

Commissioning Objectives – Domestic Abuse Refuge Provision

Our primary commissioning objectives that we wish to achieve as a result of our outline proposal are:-

- To make our resources available to provide safe and secure, accommodation that is accessible to women and children in an emergency without any unnecessary restrictions linked to local connection, status or personal characteristic.
- To promote and develop in the wider public stakeholder arena an understanding and commitment to the role and value of refuges as both a county wide and national resource, recognising that local refuges may often not be able to meet the needs of women fleeing domestic abuse
- To ensure the accessibility of refuges in terms of the capacity and location of refuge provision across the Lancashire County Council footprint area, aiming to ensure that no woman currently living in the Lancashire County Council area will need to travel further than 15-20 miles to the nearest refuge, within the Lancashire County Council footprint area, subject to vacancies and where it is safe for her to do so. Where future resources permit we aim to work with our partners to continually review and address gaps or duplications in the number and scale of provision in order to achieve this objective
- To ensure the delivery of high quality , trauma informed support to women and children in a psychologically informed environment that supports recovery and independence
- To ensure that service delivery is informed by the needs of service users and that refuges are increasingly able to meet the needs of women and children who have more complex and specialist needs and may present more challenging behaviour
- To ensure the delivery of consistently high quality refuge services and development of supportive infrastructure across the whole of the Lancashire County Council footprint area which will support the future strategic and operational effectiveness of service delivery without compromising local responsiveness
- To work with appropriate development partners to ensure that all of our refuge provision is fit for modern purpose and attractive to potential users, embodying the principle of respect for family life and recognising the importance that service users attach to privacy, space and control.
- To recognise that there needs to be a diversity of provision to meet different types and levels of need
- To utilise the skills and experience of our selected tenderers to drive quality and cost improvements in refuge provision across Lancashire, eliminating duplication where possible and supporting innovation in the use of all resources.
- To support the devolution of budgetary control and strategic decision making on the future shape of services to our selected tenderers as an essential part of this commissioning process

- To ensure value for money in the use of our resources in order to satisfy the requirements of internal and external stakeholders
- To wherever possible anticipate, plan for and implement approaches to address any new system of regulation and/or scrutiny developed as a result of central government's intention to review the relationship between housing support and housing benefit entitlement as it develops
- To develop a contract management approach that more effectively delivers evidence of both soft and hard outcomes whilst recognising that inputs and outputs are also legitimate areas of interest in establishing value
- To be more inclusive by developing our service offer in the future to include males affected by domestic abuse in order to meet their specific needs using any future resources that become available to us or our partners