£ 2,250.00</b>	<b>£ 149,031.00</b>
Stop the Fighting & Unite	43	£ 5,500.00		£ 11,328.00
Kayak Launch	89	£ 1,250.00		£ 32,833.00
Culture Crafts	11			£ 930.00
Day Event	21			£ 2,138.00
Art of Thinking	72	£ 2,500.00		£ 8,392.00
Pure O2	23			£ 1,085.00
Dogs Improve Wellbeing	19	£ 2,500.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 10,150.00
Beaumont Leys Drums	15	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	£ 1,174.00
Statue Appeal	357			£ 117,016.00
<b>2019 Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>£ 12,250.00</b>	<b>£ 1,500.00</b>	<b>£ 185,046.00</b>
Project Hive - Social Space for Leicester	191	£ 5,000.00	£ 1,250.00	£ 27,162.00
Global Kitchen	58	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 9,362.00
Switch the Pitch	165	£ 5,000.00	£ 500.00	£ 28,589.00
Woodgate Community Food for Fosse Ward	118		£ 1,500.00	£ 6,555.00
Coronavirus Education Support Initiative	7			£ 3,776.00
20 years of Woodgate Music Centre	31	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 5,719.00
Avenue Community Garden	28	£ 750.00		£ 1,905.00
<b>2021 Total</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>£ 12,750.00</b>	<b>£ 5,750.00</b>	<b>£ 83,068.00</b>
Watermead Memorial Walk	171			£ 60,064.00



Our Planet Our Fosse	28	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 3,890.00
Beaumont Leys Project Bees	54	£ 500.00	£ 900.00	£ 3,081.00
Leicester Cathedral Revealed	39			£ 41,217.00
Make Monsell Move	71	£ 1,000.00	£ 4,000.00	£ 11,816.00
<b>2021 Total</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>£ 2,500.00</b>	<b>£ 5,900.00</b>	<b>£ 120,068.00</b>
<b>Running Total</b>	<b>2149</b>	<b>£ 42,000.00</b>	<b>£15,400.00</b>	<b>£ 537,213.00</b>



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# **Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission**

## **Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy Update**

Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission: 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Lead Member for Housing: Cllr Elly Cutkelvin

Lead Director: Chris Burgin

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report authors: J Haywood, Service Manager – Housing Solutions & Partnerships
- Author contact details: [justin.haywood@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:justin.haywood@leicester.gov.uk)
- Report version number: 1

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report provides a briefing to Members of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission on progress of implementing Leicester's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023<sup>1</sup>, at the request of the Chair of Overview Select Committee.
- 1.2. 6-monthly updates are provided to City Mayor Briefing and Housing Scrutiny Commission.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1. Part 3 of this report gives important background information for the period.
- 2.2. Part 4 of this report shows the latest progress made since the last update (Quarter 3 & 4, 2020/21) across the key strategic aims:
  1. Anyone at risk of homelessness is aware of and has access to the services they may need to prevent it.
  2. Provide suitable accommodation and support options for people who are, or who may become homeless.
  3. Reduce rates of repeat homelessness amongst single people.
  4. Provide the right support and services so that no person needs to sleep rough in Leicester.
- 2.3. In summary good progress has been made on all points, although some objectives have had to be placed on hold or changed in order to respond to more immediate needs of the national COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent service recovery.

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1. Members of the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission are recommended to note the report and provide any comments to the Director of Housing and/or the Executive as it considers necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023 \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://leicester.gov.uk/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy-2018-2023/)

## **4. Background**

### **Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy**

- 4.1. All housing authorities are required to complete a homelessness review for their district and formulate and publish a 5-year homelessness strategy based on the results of the review.
- 4.2. Leicester City Council's fourth Homelessness Strategy was formally agreed May 2018 and coincided closely with the commencement of the Homelessness Reduction Act, which came into force on 3rd April 2018.
- 4.3. The Strategy factored in new pressures, and an updated landscape, and makes it clear that this is not a council endeavour alone, as tackling homelessness requires significant partnership working to address the root causes of homelessness, and provide the level of support and advice needed to those affected.
- 4.4. As such, Leicester City Council and key partners are undertaking an ambitious programme of work to tackle homelessness locally. Work has been ongoing to implement the agreed actions / proposals and build on the extensive work already in place.
- 4.5. Leicester City Council will shortly be beginning a new homelessness review ahead of formulating a 2023-2028 Strategy. In doing this, we will take the opportunity to consult all relevant partners in developing a strategy that involves them in our aims and objectives as the challenge of homelessness cannot be met by the local authority alone.

