

Dated

2015

- (1) CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**
- (2) COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL**
- (3) FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**
- (4) THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER**
- (5) THE COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF
TEWKESBURY**
- (6) STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT
FOR THE DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES PROJECT**

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THIS AGREEMENT is made the day of 2015

BETWEEN:-

- (1) **CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL** of Municipal Offices Promenade Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 9SA ('Cheltenham');
 - (2) **COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL** of Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1PX ('Cotswold');
 - (3) **FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL** of High Street Coleford Gloucestershire GL16 8HG ('Forest of Dean');
 - (4) **THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER** of Herbert Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EQ ('Gloucester');
 - (5) **THE COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF TEWKESBURY** of Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 5TT ('Tewkesbury');
 - (6) **STOUD DISTRICT COUNCIL** of Ebley Mill, Stroud GL5
- together being hereafter referred to as the "Participating Councils".

Background

1. The Participating Councils have agreed to collaborate to deliver services with £0.5 million of funding received by the Forest of Dean from the Department for Communities and Local Government following a bid process as part of the monies made available to provide accommodation based specialist domestic abuse services ("the Grant Funding"). It is intended that this will support work across all of the Participating Councils areas, specifically to strengthen refuge services coverage that keeps victims of domestic abuse safe.
2. The Participating Councils are empowered under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to enter into this Agreement.
3. Forest of Dean have agreed to act as lead council and accountable body for the Grant Funding to enable the Participating Councils to engage a partner to provide the accommodation based specialist domestic abuse services ("the Services") on their behalf.
4. The other Participating Councils to this Agreement will contribute resources and services as set out in this Agreement.
5. The purpose of this Agreement is to set out a framework for joint working between the Participating Councils to enable the delivery of the Services using the Grant Funding.

AGREEMENT

1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 The following terms shall have the following meaning for the purposes of this Agreement:

"Agreement" means this Agreement and any Schedules;

"Commencement Date" means the date of this Agreement;

"Grant Agreement" means a grant agreement including any documents incorporated therein between the Forest of Dean and the Provider;

"Grant Funding" has the meaning given to it in Recital 1 to this Agreement;

“Lead Council” means Forest of Dean;

“Other Councils” means the Participating Councils other than the Lead Council;

“Operational Process Document” means the Places of Safety- Operational Document to be agreed by the Participating Councils, the Provider and other partners which sets out the operational processes to be followed in the provision of the Services and which is contained in Schedule 2

“Provider” means the appropriately qualified and experienced third party provider of the Services appointed by the Participating Councils;

“Services” means the accommodation based specialist domestic violence support services which are described in more detail in the Lead Council's Application for the Grant Funding which is set out in Schedule 1;

“Term” means the period from the Commencement Date until terminated in accordance with Clause 2;

- 1.2 Headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and should not be incorporated into this Agreement and shall not be deemed to be any indication of the meaning of the clauses to which they relate.
- 1.3 This Agreement shall be several and the neuter singular gender throughout this Agreement shall include all genders and the plural and the successors in title to the Participating Councils.
- 1.4 References to any statute or statutory provision include references to:
 - 1.4.1 all Acts of Parliament and all other legislation having legal effect in the United Kingdom;
 - 1.4.2 any subsequent statutes directly or indirectly amending, consolidating, extending, replacing or re-enacting that statute and also include any orders, regulations, instruments or other subordinate legislation made under that statute;

2 TERM

- 2.1 This Agreement shall continue until 31st March 2016 unless terminated as set out in Clause 9.
- 2.2 If it is necessary to extend the Grant Agreement, this Agreement will also be extended by the same period by the Lead Council sending written notice of the extension to the Other Councils
- 2.3 .Appointment of Lead Authority AND Collaboration
 - 2.3.1 The Participating Councils appoint the Lead Council to act on behalf of the Other Councils as the lead authority in appointing a Provider to deliver the Services and in the preparation and entering into the Grant Agreement..
 - 2.3.2 The Participating Councils agree to work in a spirit of mutual co-operation to comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant Funding and the Agreement.

