

Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Funding Application Guidance 2022/23 for Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence (SV)

Background

For 2022/23 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has confirmed that Police (Fire) & Crime Commissioners (PCCs and PFCCs) will receive £69.1 million 'core' funding, £27 million ringfenced funding to recruit and retain 700 Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and £15.7 million ringfenced funding for Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence (SV) support services. On 25 March 2022, it was confirmed that this funding will be delivered over a multi-year basis until the end of 2024/25.

In the 2021 Budget Government announced that it would be increasing the number of ISVAs and IDVAs funded by the MoJ to over 1,000 by 2024/25. To reach this commitment, an **additional 300** posts will be recruited by 2024/25. To inform PCCs and PFCCs funding allocations, they must complete a needs assessment process and this guidance (and accompanying application) covers:

- the allocation of funding for the DA/SV community-based services. The assessment should cover needs for 2022/23 and any allocation of funding will be assessed for
- allocation on a multi-year basis. The allocation of funding for an additional 100 ISVAs and IDVAs posts to be recruited nationally in 2022/23 (£3.75m). Where posts are recruited in 2022/23, funding will be assessed for allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Organisations **do not need to be a registered charity, a charitable incorporated organisation, or a social enterprise to be eligible for this funding.** They must, however, provide support services which have the purpose of helping victims of SV or DA cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced.

General Conditions

Organisations must be based in England and Wales to be eligible for this funding.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Funding Conditions

To be eligible for the **DA and SV funding**, the organisation must provide tailored support to female and/or male victims who have experienced domestic abuse, rape, or sexual abuse at any point in their life. This includes adults and children. The funding can be used to support existing clients as well as new referrals.

DA and SV support services could include, but are not limited to:

- Family court support;
- Court support;
- Face to face or remote counselling for individuals and / or their families;
- Support for particular groups such as BME/ Disabled/ LGBT/male victims. • tailored support for under-represented survivors and those with protected characteristics;
- propose innovative advocacy models as well as for established roles such as IDVAs and ISVAs, for both adults and children;
- adopt hybrid models supporting both DA and SV victims, as well as violence against

Support for victims of DA in safe accommodation is subject to a separate funding process run by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). **Therefore, this funding opportunity cannot be used to provide accommodation or the support services within it.**

PCCs/PFCCs must open up their process to all DA support services in their area, to ensure the needs assessment captures and reflects the need in their area, whether or not they currently fund them.

PCCs/PFCCs must open up their funding distribution process to sexual violence support centres beyond those that they already fund and demonstrate consideration of provision for men and boys.

ISVA and IDVA Funding Conditions

The purpose of this funding is to increase advocacy support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV) across England and Wales, including children.

We also expect every PCC/PFCC to include in their needs assessment how they will work to support children and young people and a minimum of one bid must be for a child and young person ISVA or IDVA.

To ensure ISVA/IDVA posts are targeted to need, consideration must be given to where posts should be recruited by those organisations run by and for the users and communities they serve, e.g., a disabled ISVA supporting a disabled victim/survivor.

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

Bids for services should provide:

women and girls (VAWG) advocates and advisers, provided they will be supporting victims of SV and/or DA.

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

Specific roles eligible for this fund include:

- SVAs and ISVA Managers (provided these managers have an active ca
- IDVAs and IDVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)

- Child ISVAs and IDVAs
- ISVAs and IDVAs who provide support to victims with protected characteristics

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

Outcomes

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

All advocates/advisors must work towards the following outcomes:

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

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

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

Evaluation Criteria for both funding streams

Bids will be evaluated based on the information provided in the attached template.

General Notes to Bidders

- Please ensure that the evidence provided is relevant and not excessive
- Only include requests that fit the criteria of this fund
- Be realistic in the amounts bid for – avoid inflating funding requests
- Only return the assessment template, separate annexes or copies will not be accepted

(Tab 2) Needs Assessment (to be completed for both the DA-SV Fund and ISVA-IDVA Fund)

This tab will provide an understanding of the needs in your organisation and all relevant sections require a response. Responses must be targeted and brief, with word counts being applied to ensure only relevant information is provided.