### **Homelessness Reduction Act**

- 4.6. The Homelessness Reduction Act<sup>2</sup> significantly increased the depth and breadth of local authorities' statutory homeless duties. Most notably it added two new duties; the 'Prevention Duty' and 'Relief (recovery from homelessness) Duty'.
- 4.7. As a result, the workload of our front-line officers and the Service increased significantly, and the government have provided temporary funding to acknowledge these increased burdens upon local authorities. It is important that this funding continues to be made available by central government if they expect local authorities to continue to achieve the level of prevention and support currently being delivered.

### **Covid-19 Pandemic**

- 4.8. In addition to existing pressures, local authorities have been put under additional pressure as a result of the Government's 'Everyone In' directive, which began at the end of March 2020. The directive ensured that people who were rough sleeping or in shared sleeping arrangements (for example, night-shelters) at the time of the first lockdown were provided with self-contained temporary accommodation (TA) reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission. This was necessary to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on people sleeping rough and at risk of rough sleeping and ultimately to prevent deaths during this public health emergency. However, it resulted in very high levels of demand within a short period of time, and this pressure continued throughout the year, only easing up in March of this current year. During this 12-month period, LCC accommodated a

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<sup>2</sup> [Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities)

large number of individuals, ranking 11th of 314 LAs as at January 2021 (most recent benchmarking data available).

- 4.9. This is largely due to the humanitarian approach taken by LCC, opting to continue with the principles of 'Everyone In' to continue to protect individuals from COVID-19 for longer than the majority of other local authorities. Our focus is now on a combination of homelessness prevention to prevent people needing to enter temporary accommodation and moving those already in temporary accommodation on into settled accommodation.
- 4.10. Some of those accommodated had no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and as at the end of June 2021, 26 individuals with NRPF remain supported within the pathway. At the time of writing this report, this has now reduced to 22. Work is ongoing to ensure that support is maximised for these individuals within the constraints of the law, and where individuals cannot be assisted to get an eligible status, we are offering voluntary reconnection to their home state, where appropriate to do so. Individuals with support needs are signposted and referred to relevant supporting agencies where this is available.
- 4.11. In addition to the increased demand, supply was also affected when 45 bed-spaces we lost that were under the 'shared sleeping arrangements' category, namely the Outreach dormitory, the Safe Space, and our partner One Roof Leicester's Night Shelter.
- 4.12. LCC's homelessness services responded by extending the provision of TA to ensure we were able to respond to the crisis effectively, and that no one needed to rough sleep at this time.
- 4.13. This was achieved by the swift mass-procurement of safe, furnished accommodation - primarily additional self-contained flats and hotels – and working with charities, the NHS and public health in the provision of wraparound and specialist support.
- 4.14. The combined result of this is an overwhelmed Single Person & Childless Couple Homeless Pathway which the service continues to work hard to recover from.
- 4.15. LCC developed a 'Rough Sleepers Next Steps Strategy'<sup>3</sup> to aid service recovery and ensure a uniform approach is taken to support individuals at risk of rough sleeping. Good progress is being made with this, with 470 'Everyone In' cases moved on into settled accommodation or supported pathways as at end of May 2021.

#### Family homelessness during the height of the pandemic

- 4.16. Conversely, family homeless reduced during the period, in particular during the first and second spikes. This was due to a combination of factors but largely around that fact that our two most common reasons for families to present as threatened with homelessness were postponed – the moratorium on evictions meant that homelessness from the private rented sector reduced, and the limits on personal movement prevented family exclusions.
- 4.17. The risk presented to the service upon the relaxing of those measures is an upsurge in threats of homelessness for families as the bottleneck is released. The service is preparing for this by readjusting resources between the family and single homelessness teams.