3 LEAD COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS

- 3.1 The Lead Council agrees that it will:
 - 3.1.1 prepare the Grant Agreement for the provision of the Services by the Provider;

- 3.1.2 act as the primary contact with the Provider on behalf of the Participating Councils;
- 3.1.3 pay to the Provider such amounts as may be payable under the terms of the Grant Agreement (up to £100,000 per Participating Council) on behalf of the Participating Councils provided that the Lead Council has received the funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government;
- 3.2 not delegate any duties or obligations arising under this Agreement otherwise than as may be expressly permitted under its terms.
- 3.3 comply with the terms of the Grant Agreement
- 3.4 not to agree to vary the terms of, extend the term of or terminate the Grant Agreement without the prior written consent of the Other Councils

4 THE PARTICIPATING COUNCILS' OBLIGATIONS

- 4.1 Each Participating Council agrees to:
 - 4.1.1 act in good faith with transparency honesty and openness towards the others and use reasonable endeavours to observe the terms of the Grant Funding and the Agreement;
 - 4.1.2 do all things reasonably necessary or desirable to give effect to the Agreement;
 - 4.1.3 contribute such resources and facilities as required to give effect to the Agreement;
 - 4.1.4 not do or cause to be done anything or omit to do anything which would result in the Participating Councils breaching the terms of the Grant Agreement or otherwise giving the Provider the right to terminate the Grant Agreement;
 - 4.1.5 if required grant to the Provider a non-exclusive, non-transferable royalty-free revocable licence to use any documents, text, drawings, diagrams, images or sounds (together with any database made up of those) embodied in any medium that are supplied to the Provider by or on their behalf solely for the purpose of providing the Services;
 - 4.1.6 Comply with its obligations set out in the Operational Process Document.
- 4.2 The Participating Councils agree and acknowledge that Cheltenham Borough Homes(CBH), Cheltenham's wholly owned Arms' Length Management Organisation, will be responsible for carrying out the obligations of Cheltenham under this Agreement but this does not relieve Cheltenham of any liability for any breach of this Agreement made by Cheltenham or CBH.
- 4.3 if the Grant or part thereof is repaid to the Lead Council by the Provider or the Lead Council does not pay the Grant Funding or part thereof pursuant to the terms of the Grant Agreement, the Participating Councils shall agree how the Grant Funding shall be spent subject to the prior written approval of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

5 INDEMNITIES

- 5.1 Each of the Participating Councils (either as Lead Council or as one of the Other Councils) shall indemnify and keep indemnified each other against all claims and losses arising directly or indirectly out of or in connection with a failure by the relevant Participating Council to comply with its obligations under this Agreement.

6 MONITORING, REVIEW AND DISPUTE WITH THE PROVIDER

- 6.1 The Lead Council will monitor and review the progress of the Provider in line with the frequency and detail specified in the Grant Agreement and report back to the Other Councils as required by the Operational Process Document
- 6.2 In the event of continued default in performance by, or disputes with, the Provider the Lead Council will seek legal advice from its internal legal team and then report options for remedies to the Other Councils who shall decide the action that should be taken to remedy such continued default by the Provider (such remedy may include the early termination of the Grant Agreement).
- 6.3 If due to a dispute with the Provider it is necessary for the Participating Councils to seek advice or support from an external legal firm or counsel the costs of such advice or support shall be funded by the Lead Council out of the Grant Funding. If there is no Grant Funding available then the cost shall be shared equally by the Participating Councils.

7 WARRANTY

- 7.1 Each of the Participating Councils warrants that:
 - 7.1.1 it has the necessary right and authority to enter into this Agreement; and
 - 7.1.2 the signatories hereto for and on behalf of the Participating Councils are authorised and fully empowered to execute this Agreement on that Participating Council's behalf.

8 TERMINATION

- 8.1 This Agreement may be terminated:
 - 8.1.1 by effluxion of time;
 - 8.1.2 by the Lead Council giving 14 days' notice to the Other Councils in the event the of the early termination of the Grant Agreement;
- 8.2 Upon termination of this Agreement the Participating Councils will do anything reasonably necessary to bring about an efficient termination of this Agreement
- 8.3 If a Participating Council no longer wishes to receive the Services from the Provider, it may do so upon one month's written notice to the other Participating Councils provided always that the Participating Council giving notice shall first have paid the Provider and agrees to reimburse the remaining Participating Councils the costs, penalties or other losses arising from that Participating Council giving notice.

