

Restart external evaluation

Project in Brief

The Drive Partnership central team is seeking an independent evaluator to undertake an evaluation of the Restart pilot: a partnership led multi-agency approach to keeping families safe at home through early intervention with those causing harm.

Background and context

'Restart' is a new project that seeks to identify and respond to patterns of domestic abuse at an earlier stage for families engaged with Children's Social Care (CSC), improving safety, housing stability and long-term outcomes for adult and child victim-survivors. With children now acknowledged as victims of domestic abuse in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, it is ever more vital to understand the impact of domestic abuse, and effective interventions, that impact the whole family and prevent further escalation of abuse.

The Restart pilot has secured an initial year of funding from The Home Office with match funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), mobilising from August 2021 and delivering until July 2022. As a pilot partnership, we will be exploring options for funding the pilot beyond this initial year.

This pilot project is a partnership between MOPAC, the Drive Partnership, Respect, Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), working with Cranstoun as delivery partner, and operating in 5 London boroughs: Camden, Croydon, Havering, Sutton and Westminster.

This intervention is designed to fully assess risk and potential for abuse alongside offering support and tools for use in the longer term. An overview of the Restart model can be found in Appendix D. The service model includes an allocated Case Manager, Accommodation Practitioner, Partner Support Worker, as well as [Safe and Together](#) training for over 400 social workers across the 5 London Boroughs to enable them to effectively hold abusive parents to account. Temporary alternative accommodation may also be offered to the perpetrator if safe and desired by the victim-survivor, creating space for action. Finally, the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) will be working with the Local Authorities to improve housing responses and create systemic change that seeks to give options for adult and child victim-survivors to remain safe in the family home.

The aims of this model are to:

1. Identify and respond to patterns of domestic abuse at an **earlier stage** for families, improving safety and long-term outcomes for child and adult victim-survivors
2. Build **motivation** and facilitate access to behaviour change interventions for the abusive parent
3. Facilitate access to **alternative accommodation for the abusive parent** in a survivor-centred approach, alongside specialist support for the whole family
4. **Reduce repeat and serial incidents** of domestic abuse in the same, or in future relationships
5. **Prevent escalation** of Children's Social Care (CSC) intervention and the risk of adult and child victim-survivors needing to move/flee to safer accommodation
6. Provide **training** and **capacity building** for CSC practitioners to enable CSC to effectively hold abusive parents to account

7. Increase safety and **housing stability** of adult and child victim-survivors by holding perpetrators to account
8. Shift thinking and approaches in relation to the **prevention of family homelessness** by working with Housing teams on accommodation pathways

This pilot builds on learning and development from a Covid-19 emergency response that was trialled in London in 2020/21 and evaluated by Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). Changes that have been incorporated into the revised model respond to key recommendations made from the trial evaluation:

- The need for longer, onward referral, behaviour change intervention in the majority of cases – both group work and 1-2-1 sessions
- The need for specialist domestic abuse integrated partner support alongside social service intervention – supporting both victim-survivors and social workers
- The need for a wider range of accommodation options – including both rapid emergency access and longer term solutions
- The need for CSC workforce development to improve skills and confidence in identifying and responding effectively to the person causing harm.
- Focusing on the impact of early intervention on child and adult safety in outcome measurement.

The models which informed the development of this intervention are primarily concerned with increasing safety for victim-survivors and their children, facilitating opportunity for meaningful behavioural change for the one using abusive behaviours and aiding the systems and professionals that surround the family to become domestic abuse informed. As evidenced by the Drive project¹, Make a Change², Safe & Together³ and SafeLives One Front Door model⁴; a culture shift towards engaging and intervening with the person using abuse is vital to achieve better outcomes for children and the non-abusive parent.

Purpose and aims of the evaluation

We are seeking an independent evaluator to undertake evaluation of the Restart pilot (year 1) as we seek to understand how this early intervention and accommodation model affects those who are at risk of or currently perpetrating domestic abuse within families already in contact with children's social care. This evaluation should seek to build on the learning from the trial and support us in developing the business case for future developments and funding of the service.

The pilot outcomes can be grouped into the four primary themes of risk and safety, the victim-survivors' ability to take informed decisions, the perpetrators' steps towards changing behaviour and Children Social Care capacity building (full outcomes given in Appendix C).

The primary focus of the independent evaluation will be on the following outcomes:

- **Risk and safety**
 - Reduction in risk / improvement of safety for adult and child victim-survivors

¹ http://driveproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/DriveYear3_UoBEvaluationReport_Final.pdf

² https://hubble-live-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/respect/redactor2_assets/files/336/Make_a_Change_full_report_July_2020.pdf

³ <https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com/evidence-resources/reports/>

⁴ <https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Seeing%20the%20Whole%20Picture%20-%20An%20evaluation%20of%20SafeLives%20One%20Front%20Door.pdf>