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<sup>3</sup> [covid-19-everyone-in-rough-sleeping-move-on-plan.pdf \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/covid-19-everyone-in-rough-sleeping-move-on-plan.pdf)



## **5. Progress on the Homelessness Strategy**

### **5.1. Strategic Aim 1: Anyone at risk of homelessness is aware of and has access to the services they may need to prevent it**

- 5.1.1. Homelessness Prevention is now part of the statutory duty. The duty requires an authority to provide help and advice to prevent homelessness for households in their district. Case officers work together with applicants to create and carry out a personalised housing plan. Applicants have a responsibility to carry out any reasonable action identified in the plan, and housing authorities can cease duties in cases where Applicants are non-cooperative.

#### **Access and awareness**

- 5.1.2. LCC Homelessness Prevention & Support services have made it a priority to ensure that; through effective comms, partners, information on the website, and referral processes; people at risk of homelessness are aware that services are available and are available to access when they need to. We believe this is the chief reason behind why historically we see more people presenting within the 'threat of homelessness' period rather than coming to us in crisis (60% and 40% of presentations respectively). Over the past 12 months this has differed as a result of the authority's part in protecting the homeless during the national pandemic response, and over the past 6 months is close to a 50/50 split, similar to the national average. Homelessness Prevention & Support is much more likely to find successful outcomes for customers when they present early in the process, as sustainment of current accommodation is more likely to be a possibility, so part of service recovery post-COVID-19 will be to seek a return to earlier customer approaches.
- 5.1.3. LCC go further by offering a self-serve Early Prevention tool called MyHOME (My Housing Options Made Easy). The MyHOME App and website allows customers to get tailored advice 24/7, and whilst it can be used by anyone in housing difficulties, it is primarily aimed at people who are just starting to have difficulties, where getting plugged into the right services can make a key difference and prevent the need for statutory homelessness support later down the line.
- 5.1.4. MyHOME use has increased from 500 users in 19/20, to 680 users in 20/21. 39% of users self-refer into the service in order to get further advice from an officer where the app identifies that this is the most appropriate next step.
- 5.1.5. Beyond this, there is sometimes a need to bring people into service who are entrenched in homeless lifestyles and may need encouragement and persuading to enter service. This can be for a number of reasons, for example trauma, mental health difficulties, or disillusionment. In cases like these, Leicester City Council uses an enhanced Outreach team that includes LCC staff, voluntary sector staff, specialist rough sleeper navigators, peer support, and medical staff (mental health nurses and prescriber nurses). Making use of the range of knowledge and experience in the team can ensure that we maximise engagement for this particularly vulnerable group of people. During 20/21, using funding that we bid for we have also been able to add a 12 bedded unit (Flora Lodge), to the range of accommodation based support offers available, which provides accommodation, wrap-around health and substance use support for those most entrenched in homeless lifestyles.

### **Prevention solutions**

- 5.1.6. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and additional service pressures, prevention solutions remain high for households who approach us with a threat of homelessness. LCC compare well against the National average, achieving solutions for 76% of applicants since the new Act was introduced. The National average is 67%.
- 5.1.7. Over the past 6 months this has reduced to 72%, largely as a result of much increased demand for relief support during the pandemic, and limited resources. While 72% is still above the national average, service recovery plans include increasing this back to prior levels as a priority. This will be especially important as private sector evictions resume following a pandemic moratorium.
- 5.1.8. The Service achieves high prevention rates by offering a multitude of interventions, and putting the focus initially into exhausting every possibility of sustaining the current accommodation. If that fails, we work with the customer to identify a new accommodation solution before homelessness occurs. Interventions include:
- Negotiation with family and friends, lenders, and landlords;
  - Affordability assessments, and maximising income;
  - Referrals and signposting to partner agencies and specialist advice;
  - Private Rented Sector solutions through financial help and incentive schemes;
  - Housing Register priority; and,
  - Advice about other housing solutions such as Shared Ownership, where appropriate.