9 FORCE MAJEURE

- 9.1 If a Participating Council is affected by Force Majeure it shall forthwith notify the other Participating Councils of the nature and extent thereof.
- 9.2 No Participating Council shall be deemed to be in breach of this Agreement, or otherwise be liable to the other, by reason of any delay in performance, or the non-performance, of any of its obligations hereunder, to the extent that such delay or non-performance is due to any Force Majeure event of which it has notified the other Participating Councils, and the time for performance of that obligation shall be extended accordingly.

- 9.3 If the Force Majeure event in question prevails for a continuous period in excess of three months, the Participating Councils shall enter into bona fide discussions with a view to alleviating its effects, or to agreeing upon such alternative arrangements as may be fair and reasonable.

10 PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 10.1 The Participating Councils will co-operate and consult with each other in respect of any matter involving public relations in so far as reasonably practicable having regard to the nature and urgency of the issue involved. The Participating Councils may agree protocols for the handling of public relations from time to time.

11 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- 11.1 The Participating Councils acknowledge that they are subject to the requirements of the code of practice on access to government information, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") and the Environmental Information Regulations ("EIR") and shall assist and cooperate with each other to enable the Participating Councils to comply with their information disclosure obligations.
- 11.2 The Participating Councils shall provide all necessary assistance as reasonably requested by the other councils to enable the other councils to respond to any requests for information that fall under the FOIA or EIR and is related to the Project ("Request for Information") within the time for compliance set out in section 10 of the FOIA or regulation 5 of the EIR.
- 11.3 The Participating Council who received the initial Request for Information shall be responsible for determining in its absolute discretion and notwithstanding any other provision in the Agreement or any other agreement whether any information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of the code of practice on access to government information, the FOIA or the EIR.
- 11.4 The Participating Councils shall ensure that all information produced in the course of the Agreement is retained for disclosure and shall permit the other Participating Councils to inspect such records as requested from time to time.

12 DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

- 12.1 With respect to the Participating Councils' rights and obligations under this Agreement, the Participating Councils agree to each comply with the obligations imposed on them by the Data Protection Act 1998 as a Data Controller and to ensure that Personal Data (as defined in the Act) is processed only in accordance with their own policies on data protection, information security and retention of personal data to comply with their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

13 EQUALITY ACT 2010

- 13.1 The Participating Councils agree to each comply with the obligations imposed on them by the Equality Act 2010.

14 COSTS

- 14.1 Subject to Clause 7.3 each of the Participating Councils shall pay its own costs and expenses incurred by it in connection with the preparation of the Agreement.

15 THIRD PARTY RIGHTS

- 15.1 A person who is not a party to this Agreement has no rights under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 to enforce any terms of the Agreement.

16 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 16.1 Without prejudice to the provisions of Clause 16.2 any disagreement arising between the Participating Councils shall be referred to the County Homelessness Implementation Group[

('CHIG") who will endeavour to reach agreement on a consensus basis. If the disagreement is not resolved then the CHIG will refer the matter to the Chief Executives or Managing Directors of the Participating Councils for further resolution and if the disagreement remains then the matter will be referred to arbitration as set out in clause 16.2 hereof.

16.2 All disputes or differences which at any time arise between the Participating Councils whether during the Term or afterwards touching or concerning this Agreement or its construction or effect or the rights duties or liabilities of the Participating Councils under or by virtue of it or otherwise or any other matter in any way connected with or arising out of the subject matter of this Agreement shall be referred to a single arbitrator to be agreed upon by the Participating Councils or in default of Agreement to be nominated by the President for the time being of the Chartered Institution of Arbitrators in accordance with the Arbitration Act 1996 or any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force.

