

## Racialised Communities: building the evidence base for best practice in culturally responsive interventions for perpetrators of domestic abuse

### Project in Brief

The Drive Partnership is seeking a development partner to research culturally appropriate and suitable domestic abuse perpetrator interventions / approaches, both in mainstream programmes and specialist interventions, collating existing knowledge and international best practice, sharing best practice examples and highlight options to improve pathways, commissioning and interventions.

### Background and Context

Domestic abuse is not acceptable, and it is not inevitable. Too often those who are causing harm are missing from the narrative and from the response. To end domestic abuse, we need comprehensive quality-assured services which fully support all child and adult victims-survivors and address the behaviour of those causing harm.

Harm and abuse disproportionately impact people from racialised communities. There is a limited UK evidence base on programmes working with those using abusive behaviours in their relationships, and even less evidence on effective and culturally appropriate interventions for people from racialised communities.

Research carried out by University of Suffolk and H.O.P.E Training and Consultancy<sup>1</sup>

- Further research into culturally grounded interventions and language
- Sustainable research funding for community-led interventions
- A family-focused approach to perpetrator work
- Expanding the call to action<sup>2</sup> for a national perpetrator strategy to specifically include the needs of racialised communities

The Drive Partnership has identified the following key priorities to start to address the issues raised:

- Develop a workforce and leadership development programme
- Review of literature to identify evidence and best practice for working with those who use harm from racialised communities
- Mapping of current culturally specific interventions
- Research and scoping of effective practice in both mainstream and specialist services
- Development of referral pathways, commissioning models and quality assured interventions

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<sup>1</sup> Adisa O., and Allen K. (2020). Increasing safety for those experiencing family and intimate relationship harm within black and minority ethnic communities by responding to those who harm: Survey findings. University of Suffolk.

<sup>2</sup> <http://driveproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Call-to-Action-Final.pdf>

## Invitation for proposals - Evidence and best practice for culturally responsive intervention

To address these priorities, in the year 2021-2022 Drive wants to work in partnership with practitioners and researchers from racialised communities. We are recruiting development partners for two strands of work focused on:

1. Workforce and leadership development
2. Evidence and best practice for culturally responsive intervention

We have split this work into two distinct briefs which we will commission separately as we want to encourage proposals from a wide range of organisations but acknowledge the skillsets required for the whole programme of work may not be found in a single organisation. However, bidders are open to apply for one or both work programmes, either as sole providers or through consortium bids.

This brief is focused on **evidence and best practice for culturally responsive intervention**.

The project brief for workforce and leadership development can be found on the [Drive website](#).

## Project Brief – Evidence and practice for culturally responsive intervention

The Drive Partnership is seeking a development partner to research culturally appropriate and suitable perpetrator interventions / approaches, both in mainstream programmes and specialist interventions, collating existing knowledge and international best practice, sharing best practice examples and highlight options to improve pathways, commissioning and interventions.

There is a significant gap in the evidence base for perpetrator programmes across the UK, as research is typically undertaken with predominantly white samples. As highlighted in the University of Suffolk and H.O.P.E research, ‘a recent rapid review on programmes aimed at those who use abusive behaviours in the UK commissioned by Respect and Women’s Aid, for example, does not include any programme aimed at black and brown people’.<sup>3</sup>

Through focus groups with grassroots by and for practitioners around workforce and leadership development, participants also shared views relating to the lack of culturally appropriate interventions. Relevant themes from the groups included:

- Barriers to people accessing services including fear of consequences around immigration issues; pressure from family and community to keep things private and not bring shame onto them; lack of knowledge or awareness on how to access services; homogenising a number of distinct ethnicities and cultures into broad ‘BAME’ groups; impact of social class on willingness to report and access help
- Different understanding of domestic abuse to Eurocentric view, both from communities and from generic services when looking at culturally responsive intervention
- Importance of language in resonating with both victims and perpetrators of abuse

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<sup>3</sup> Jane Callaghan, David Morran, Joanne Alexander, Laura Bellussi, Tanya Beetham and Jade Hooper (2020). Make a Change: An evaluation of the implementation of an early response intervention for those who have used abusive behaviours in their intimate relationships

- Prevalence of family abuse in certain cultures (e.g. mother-in-law, auntie-in-law etc) and lack of suitable interventions for women
- Need for consideration of cultural overlays and intersectionality when targeting interventions and approaches
- Need for specialist perpetrator programmes for racialised groups to be appropriately funded, particularly to remunerate staff with multi-lingual skills and broader cultural understanding

### Role of development partner

The role of the development partner will be to review existing evidence and develop an approach for building an evidence base. We anticipate this will be through:

- A short desktop review of existing literature to identify baseline best practice
- Consultation through interviews, focus groups, roundtables, surveys of accredited services, Drive sites and wider VAWG services, including practitioners, survivors and service users / those who have used harm in their relationships
- Review of data analysis provided by the Drive team, and other relevant datasets
- Potentially work with a small number of services working with those who harm to do deeper analysis into their data and approach
- Produce summary of findings and recommendations for next steps across different agencies

The Drive team will work alongside and support the development partner through:

- Providing a lead point of contact for project oversight and co-development
- Analysis of Drive and SafeLives data, and any other available datasets across the Drive Partnership organisations and partner organisations
- Facilitate access to and engagement with Drive sites and Respect accredited services.
- Project coordination support such as supporting the set up and administration of consultations

Further support can be explored, so please indicate in your application where you see the best split of roles and responsibilities between yourselves and Drive to fulfil the brief.

We recognise that small organisations may not have capacity for a project of this size, but may have specialist skills and experience that would benefit the project. We warmly accept consortium applications or consultancy arrangements.

### Partner Selection Criteria

We are inviting applications for the culturally responsive intervention development partner. You may apply individually or as part of a consortium where a lead partner is identified.

We would like applicants to demonstrate the following expertise and experience:

Essential	Desirable
Be representative of racialised communities (e.g. a 'by and for')	Knowledge and experience of related practice areas such as social care, policing, probation

organisation, or project would be led by / facilitated by researchers/practitioners from racialised communities)	or working with adults facing multiple disadvantage such as homelessness, substance misuse or mental health issues.
Research expertise, including facilitating research projects with people with lived experience of domestic abuse, or projects with people who have experienced abuse and/or other forms of trauma.	Knowledge of how cultural awareness can be embedded in the response to domestic abuse / those using harm, and/or other services or interventions.
Relationship building and community / stakeholder engagement	Experience or understanding of facilitating research projects with perpetrators of crime.
Knowledge of domestic abuse and how racialised communities are affected, and the barriers they face in accessing and receiving effective support.	
Knowledge of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse and interventions for both victim-survivors and perpetrators	

## Project timescales

<b>Call for proposals released</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<b>Online information event</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May, 14:30-15:30
<b>Register interest</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Clarification questions</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Deadline for submissions</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> May, 12pm
<b>Interviews</b>	1st interviews: w/c 7th June 2nd interviews: w/c 14th June
<b>Successful partner notified</b>	w/c 21st June
<b>Enter into contract</b>	July 2021
<b>Project delivery</b>	9 months: July/August 2021 – March 2022

For any questions about the process, to book a space on the online information event, or to register your interest in applying for the project, please contact [tara.rowe@socialfinance.org.uk](mailto:tara.rowe@socialfinance.org.uk).

## Funding

The available budget for this project is **£30,000** inclusive of any applicable VAT.

The bid should include any proposed costs for the bidder, such as staff costs, overheads, management costs.

The Drive Partnership will separately facilitate access to or funding for additional project costs such as:

- Paid contributions and/or vouchers for participants of focus groups or interviews in accordance with Drive’s Paid Contributions Policy.
- Access to Drive’s Zoom account

The payment schedule can be negotiated to support our co-production partner with effective delivery of the project. We anticipate this will likely be monthly payments, or 10% at the start of the project, then 45% at 4.5 months, and 45% upon completion.

### Proposal Requirements

Please complete and submit the form included in appendix 1 or if you prefer, you can submit an audio/video application that addresses the same requirements.

In your response, please specify how you would use the time and funding available to meet these requirements. Please also indicate any additional value that you feel that your organisation(s) and/or approach would bring.

Proposals should be submitted by **12pm on 26<sup>th</sup> May** to [tara.rowe@socialfinance.org.uk](mailto:tara.rowe@socialfinance.org.uk).

An application guidance document can be found [here](#).

A Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated weekly, and can be found [here](#).

### Appendix 1 – Application Form

#### About you

<b>Organisation(s)</b>	
<b>Individual application or consortium</b>	
<b>Website(s)</b>	
<b>Tell us about your organisation(s)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of work you do, mission statement if applicable</li> <li>• Charity, CIC, academic institution, private company etc. Include any relevant registration numbers</li> </ul>	

#### Contact Details

<b>Project lead name</b>	
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**Project lead contact details**

Phone:

Email:

**Proposal****1. Background and experience**

(max. 800 words)

Please tell us:

- how you meet the expertise and experience outlined in the table on page 4
- experience and approach to diversity, equity and inclusion
- any other relevant information

**2. Principles of your approach**

(max. 500 words)

- How will you approach this work – what are your key priorities?
- What do you see as the barriers to engagement and how will you seek to overcome these?