### **5.2. Strategic Aim 2: Provide suitable accommodation and support options for people who are, or who may become homeless**

#### **Relief / Recovery support**

- 5.2.1. If prevention does not work, or if applicants seek help when they are already homeless, there is a range of support available to work with the customer to help them recover as quickly as possible.
- 5.2.2. The success levels for applicants can depend on the applicant's flexibility in terms of willingness to explore all elements set out in the personalised plan. Applicants who explore all elements in full, rather than limiting themselves to preferences, have a high chance of getting a successful outcome.
- 5.2.3. The Service offers a variety of housing options to applicants, including the housing register, sign-posting to separate RP housing lists, Private Rented Sector solutions through financial help and incentive schemes, advice about other housing solutions such as Shared Ownership, where appropriate, and ensuring any support required to sustain solutions is made available. The applicant must then undertake the actions in their personalised housing plan in order to ensure that they make full advantage of the options and schemes available.
- 5.2.4. LCC compare well against the National average, achieving solutions for 56% of applicants since the new Act was introduced. The National average is 44%.



5.2.5. Over the past 6 months this has reduced to 53%, largely as a result of much increased demand during the pandemic, and limited resources. While 53% is still above the national average, service recovery plans include increasing this back to prior levels as a priority.

#### **Increasing supply - stock**

5.2.6. In addition to advice and support, the city council intends to deliver 1,500 new affordable homes over the next four years, including developing sites to provide the estimated 640 additional Extra Care supported living spaces needed over the next 10 years. For the first year, 340 new units were purchased from the private sector housing market with another 382 planned by 2023. This complements the new build properties additionally planned to meet the manifesto commitment. All units are going in to the HRA as Council properties.

5.2.7. Further to this, LCC were successful in achieving revenue funding for development of settled homes for the single homeless community.

#### **Increasing supply - Private Rented Sector**

5.2.8. With regard to the private rented sector solutions, we are now set to formally launch some recently piloted changes to landlord incentive schemes. The changes resulted in a significant increase in PRS tenancies available for let to homeless households. Including HomeCome, we created 131 tenancies through schemes in 2018/2019, which increased to 201 tenancies in 2019/2020, and successes continued throughout 2020/2021.

5.2.9. The scheme offer has been formalised and the new offer is now presented in a booklet, which was formally launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. A press release in June preceded the launch event, and a marketing campaign is currently underway to generate new landlord interest and encourage those landlords that may have overlooked us in the past to take a second look.

5.2.10. LCC plans to roll out licensing schemes across Leicester's private rented sector, as part of an overall Private Sector Strategy that is being developed. The strategy aims at improving the overall quality of accommodation. Options are being considered alongside other initiatives such as Landlord Accreditation which may be able to partially achieve similar goals. This will ensure that once licensing schemes are launched, it is proportionate to the needs of the city, and fair to local Landlords.

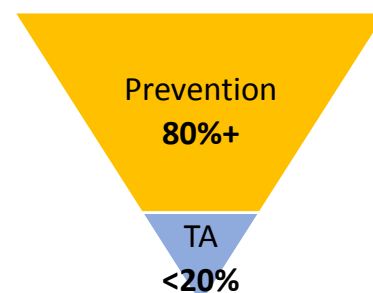
#### **Temporary Accommodation (TA)**

5.2.11. Importantly, the Council's duties at this stage also includes providing TA to families and vulnerable single-person households.

5.2.12. Broadly, Leicester City Council are committed to ensuring that people do not need to enter TA, but that when they do, they get all the support needed to spend as little time as possible in that situation, and move-on to settled accommodation.

### **Temporary accommodation for families**

5.2.13. Generally speaking, less than 20% of families presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness go on to need TA. As such, **in most cases where families seek assistance from the council when they are at risk of homelessness, they do not actually become homeless.**