17 NOTICE

17.1 Any notice which is to be given under the Agreement shall be given by letter (sent by hand, post, registered post or by the recorded delivery Service to the addresses appearing above) or by facsimile transmission or electronic mail (if confirmed in either case by letter). Such letters shall be addressed to the relevant legal officer of the Participating Councils unless directed otherwise.

18 PROPER LAW AND JURISDICTION

18.1 This Agreement shall be governed by English Law in every particular including formation and interpretation and shall be deemed to have been made in England. Subject to Clause 17 any proceedings arising out of or in connection with this Agreement may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction in England and Wales.

IN WITNESS of which the authorised representatives of the Participating Councils have executed this Agreement as a Deed the day and year first before written.

THE COMMON SEAL of CHELTENHAM)
BOROUGH COUNCIL being affixed hereto and)
authenticated by the undermentioned person)
authorised by the Council to act for that purpose:)

Authorised Signatory

)
THE COMMON SEAL of COTSWOLD)
DISTRICT COUNCIL being affixed hereto and)
authenticated by the undermentioned person)
authorised by the Council to act for that purpose:)

Head of Legal and Property Services

THE COMMON SEAL of FOREST OF DEAN)
DISTRICT COUNCIL being affixed hereto and)
authenticated by the undermentioned person)
authorised by the Council to act for that purpose:)

Authorised Signatory

)
THE COMMON SEAL of THE COUNCIL OF)
THE CITY OF GLOUCSTER being affixed hereto))
and authenticated by the undermentioned person))
authorised by the Council to act for that purpose:)

Authorised Signatory

THE COMMON SEAL of STROUD)
DISTRICT COUNCIL was affixed in)
the presence of:)

Authorised signatory

EXECUTED AS A DEED BY THE)
COMMON SEAL of THE COUNCIL)
FOR THE BOROUGH OF)
TEWKESBURY being affixed in the)
presence of:)

Borough Solicitor

SCHEDULE 1ICES

Application Form: Funding to strengthen accommodation based specialist domestic abuse service provision

Name, address & contact details of applicant lead local authority:

Malcom Vine
 Strategic Housing Manager
 Forest of Dean District Council
 Council Offices
 High St.
 Coleford
 GL16 8HB
 Tel 01594 812490
 e-mail : Malcolm.vine@fdean.gov.uk

Names of partners:

Forest of Dean District Council
 Tewkesbury Borough Council
 Gloucester City Council
 Cheltenham Borough Council
 Cotswold District Council
 These are submitting partners –for full list of Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Partnership see below

Amount of grant sought:

Profile of bid 2014-15:

	14/15	15/16
Support provided by GDASS through GCC contract	£920,000	£920,000
Staff costs including recruit, travel, phone, office costs	5,500	35,900
Administration	4100	27300
Lease subsidy for 12 properties 2/3 bed property	6,500	74880
Furniture and floor coverings	7,500	60000
Essential items	230	10500
Security	20,000	80,000
Insurance	1,000	12,000
Total	44,830	300,580
Max available to bid	150,000	350,000

How many bed spaces – adhering to the standard set out at Annex A- will the funding provide?

12 two bedroom properties containing a minimum of 36 bedspaces

Please describe your current domestic abuse service provision.

In April 2012 Gloucestershire County Council Supporting People commissioned a Domestic Abuse support service. GDASS has demonstrated the success of the community based floating support model where a seamless, integrated support approach is provided through out the individuals and families pathway recognising the strengths and assets they have to lead independent, happy and healthy lives free from fear. GDASS work with partner agencies across the county providing support to over 400 victims at any one time and have worked with 2,400 over the last year alone, this is an increase of 2,000 per annum compared to previous provision. The service provides early intervention and prevention, to deal with emergency and crisis and offer support for lower risk cases. With the triage approach there is no waiting list for support and determines the tier of support needed through the DASH risk assessment. All high-risk cases that have been dealt with by the police are referred to MASH where agencies will work together to gain information and plan a package of support for that individual. Qualified IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) from GDASS work with high risk cases to increase their safety. In most cases IDVAs support victims and their families to stay in their own home where possible or to stay in a place of safety; with family, friends, short term accommodation or in some cases B+B for a short period while other measures are put in place. These may be non-molestation order, prohibitive steps or occupation orders. These can take as little as 24 hours. In some cases DVPN/Os' are issued to the alleged perpetrator.