**3. How you intend to carry out the project**

(max. 800 words)

- Outline your methodological approach to delivering the project brief. Specify the methods which you would use to engage with key stakeholders, including those with lived experience of domestic abuse, and those who've used harming behaviour in their relationships.
- Describe how you will build relationships with key stakeholders
- Detail the measures that you will put in place to ensure delivery of the project brief within the timescales, including given the current circumstances concerning the response to Covid-19.
- Specify who from your organisation / consortium would work with us to manage and deliver the project (brief biographies of your proposed team can be submitted separately and won't count towards the word limit)
- Any other added value your team can bring e.g. networks or wider resources

**4. Project plan**

- Project timeline including key activities, milestones and deliverables

<b>5. Budget</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget &amp; cost breakdown</li> <li>How your approach will ensure value for money</li> </ul>

## Mandatory Requirements

The following criteria are mandatory and must be achieved in order for your bid to be assessed:

- 1) Responses to all five elements of the application form above are completed, unless a satisfactory explanation has been provided and accepted
- 2) Proposed pricing does not exceed available budget
- 3) Legal, policy and ethical requirements are adequately evidenced. We need to review the following documents as part of the bid process, please submit with your application. Any problems or queries with this, please get in touch:
  - Safeguarding and GDPR policies
  - Copy of most recent audited accounts. (If no audited accounts within the last 12 months, please provided the most recent unaudited accounts)
  - Insurance details: levels of cover for public & employer’s liability and professional indemnity. Proof of cover: either letter from insurance company/broker, or copy of current valid certificates

## Appendix 2: Scoring Matrix

### Section weighting

Section	Weighting %
1 Background and experience	30%
2 Principles of your approach	30%
3 How you intend to carry out the project	30%
4 Project Plan	5%
5 Budget	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Scoring

Evidence	Score
<b>Excellent response</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response is well presented and structured; and</li> <li>Response is directly and wholly relevant to the area being tested; and</li> </ul>	4

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response is judged to far exceed the minimum requirement for the section.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Good response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response is well presented and structured; and</li> <li>• Response is well aligned to the area being tested; and</li> <li>• Response is judged to exceed the minimum requirements of the section.</li> </ul>	3
<p><b>Competent response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sufficient response is presented and follows a basic structure; and</li> <li>• Response is sufficiently aligned with the area being tested; and</li> <li>• Response is judged to meet the minimum requirements of the section.</li> </ul>	2
<p><b>Poor response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some evidence is presented but assertions and statements are insufficiently supported; or</li> <li>• Response offered is only partly relevant to the area being tested; and/or</li> <li>• Response offered is/may be relevant to the area being tested but is judged to be insufficient when compared to the requirements of the section in terms of sophistication/complexity.</li> </ul>	1
<p><b>No evidence provided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenderer has responded but has not answered the question and has not demonstrated an understanding of our requirements.</li> </ul>	0

## Appendix 3 About Us

Drive: <http://driveproject.org.uk/>

The partnership between Respect, SafeLives, and Social Finance has been working to end domestic abuse by transforming the national response to perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse since it was established in 2015.

The partnership is working across the domestic abuse specialist sector, public sector partners and beyond to develop sustainable, national systems in England and Wales that respond effectively to all perpetrators of domestic abuse. Our vision is that one day there will be a consistent approach which sees agencies in all PCC and local authority areas across England and Wales working together to disrupt abuse and change behavior to increase safety for victims-survivors, children and families.

Our partnership includes expertise in working with victims, perpetrators and developing sustainable responses to entrenched social problems.



**SafeLives** is the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good. We work with organisations across the UK to transform the response to domestic abuse. We listen to survivors, putting their voices at the heart of our thinking. We look at the whole picture for each individual and family to get the right help at the right time to make families everywhere safe and well. Together we can end domestic abuse. Forever. For everyone.



**Respect** is the UK membership organisation for work with domestic violence perpetrators, male victims and young people. We have developed standards and accreditation and provide training and support to improve responses to adult's using violence and abuse in intimate relationships. Respect accreditation is the benchmark for the provision of quality interventions with men who use violence against their female partners.



**Social Finance** is a not for profit organisation that partners with the government, the social sector and the financial community to find better ways of tackling social problems in the UK and beyond. We have raised over £100 million of social investment and designed a series of programmes to tackle social challenges including supporting vulnerable adolescents to avoid being taken into care, supporting older people reduce their level of loneliness and helping people with health conditions and disabilities access employment.