- 5.2.14. On average, each quarter there are 55 new families requiring TA. In the last quarter, this increased to 62 families as a result of the resumption of evictions and lifting of COVID-19 restrictions resulting in family exclusions. This balances against the previous update where the influx was 31 as a result of factors relating to the COVID-19 pandemic at that time, primarily the amnesty on evictions.
- 5.2.15. We have been able to maintain a 100% record of ensuring all families placed in B&B do not exceed 6-weeks' occupancy, which is a legal requirement upon LAs. Furthermore, most families have been moved on from B&B within a very short period of time – days not weeks.
- 5.2.16. During the period, progress has been made on developing a new model of family TA to support the “Homes not Hostels” vision, and this is now out for expressions of interest. All the families that need to enter TA are now offered self-contained accommodation. This allows families to live as normal a family life as possible, whilst they find suitable settled accommodation for their family.
- 5.2.17. One key principle of this new model will be to have the accommodation as dispersed as possible across the City, to allow families to remain closer to support networks and educational infrastructure, where possible, and therefore reduce the impact of homelessness on the family and on the welfare and educational attainment of the children.

### **Temporary accommodation for singles**

- 5.2.18. In the most recent HCS Strategy update we informed Members that we were looking to launch a new temporary accommodation Eligibility Criteria for singles which puts the focus on ‘best fit’ rather than circumstances alone, to make better use of the range of temporary accommodation LCC have available, and to ensure that the customer has the best pathway possible. We informed Members that this would be launched around April 2020.
- 5.2.19. Due to responding to the immediate needs of the COVID-19 pandemic, this development has been put on hold in favour of the ‘Rough Sleepers Next Steps Strategy’ and service recovery. The intention is now to launch the new eligibility criteria alongside the final stages of service recovery – initial predictions are April 2022.
- 5.2.20. As highlighted in previous updates, we have now embarked on an exciting piece of work to improve and reconfigure the Dawn Centre to increase the number of rooms that we have available. From a feasibility study, we believe that we can add an additional 8 rooms giving us a potential uplift from 44 to 52 bedspaces. These beds will support the multi-agency assessment approach with swift move-on within the single homeless

pathway to support the strategy objective that no one needs to sleep rough in our city. There will be a number of these rooms that will also be classed as medium-long-term for the most entrenched and complex cases that require intensive support. We are also looking, as part of our provisional 'Ending Rough Sleeping Plan' to develop a Hub at the Dawn Centre where anyone who is at risk of rough sleeping can access advice and support to prevent 'a first night out'.

### **Prison releases, and accommodation for offenders**

- 5.2.21. Contracts remain in place with Adullam Housing Association who are a long-standing provider of accommodation support services for offenders locally. Specialist services help us support criminal justice agencies locally by ensuring the safety of the public and reduce reoffending rates.
- 5.2.22. The number of specialist accommodation units available for offenders is now 30 units. This accommodation includes a range of support levels and licence agreement terms, including 'step down' accommodation to assist Offenders to move on into independent accommodation.
- 5.2.23. We work very closely with Probation services and are currently embarking on the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders programme together, which involves getting recent ex-offenders into private sector accommodation with appropriate support.
- 5.2.24. Housing Advice surgeries at Leicester Prison are on hold due to the pandemic but are intended to resume in a COVID-safe manner as soon as possible. This may involve video-link rather than physical visits.
- 5.2.25. We have been working with all key organisations who provide support to Offenders / Ex-Offenders in order to develop an improved Prison Release Pathway. The new Pathway aims to plug gaps that have been collectively identified, and provide a smoother, more pro-active process. The Pathway is now due to launch in October 2021, following senior-officer sign-off.

### **Hospital Discharges**

- 5.2.26. The referral and pathway set up with the NHS's Housing Enablement Team is continuously reviewed in partnership, and further improvements have been made to ensure LCC are alerted earlier and can take action more swiftly.

### **Accommodation for young people**

- 5.2.27. The Joint working group established with children's services to develop a joint commissioning exercise continues to make progress and moves closer to completion. This will consider the supported accommodation needs of 16-25-year olds in the city. The driver behind the joint commissioning exercise is to allow LCC to provide a better range of options for young people from April 2022.
- 5.2.28. Strategy actions relating to younger persons will be aligned with the ongoing placement sufficiency work.
- 5.2.29. Pathways in place are now regularly monitored to ensure they continue to provide successful routes.