GDASS are an integral part of the MARAC process; they are also part of a pilot in Gloucester that is bringing together social services, drug and alcohol agencies and mental health workers to support victims where there are concerns for children. In these cases other accommodation options may be more suitable for their needs other than the traditional refuge model.

The service has seen less demand for support in refuge for women remaining in Gloucestershire with more victims choosing the option to stay in their own homes. This may include the provision of target hardening or a full sanctuary installation if necessary. Where a household is unable to safely remain at home, refuge accommodation either at the refuge in Stroud or elsewhere has been sought. GDASS work with the six local authorities to provide B+B and move –on accommodation as soon as possible. GDASS will support the family through this process.

How many refuge bed spaces do you currently provide? *8 bed spaces are available in the County via Stroud Beresford Refuge.. See complementary bid*

Of these how many provide the levels of support as outlined in Annex A of the bidding prospectus? *As above*

How many households will your current provision support during the course of a year (also provide split of adults/children??)

At present the Stroud Refuge provides 8 refuge rooms with 21 bedspaces

Based on evidence of need the proposed model will enable the accommodation of 60 Households; 45% single female, 11% single male, 43% with children

How have you assessed the need for refuge in your area?

Statistics have been gathered over the last 9 months from the District Council and GDASS identifying 95 families that requested temporary accommodation due to domestic abuse. Based on the Council of Europe recommendations, Gloucestershire should have provision for 60 refuge spaces.

What need did you identify (number of households/adults/children/needs levels)?

Out of the 95 victims identified 9 were male victims, 34 single females and 51 have children.

45% would have been suitable for refuge but only 7% were accepted. The reasons for the others not being suitable were 14% had 3 or more children, some victims had complex issues that would pose safety risks within the refuge i.e. drug and alcohol abuse and/or complex mental health issues, families with older children and teenage males and 11% being male. Many victims presented as homeless because they have no rights to be in the property i.e. living with the perpetrators family or the property is the perpetrators and they have no right to be there.

It is estimated that another 12 self-contained properties providing a minimum of 36 bedspaces will allow better provision for victims, avoid the necessity of applying as homeless and the use of B+B or transfers out of the county.

What is the shortfall against current provision? *Approx. 60 households*

How have you assessed future need? *The success of the GDASS approach has demonstrated a limited need for fixed Refuge spaces but for the foreseeable future need for temporary accommodation with support will remain approximately at the present level taking into account that not all referrals will take up the option.*

What future need have you identified (number of households/adults/children/needs levels)? *It is anticipated that there will be no need to increase provision beyond that planned i.e. 8 fixed Refuge spaces in county complemented with 12 dispersed properties.*

What plans have you in place to meet this need?

Each DC will make available two properties from RP (Registered Provider) nominations or with Private Landlords that can either be leased by GDASS or procured when needed. These can be sub-let to households facing Domestic Abuse and unable to remain in their own home. The funding will be used to subsidise the leasing costs, security and provide basic furniture and other essentials. GDASS and the DCs already work closely with "Safe at Home" and "Safe Partnerships" who employ Home Office approved advisors to recommend and install safety measures. A contingency fund would be able to provide individuals with grants if they needed to move to new accommodation and were not able to retrieve furniture from former home

Have you closed or stopped funding any refuge provision in the last 2 years? If so how many bed spaces and why?

Not in last two years. The previous service provider decided not to continue to provide or make available Refuge accommodation following the loss of the domestic abuse contract commissioned by GCC in 2012

(a) Scope of provision of refuge accommodation including support for victims including those from outside the local authority area.

Do you currently provide refuge support for victims from other areas? If so does this provision meet the current need?

Yes. Places of safety are provided through the homeless provision of DCs and also through B+B where they are supported directly by GDASS whether they are from the area or outside of the county or boundary. Victims out of county that request refuge are directly referred to the Stroud refuge. According to the LAs statistics over the 9 month period, there were 10 victims that sought refuge as homeless through District Councils however all had to be placed in B+B except 1 that was placed in emergency accommodation. B+B provision is not appropriate for victims and their families and is therefore not meeting the current need.