- Victim-survivors have the option to remain safe in their own home, and do not face the consequences of having to leave their home
- Reduced risk of homelessness for perpetrators, contributing to increased safety for victim-survivors (e.g. reduced risk of breach of non-molestation order)
- **Victim-survivors' ability to make informed decisions**
 - Improved victim-survivors' awareness of domestic abuse
 - Improved victim-survivors' awareness of specialist support available, and engagement with those if appropriate
- **Perpetrators' steps towards changing behaviour**
 - Improvements in the relationship between perpetrator, adult and/or child victim-survivors
- **Children Social Care capacity building**
 - Better response to the abusive and non-abusive parents, including by referring appropriately to services

Internal monitoring will draw on data collected by the service providers. This independent evaluation should not only draw on this data but enhance it through interviews/focus groups with service users, adult and child victims-survivors, social workers, housing professionals CSC/housing strategic leads and project staff e.g. the Cranstoun team (Case Managers, Partner Support Workers and Accommodation Practitioner), DAHA Strategic Housing Lead, Safe and Together Implementation Managers. Capturing the voice of those supported will give insight around the impact of the different aspects of the intervention. This will be particularly crucial for the accommodation support pathway given this element will be developed throughout the year, with monitoring adjusted as more is learnt about the varying needs and potential solutions.

Evaluation expectations

We expect the external evaluator to:

- Serve as the independent expert on evidence and evaluation for the project.
- Carry out the evaluation, working closely with the Restart partners who will support with access to Restart data, and with links to practitioners and service users.
- Work with the Drive Partnership central team to ensure robust data collection and timely delivery of the project.
- Assess the overall impact of Restart's ability to 1) identify and respond to patterns of domestic abuse at an earlier stage for families, 2) understand it's impact on the risk of homelessness and housing stability for survivors, and 3) increase perpetrator engagement with behaviour change interventions.
- Make recommendations on how to capture long term outcomes and impacts should the pilot continue for year 2 and year 3 including outcomes for children, and repeat and serial incidents of domestic abuse in the same/future relationships.

Design considerations

Whilst working alongside the Drive Partnership central team, we would like the evaluator to design the most appropriate evaluation methodology, including helping to refine the key research questions.

The successful bid will need to evidence the following:

- Experience in quantitative and qualitative methods (including brief biographies of the proposed team)
- Experience in conducting qualitative research with victim-survivors of domestic abuse as well as those using abusive behaviour
- Knowledge of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse and interventions for perpetrators
- Knowledge and experience of related practice areas such as social care, policing, probation or working with adults facing multiple disadvantage such as homelessness, substance misuse or mental health issues.
- Knowledge of domestic abuse and how minoritised communities are affected, and the barriers they face in accessing and receiving effective support.

The following list identifies likely aspects for consideration both in terms of how the evaluation is conducted and its outputs.

- Data collection from delivery partners and stakeholders
- Focus groups / semi-structured interviews with service users, victim-survivors, practitioners and wider stakeholders
- Written report including analysis, key findings and recommendations

The independent evaluator will work in a spirit of openness and cooperation with the Drive Partnership central team, helping to create and adhere to project timelines and deliver in line with budget and quality expectations.

Support and key contacts for the evaluator

There will be a single point of contact between the evaluator and the Drive Partnership central team for queries. They will have the support of the wider central team and will be able to draw on additional expertise as required.

The Drive Partnership central team will support with access to project data and support with stakeholder engagement, such as providing key contacts.

Data collected by the project is likely to include:

- Restart pilot service data for 4-week early engagement intervention including user demographics, abuse profile, needs profile (including housing) and support received
- Behaviour change service data for service users (where available)
- Evaluation from Safe and Together training sessions

Outputs and reporting

- Regular update meetings to share learning to project stakeholders and partners

- Reporting at grant closure (July 2022). NB We are exploring an extension to the evaluation reporting timeframe to allow for inclusion of intervention data up to the end of the grant period although this cannot be guaranteed.

Request for proposals

Proposals should be submitted to pmo@safelives.org.uk using the template (see separate document) which includes:

1. A description of your **methodology**, including how you:
 - a. Address the evaluation aims and design considerations
 - b. Demonstrate methodological rigour and the appropriateness of the proposed conceptual/analytical framework and methodology
 - c. Ensure effective project management, including planning, quality control and project monitoring
 - d. Manage effective relationships, information sharing, and joint working with the Drive Partnership central team
2. A **project timeline** including any necessary mobilisation period
3. Information about the **evaluation team** – include short biographies of the evaluation lead and proposed team members. This should include qualifications and experience demonstrating that the evaluation team has:
 - a. Background of evaluation team and depth of skills
 - b. Capacity to deliver to the timescales described
 - c. An in-depth knowledge of the issue
 - d. Experience of/understanding of partnership working
 - e. A relevant track record in producing evaluations that have been used to inform practice and policy
4. Details of **ethical considerations** that may arise from carrying out research with perpetrators and victim-survivors of domestic abuse, including children
5. Identification of anticipated **risks and suggested mitigation** strategies
6. Any other **added value** your team can bring
7. A **budget** summarising the costs of data collection and evaluation activities. Please provide key assumptions including any costs for staff, overheads, VAT, and anticipated travel and other expenses. This must work within the budget limits included below, and demonstrate how it delivers value for money.