### **Housing-related Floating support**

- 5.2.30. A range of support is available that can be used flexibly and effectively by the service to ensure that accommodation is sustained, whether that is existing accommodation or new accommodation arranged as a solution out of homelessness.
- 5.2.31. The majority of homeless applicants can move on into tenancies with no support requirement, but a minority have a much better chance of sustainment with pre-planning, and post-sign-up support.
- 5.2.32. In terms of pre-planning, Leicester City Council have a sensitive lettings policy that is invoked where special consideration needs to be given to placing an individual within a community, in order to both ensure that the arrangement is sustainable. We have seen huge successes with this approach, which is completed in partnership with Housing Management.
- 5.2.33. In terms of post-sign-up support, housing related floating support is commissioned by LCC in order to assist with sustainment of accommodation in the private rented sector, both existing and new. Where individuals enter into LCC Tenancies, the STAR Team will complete the same support. Referrals are made by case workers where it is deemed appropriate and needed.
- 5.2.34. In addition to this, the recently successful Changing Futures bid will seek to drive lasting change and long-term intensive support with regard to the most vulnerable people in our society. The Housing Division are not leading on the Changing Futures programme but will ensure it plays a key part. Successful delivery will be dependent on strong governance and partnership working.

### **5.3. Strategic Aims 3 and 4: Reduce rates of repeat homelessness amongst single people & provide the right support and services so that no person needs to sleep rough in Leicester**

- 5.3.1. During the period, work has continued with local partners and charities, and we continue to fund and support various initiatives in the community, including day centres and specialist case workers (navigators).
- 5.3.2. Donation points across the city continue to raise money for One Roof Leicester, to support their work with homeless persons and rough sleepers.
- 5.3.3. Housing Scrutiny Members were previously advised that we have achieved an exciting partnership with St. Mungo's to open a recovery college for homeless clients within the Dawn Centre. This has now been launched and is in place at the Dawn Centre where specialist employment support workers are helping people to access training and employment opportunities.
- 5.3.4. We are also now working in partnership with an organisation (BEAM) who were introduced to LCC by MHCLG, citing us as an innovative and forward-thinking authority. We are now embarking on a pilot project together to create more employment, education, and training opportunities for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

5.3.5. Together, this is an important part of recovery and ending homelessness due to the intrinsic links between unemployment and homelessness.

5.3.6. In 4.11, it was stated that 45 units were lost as part of the pandemic response. The Safe Space at Andover Street in particular was an enormously important part of our offer to this cohort but had to be closed due to the nature of the accommodation, and the current pandemic. The offer included 16 bed spaces for rough sleepers. Individuals who did not want to access accommodation-based support services could access this service nightly for a safe space to sleep overnight and leave in the morning. This was attractive to some and improved engagement in the long run as they became aware of the support that was available and became more confident in accessing it. Currently individuals seeking this type of service are being encouraged to enter other forms of TA.

5.3.7. LCC continue to use funding secured under the Short-Term Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP), and longer-term Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) to financially support the other forms of accommodation and support required to move people on into sustainable longer-term solutions.

5.3.8. LCC have developed a new 'Rough Sleepers Next Steps Strategy' which will help in monitoring and driving this work forward to enable to service to recovery effectively from the pandemic crisis.

5.3.9. The principles are set out as follows.

1. No-one who has been placed in emergency accommodation in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis is asked to leave that emergency accommodation without an offer of support into alternative accommodation options based upon individual needs.
2. Resources will be developed, including additional move-on accommodation to ensure as far as possible there is capacity and capability to deliver and implement offers of support
3. Continued protection from COVID-19 is provided for those who need it.
4. There is an integrated housing approach with health and care to secure access to services and continuity of care
5. The roll out is gradual, to avoid a 'cliff edge' and overload of services as lockdown is lifted.

5.3.10. This is also in the process of being worked into an 'Ending Rough Sleeping Strategy' as a coproduction process with the Ministry of Housing. Once this has been produced it can be shared and will act as a strategic basis for funding opportunities through the Rough Sleeping Initiative Round 5.

### **Locality Matters**

5.3.11. As a result of decentralised shopping behaviours (resulting from the public's pandemic response), we have seen a dispersal of rough sleepers who engage in begging activity and of non-homeless beggars *from* the city centre and *into* outlying hubs of the city.