Does your funding proposal provide refuge support to victims from other areas? *Yes. The dispersed refuge model will accommodate approaches from victims outside of Gloucestershire*

How do you propose to provide that support to victims who come from outside your area? *Those moving into the county due to Domestic Abuse will be provided with the same service as other GDASS service users.*

Partnership working

Which other organisations do you currently work with locally to tackle domestic support and support survivors

This bid reflects the co-ordinated county partnership response that GDASS currently operates in, including :

*-Gloucestershire County Council, commissioners for the domestic abuse service
-Local Registered Housing Providers to provide properties for the dispersed refuge model
-GDASS commissioned by GCC to provide a countywide service to victims of domestic abuse both male and female victims. Clear and closely monitored objectives are set to tackle domestic abuse..*

-Social Services (Pods) GDASS are part of this multi-agency response for victims of domestic abuse to include social workers, drug and alcohol and support workers from mental health.

-Gloucestershire Constabulary, GDASS have a base at the Public Protection Bureau and work directly within MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) for coordinate an immediate response on a daily basis. Also is part of the MARAC. GDASS attend retraction surgeries and support victims through the court process. Also attend with the police when making disclosures under Clare's Law. GDASS are alerted to any DVPN/O's that are made in the county to provide support to the victim.

-GARAS to provide additional support for victims with no recourse to public funds.

Families First and Children's Centres to ensure that children witnessing domestic abuse are receiving specific support.

-Turning point for victims with drug and alcohol issues.

-Together Trust to work with victims with Mental Health issues

-Local schools and colleges in the county where GDASS deliver awareness raising programmes about domestic abuse and healthy relationships.

-Hollie Gazzard Trust – Children and Young people programmes.

-P3 and Aspire project for young people at risk of homelessness

-GDASS are directly attend and contribute to the County Domestic Abuse Strategy group - DASV (Domestic and sexual violence) forum,

-TAC steering group, HBV working group, Children's Partnership board bringing all relevant partners together to tackle all aspects of domestic abuse in a planned and joined up approach

-Stroud District Council and Stroud Beresford Refuge are submitting a complementary bid which will operate within and strengthen the same partnership co-ordinated response and pathway as above.

What are your proposals to improve current partnership arrangements?

Strong partnerships are already in place, however by creating a coordinated dispersed network of properties across the county the partnership will be stronger in particular with Stroud Refuge with a more joined up approach to ensure victims can access the refuge and dispersed refuges with support in place for their needs to be fully met.

What effect do you think this will have?

Agencies working with victims will have more housing options to enable delivery of support and a quicker, more effective local response. With the DCs working closely with GDASS and Stroud refuge will enable access to appropriate safe accommodation quickly with quicker move on from the refuge, freeing up bed spaces and with support from GDASS will assist in empowering victims of Domestic Abuse and enable them to move back into the community at an earlier stage if appropriate.

What effect will this funding have on your partnership working?

The funding will enable the proposal to be implemented immediately and to be established on a sustainable basis from an early date and will provide for an additional 60 households over the year.

This bid is to cover the set up costs associated with securing and making ready dispersed properties .Once the set up costs are met the scheme will be self-funding by 2016/17 and savings will accrue overall.

Deliverability and capacity, including staff and other key resources, to deliver the proposals

What assessment have you made of the level of resource required to deliver the commitments set out in your bid?

GDASS have consulted with all DCs and RPs both individually and within a forum to assess the need for the dispersed refuge model. All have given their commitment to work within the partnership to provide properties in each district alongside the refuge provision in Stroud. With the analysis showing that there is a need for this particular type of provision across the county, each district has agreed to provide at least 2 properties in their area. FODDC have already drawn a partnership agreement with GDASS and Two Rivers Housing to provide these properties with the other 5 districts soon to follow.