Mandatory Requirements

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

1. Responses to all seven elements of the request for proposals section above are returned, 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:
 - a. Safeguarding and GDPR policies
 - b. Copy of most recent audited accounts. (If no audited accounts within the last 12 months, please provide the most recent unaudited accounts)
 - c. 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

Budget

We have secured a budget through funding from the Home Office and MOPAC for the evaluation to a maximum of £30,000 (including VAT and expenses and travel) for this project.

Timeline

Call for proposals released	30 th November
Deadline to submit clarification questions	10 th December
Deadline for submissions	21 st December
Interviews	w/c 17 th January
Successful partner notified	w/c 24 th January
Enter into contract	February 2022
Project delivery	February – July 2022*

* We are exploring an extension to the evaluation reporting timeframe beyond July 2022 to allow for inclusion of intervention data up to the end of the grant period although this cannot be guaranteed.

Please submit clarification questions to drive@safelives.org.uk. All responses will be published by 14th December 2021.

Appendix A: Scoring Matrix

Section weighting

Ref	Question	Weighting %
1	Methodology	40%
2	Project implementation timeline	20%
3	Evaluation team	20%
4	Ethical considerations	5%
5	Risks and suggested mitigation strategies	5%
6	Added value	5%
7	Budget	5%
	Total	100%

Scoring

Evidence	Score
Excellent response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is well presented and structured; and • Response is directly and wholly relevant to the area being tested; and • Response is judged to far exceed the minimum requirement for the section. 	4
Good response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is well presented and structured; and • Response is well aligned to the area being tested; and • Response is judged to exceed the minimum requirements of the section. 	3
Competent response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sufficient response is presented and follows a basic structure; and • Response is sufficiently aligned with the area being tested; and • Response is judged to meet the minimum requirements of the section. 	2
Poor response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some evidence is presented but assertions and statements are insufficiently supported; or • Response offered is only partly relevant to the area being tested; and/or • 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. 	1
No evidence provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenderer has responded but has not answered the question and has not demonstrated an understanding of our requirements. 	0

Appendix B: About Us



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.



Cranstoun is a charity empowering people to live healthy, safe and happy lives. We offer a wide range of services across England, including substance misuse services, housing support, specialist services for young people and families and carers, domestic abuse services and criminal justice provision. We've been delivering services for over 50 years. We bring a wealth of specialist knowledge and experience to our services and have a rich and diverse history of developing and delivering high quality, effective help to those in need.



The **Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance's (DAHA)** mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process. DAHA is a partnership between three agencies who are leaders in innovation to address domestic abuse within housing; Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse, Peabody and Gentoo. Launched in September of 2014, DAHA embeds the best practice learned and implemented by its 3 founding partners and has established the first accreditation for housing providers.

Appendix C: Restart project outcomes

Theme	Outcome	To which activity does it apply?			
		EEI	BC	Accom	CSCCB
Risk and safety	Reduction in risk / improvement of safety for adult and child victim-survivors	X	X	X	X
	Reduction in frequency & gravity of abuse		X	X	
	Victim-survivors have the option to remain safe in their own home, and do not face the consequences of having to leave their home	X		X	X
	Reduced risk of homelessness for perpetrators, contributing to increased safety for victim-survivors (e.g. <i>reduced risk of breach of non-molestation order</i>)	X		X	X
V-s' ability to make informed decisions	Improved victim-survivors' awareness of domestic abuse	X	X		X
	Improved victim-survivors' awareness of specialist support available, and engagement with those if appropriate	X	X		X
Perpetrators' steps towards changing behaviour	Enhanced awareness of the need to change behaviour for perpetrators	X	X		
	Improved motivation to change behaviour for perpetrators	X	X		
	Enhanced awareness of self and others for perpetrators, including an understanding of the impact of their actions, an understanding that it is unacceptable		X		
	Improved ability of perpetrators to change their behaviour and to take responsibility on their actions		X		
	Improvements in the relationship between perpetrator, adult and/or child victim-survivors		X		
	Perpetrators engage with behaviour change programmes	X	X		
Children Social Care capacity building	Enhanced awareness of domestic abuse, including patterns of abuse and controlling behaviour and the impact of this harmful behaviour				X
	Improved ability to respond to the non-abusive parent, including less victim 'responsibilisation' and blaming, strength recognition and better partnering				X
	Improved ability to respond to the abusive parent				X
	Better response to the abusive and non-abusive parents, including by referring appropriately to services				X

Key: **EEI** 4-week early engagement intervention

BC Behaviour change programme

Accom Accommodation pathway

CSCCB Children's Social Care capacity building and training

Appendix D: Overview of the Restart project

Restart aims to improve responses to perpetrators of domestic abuse in families that are being supported by CSC via a co-ordinated multi-agency response. An overview of the different aspects of the project are summarised in the flowchart and detailed below.

1. Early intervention case management and assessment for those causing harm with integrated support for adult victim-survivors
2. Accommodation support pathways
3. Full length structured behaviour change support
4. Children’s social care training and capacity building
5. Developing new accommodation pathways and models