- 5.3.12. Narborough Road and Belgrave have had a noticeable impact, and to a lesser degree; Queens Road.
- 5.3.13. Special working groups have been set up in affected areas. LCC engage regularly with the Police, local Councillors, and local businesses.
- 5.3.14. This has resulted in the matters improving significantly, but they continue to be carefully managed to ensure that support and enforcement are appropriately balanced.
- 5.3.15. The service now continues to monitor on their daily outreach work, for emerging hot-spots and responds quickly when they are identified.

### **Funding Opportunities**

- 5.3.16. Jointly Working with other divisions and partners, we have seized every opportunity over the past year to bid for available funding made available through MHCLG to further support and enhance services and have been hugely successful. We have achieved additional funding streams through the following bids: -

<b>Funding stream</b>	<b>Amt secured</b>	<b>Period of funding</b>
Next Steps Accommodation Programme <sup>4</sup>	£320,000	20/21
Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme <sup>5</sup>	£1,000,000	21/22-23/24
Rough Sleeping Initiative year 3 (rescoped in light of the pandemic)	£627,529	20/21
The Protect Programme <sup>6</sup>	£299,915	20/21
Rough Sleeping Initiative year 4 (which incorporates continuation of Protect objectives)	£1,000,000	21/22
Cold Weather Fund	£140,000	20/21
Emergency Accommodation uplift	£200,000	21/22
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£3,587,444</b>	

- 5.3.17. Homelessness services have also played a key part in the Community Safety bids for 'Respite Room' (domestic violence support) and 'Changing Futures'<sup>7</sup>, as well as the Public Health bid for 'Drug and Alcohol Support for Rough Sleepers'<sup>8</sup>.
- 5.3.18. Feedback from a recent visit in July, by MHCLG to Leicester was that they were hugely impressed with the range of services that we offer and were reassured that we are committed to the objective of ending rough sleeping with the initiatives we have developed. Leicester's rough sleeping figures are at an all-time low and MHCLG spent time on the streets and reported that there was little evidence of rough sleeping / begging at the time that they were out.

<sup>4</sup> [Next Steps Accommodation Programme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/programmes/next-steps-accommodation-programme)

<sup>5</sup> [Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2021-24 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/programmes/rough-sleeping-accommodation-programme-2021-24)

<sup>6</sup> ['Protect Programme': the next step in winter rough sleeping plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/programmes/protect-programme)

<sup>7</sup> [Changing Futures: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/programmes/changing-futures)

<sup>8</sup> [Extra help for rough sleepers with drug and alcohol dependency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/programmes/extra-help-for-rough-sleepers-with-drug-and-alcohol-dependency)

**6. Summary of appendices:** None.

**7. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?** No

**8. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?** No – update only.





## Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2021 to 2022

Meeting date	Meeting items	Actions Arising	Progress
1 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Overview of N/hoods Services Scrutiny portfolio</b></li> <li><b>Covid 19 Recovery plans – brief update</b> (John Leach)</li> <li><b>Ward Meetings and Ward Funding</b> reports (Lee Warner and John Leach)</li> <li><b>Tree Strategy Review</b> (Steve Doughty)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Overview item members agreed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report to future meeting with more info re: CRASBU (<i>Potential task group review, led by housing to be added to the work programme - tbc</i>).</li> <li>Commission to receive reports to future meeting relating to VCSE work and strategy, and also on the Crowdfunding work and projects</li> <li>Council 'Annual Library Plan' – officers to check if this needs to go to a full council meeting, as a legal requirement?</li> <li>Officers to provide photos to comm members re: city centre deep clean that has taken place.</li> <li>Commission to receive report to future meeting re: 'Litter and Fly-tipping' issues and councils work on this.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ward meetings item members agreed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members raised issues re: need better publicity and attendance low numbers, and virtual meetings pros and cons.</li> <li>Members praised Lee for an excellent report, and also praise to be passed onto the community engagement officers team, who have supported councillors.</li> <li>Members requested further details on comm mobilisation fund and breakdown of council-led schemes (and city warden schemes).</li> </ul> <p><b>Tree Strategy item members agreed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewart to provide to members a version of the structure chart with the names of the officers included.</li> <li>Members praised the trees strategy work, and the officers in the trees division team for their excellent work.</li> </ul>	
9 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Executive response report re: Scrutiny review report of findings into 'The Viability and Appropriateness of a Community Lottery'</b> (Colin Sharpe and Exec lead Cllr Clair)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Executive response to community lottery review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commission note and accept the position adopted by the Executive which supported the scrutiny review findings and recommendations.</li> </ul> <p><b>CRASBU item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of the Commission thanked officers and Executive Members for all of their work and for bringing this report to scrutiny.</li> <li>That Officers be requested to provide a further report on the work of CRASBU Team to the Commission within 12 months.</li> </ul>	