GDASS have had experience working within this model. When the service was first commissioned, they took over 12 properties that had previously been used for move-on were made available to GDASS. These were allocated as "Places of Safety" for victims of DV. These properties were not appropriate for a number of reasons including: quality, location and size and were returned to general needs housing. The concept and processes to manage however were proven to be successful. GDASS are part of a Registered Provider, Greensquare that has the infrastructure to manage social and affordable housing, rent collection, repairs and maintenance and general tenancy support.

How have you ensured these resources will be in place?

With the partnership already established with Two Rivers Housing, within 2014/15 timescales it would be expected to have 2 properties ready for victims. DCs is working with their respective RPs to ensure their allocation practices will be ready to provide properties under the new model.

GDASS have the in house expertise to set up and provide the management and coordination for this service and will provide an opportunity for Secondment within existing resources initially while recruiting for this post in the longer term. There will be a Housing Management Officer whose role will be to coordinate the setting up of the properties and be the point of contact with all the DCs and RPs and will allocate the victims to appropriate Support, either IDVA or Floating Support worker. Capacity within the team of qualified and experienced workers will be available immediately victims are referred to the service and within the accommodation

Standards

How do the refuge bed spaces meet the support service standards as set out at annex A of the bidding prospectus?

Standards

1. Safety, Security and Dignity

-GDASS provide a domestic abuse helpline. The Local Authorities provide 24 hour homelessness cover through the county council Emergency Duty Team

-All victims are assessed individually with their safety as the utmost priority including their geographical area.

-This provision would be accessible for those victims that would otherwise be refused access into refuge where there are limited facilities for multiple children, drug and alcohol concerns or mental health.

-Provision for men is provided at present but with limited scope locally. The improved network model will ensure equal access for men.

2. Rights and Access

-The Ethos of GDASS and partners is that victims are believed and listened to with their rights for determination fully respected.

- Specific needs of clients with protected characteristics under the Equality Act will be addressed as part of GDASS support. This is ensured under the current countywide Domestic Abuse contract.

-Support workers will work with them to draw up a safety plan that respects their rights, supports them to be in charge of decision making and identify any barriers to address. The proposed enhanced model allows greater flexibility in provision that can't always be provided in traditional refuges. Properties can be located to give better access to physically disabled people when required. Properties can be acquired in locations where individuals can maintain support networks.

3. Health and Wellbeing

-Clients physical, mental and sexual health are addressed as part of their support plan and specialist services are brought in as necessary including counselling, drug and alcohol

support or mental health.

-GDASS have a qualified Independent Sexual Violence Advisor who support clients who may need that specialist support. GDASS run group programmes such as Freedom and Phoenix for victims and survivors.

- There are robust HR systems in place to support Staff including regular supervision, monthly team meetings lone working policy, employee assistance programme and stress management.

4. Stability, resilience and autonomy

-GDASS support is person centred and designed to empower the victim to achieve economic wellbeing and become more self-reliant.

-Support is given to ensure the client's needs are fully met which includes a clear support plan with achievable goals with a clear pathway that includes employment, volunteering and training working with Learn Direct and the local college.. Peer support is encouraged through our Phoenix programme for survivors.

-The service provides support to victims during their stay in temporary accommodation with a structured plan for successful resettlement.

5. Children and young people

-The needs of clients' children are responded to as part of the risk assessment and support package to ensure their safety and wellbeing and other outcomes.

-GDASS work within the MASH and MARAC and alongside Children's services on a daily basis

-Mothers are supported to maintain a good relationships with her children, this can be achieved by both attending the Trust and Understanding Families programme run by GDASS. Children and young people witnessing domestic abuse can be referred for counselling from CAB.

-Through Hollie Gazzard Trust, GDASS are setting up a programme for children and young people that have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse.

6. Prevention

- GDASS deliver workshops in schools throughout the county that raises awareness about domestic and sexual violence and promotes healthy relationships, these workshops include issues around gender inequality and violence against women.

-GDASS raises awareness at events across the county including the 16 days of action

-GDASS attends all Domestic Abuse Forums and are part of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence board and contribute to the development of local strategies.

Are there elements of this support that are additional to those you were providing previously?

Maintaining a network of suitable, safe properties across the county that can be readily accessed when required by the support agency, GDASS.