This section requests the following:

'Analysis of your organisation's current needs in Essex and how your proposal will address these needs'.

The evaluation will review the evidence provided against the following areas:

- Analysis of identified victim need in your organisation plus any criminal justice data where possible e.g. stage in CJS if available and waiting list numbers, broken down by type of service
- Explanation of current challenges in your organisation
- How the funding you are bidding for will address these challenges
- Explanation of how you carry out this assessment of need

‘Describe existing gaps in provision for under-represented victims (such as those with protected characteristics and males) and how your proposal will address these gaps’.

The evaluation will review the evidence provided against the following areas:

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

‘Describe existing gaps in provision for Children and Young People (C&YP) and how this proposal will address these gaps. This section should be completed even if the proposal does not provide dedicated C&YP services as consideration should be given to wider victims needs / impacts’.

The evaluation will review the evidence provided against the following areas:

- A clear understanding of how Children and Young People are currently supported, and whether there is adequate tailored provision in Essex
- How will your proposal will ensure proportional service provision for Children and Young People

Tab 3 - Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Fund Only

This tab only needs to be completed if applying for the DA – SV Fund.

The evaluation will review the evidence provided against the following areas:

- Service provided:
- How the funding requested will be used to meet demand
- How funding is currently allocated
- Future funding allocation
- Current number of victims waiting to access services
- Victims supported and ongoing needs:
- Victims supported over the last 3 months – assessed both individually and in comparison, to the same period the previous year
- Ongoing needs and the future mapping of funding

Tab 4 – ISVA-IDVA Fund Only

This tab only needs to be if applying for the ISVA – IDVA Fund.

The **‘existing figures’** section requires information on the number of existing advocates in your organisation by specialism. It requires additional demand data relating to caseloads and waiting lists. This information will not be evaluated and is requested to provide information on existing support provision.

The evaluation will review the evidence provided against the following areas:

- Detailed information relating to the posts that you are applying for funding for. You must complete all columns and use a separate row for each post.
- Current number of victims waiting to access services
- An outline of each role, the tailored provision it will offer and a breakdown of cost.

We expect to see bids for CYP and tailored towards underrepresented groups, such as those with protected characteristics.

Tab 5 - Evidence

Proof of evidence used to support the needs assessment can be inserted into the evidence tab. Examples of evidence could be a collated feedback from service users, emails confirming costs for training, how the cost of a counselling session is determined etc. **This information is for context only** and will not be evaluated

Allocation Timeline Date	Action
W/C 11 April 2022	Bidding information released to providers
5pm Monday 25 April 2022	Providers return bidding information
Friday 6 May 2022	PFCC submission to MoJ
By Friday 20 May	Funding offers communicated to PCCs/PFCCs and update to providers to follow

Frequently Asked Questions

SV and DA Funding

Which organisations are eligible for this funding?

Organisations must provide tailored support services to help victims of DA and/or SV cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced.

What can organisations spend this money on?

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

- IDVAs or ISVAs
- Child IDVAs or Child ISVAs
- Court or family support;
- Face to face or remote counselling for individuals and/or their families; and
- Support for particular groups such as BAME/Disabled/LGBT/male victims.

Funding allocations must adhere to the conditions of this fund.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Are stalking charities eligible for domestic abuse funding?

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

ISVA and IDVA Fund

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

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

Will bids for new types of CYP advocates be accepted?

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

Is this funding exclusively for services for female victims?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No, you will need to submit one bid document, however you should use a different line on the application form for each individual role so each role, its cost, parameters, and impact are clearly defined. This document should clearly state the funding requested, for how many roles, and the details of each of these roles.

Is this funding for third sector organisations only?

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