December 2021

## Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2021 to 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CRASBU report</b> (lead John / Daxa)</li> <li>• <b>VCS &amp; Engagement work report</b> (lead Andrew / Miranda)</li> <li>• <b>Crowdfunding Project</b> (lead Andrew / Miranda)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Crowdfunding Project item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers be requested to bring back the item to the Commission in December with a supporting report that details accountability and contractual governance</li> <li>• The Director of Neighbourhood Services suggested that the conversation on CrowdFund should continue as this was the new innovative approach to raise funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>VCS &amp; Engagement Work item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the item on Voluntary and Community Sector Engagement be deferred to a future meeting (members requested a fuller report on the VCSE strategy work)</li> </ul>	
<b>21 October 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Litter &amp; Fly-Tipping Strategy</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Safety Team report</b></li> <li>• <b>Gambling Policy</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Litter &amp; Fly-tipping Strategy item</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommends the possibility of a telephone number for fly tipping reporting be considered.</li> <li>• Recommended that the council considers extra bins and doing another campaign to raise awareness about litter and spitting outside shops that sell 'Indian Paan', as this seems to be an issue in some areas.</li> <li>• Cost of clearing litter and Fly-Tipping to be added into the Strategy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Safety Team item</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Praise to the public safety team for their work, and members recommended that no further cuts be made in the budget to the public safety team.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gambling Policy item</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended the Council to consider how a No Casino Policy would be implemented? and recommends that the Council participate in the Government call for evidence on the online gambling industry.</li> <li>• Members raised concerns about TV advertising impacts to gambling, can this be added to the policy.</li> </ul>	
<b>9 December 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Domestic Abuse Strategy (Joint with Housing Scrutiny members invited)</li> <li>• Crowdfunding Leicester Project</li> <li>• Homelessness &amp; Rough Sleepers Strategy report</li> </ul>		
<b>6 January 2022</b>	<p>Suggested items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knife Crime Strategy work</li> </ul>		

December 2021

## Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2021 to 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council annual budget reports</li> <li>• VCSE (vol comm sector engagement work)</li> </ul>		
<b>3 March 2022</b>	Local Plan TBC		

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## Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission - Work Programme 2021 to 2022

94

FORWARD PLAN / SUGGESTED ITEMS		
Topic	Detail	Proposed Date
<b>KEY DECISIONS &amp; NON-KEY DECISIONS</b>	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider relevant items to this commission, from the councils Corporate Plan of Key & Non-Key Decisions	Ongoing / watching brief
<b>CONSULTATIONS</b>	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider relevant items to this commission from planned or live consultations to provide scrutiny comments and views	Ongoing / watching brief
<b>COUNCIL BUDGET</b>	WATCHING BRIEF – members to consider any budget impacts relevant to this commission, as necessary.	Ongoing / watching brief
<b>Possible items – forward planning:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Violence Strategy update</li> <li>• Waste &amp; Recycling Services</li> <li>• Pilot on Modern Day Slavery – results</li> <li>• Cyber Fraud – enhancing support outside city centre to n/hoods (community safety)</li> <li>• Community Gold project – update</li> <li>• Council Annual Budget 2021/22 reports relating to N/hoods Services portfolio - Capital and Revenue (Jan 2022)</li> <li>• Voluntary and Community Sector strategy / engagement and support</li> <li>• Afghan Resettlement Programme</li> <li>• CRASBU update</li> </ul>		