Value for money

How many additional spaces against current provision – meeting the standards at Annex A - will this funding provide?

-The plan is to provide 12 self-contained properties (a minimum of 36 bedspaces) dispersed across the county from February 2015 if this bid is successful.

-To provide 60 households a place of safety. The aim will always be where possible and where it is safe to allow a victim and their family to return to their own home or to move to another permanent home as soon as possible.

Working on the assumption that 60 households can be accommodated over a 14 month period the bid would cost £400 per month per household. Support will be provided from GDASS which is funded through the GCC contract. The equivalent cost in Bed and Breakfast accommodation would be £600 per month (double this amount if two rooms are required).

This bid is to cover the set up costs associated with securing and making ready the dispersed properties. Once the set up costs are funded the scheme will be self-funding by 2016/17 and savings will accrue overall.

It expected that with easier and more immediate access to places of safety there will be reductions in Local Authority and support agency staff time.

Sustainability

What will you do to maintain the levels of refuge provision this funding will secure in future years?

From April 2016, each DC will commit to the continuation of the partnership and to provide two properties or nominations to properties. These will either remain in the scheme whilst the level of need remains or will be replaced over time. It is expected that specialist domestic abuse community based services will continue to be commissioned through GCC beyond March 2016 and so support will continue within the same structure and will be self-funding. The contract with GDASS and GCC will continue beyond March 2016 and therefore the model will continue within the same structure and would be self-funding.

What other things are you doing to place domestic abuse services on a sustainable footing?

The GDASS service has a contract with GCC Supporting People partnership up to March 2016 with the option to extend for a further 2 years.. All partners place a high priority on tackling Domestic Abuse in the county and at this stage are committed to retaining this high quality service. GDASS are working in partnership with Splitz, a charity who specialise in Domestic Abuse and have expertise and commitment to the GDASS service as part of the GCC contract. Hollie Gazzard Trust was set up last year in the wake of Hollie's murder. Nick Gazzard, her father has set up the charitable trust and has committed 30% of any funds they raise to GDASS. So far the trust has raised £76K.

Match funding

What financial contribution to refuge services do your partners make?

As part of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse contract funding will be re-aligned to support management costs after 2016.

What financial contribution do your other partners make to other services to tackle and prevent domestic abuse?

The Gloucestershire County Council fund the GDASS contract £920,000 per annum. This is likely to continue until 2018.

The Police, Crime Commissioner (PCC) funds a target hardening programme for victims of Domestic Abuse and a Court IDVA post £34,000/annum to support victims involved in court action.

There is a partnership between the PCC and the six District Councils to jointly fund Sanctuary schemes in the homes of victims where this is practical and the best solution.

What match funding do you or your partners propose to make as a result of this bid? *At this stage, apart from existing funding it is not intended to approach partners for additional match funding as the model after 2016 will be self-funding.*

Other relevant information

How the Model will work

The aim is to build in flexibility to the provision, to be victim –centred, empower them and enable them to return to a normal family life as part of a supportive community as soon as possible. Circumstances and resources vary across the county and so it will be left to each District Council to negotiate the exact arrangement with local Registered Providers.

The three proposed tenancy arrangements are set out below :

1. Homeless application via Local Authority. This may involve the provision of temporary accommodation utilising the Housing Protocol arrangement already in place between L.A and RP.

2. A short term licence agreement between GDASS and RP/Landlord to provide temporary accommodation as and when required. This will also be unfurnished and will be provided on a contractual tenancy agreement.

3. If required, a longer term, 'immediately available' housing solution could be provided by RP

by leasing a property directly to GDASS. The length of this lease would be open to negotiation for a relatively short term period of 3 to 6 months to assess appropriateness, process, costs, etc. This would allow GDASS to have furnished accommodation immediately available but would mean GDASS is liable for rent, council tax and utilities irrespective of whether the property is occupied or not.

Completed forms to be submitted by 5pm 16th January 2015 to:
refugefunding@communities.gsi.gov.uk

SCHEDULE 2 – THE OPERATIONAL PROCESS DOCUMENT