

REPORT TITLE: Recommissioning of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) by way of a single provider framework for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2029

Cabinet Date	24 July 2024
Cabinet Member	Cllr Stephan Fifield, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose of Report	To approve the recommissioning of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) by way of a single provider framework agreement for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2029 and to delegate decision making on initial call-offs and future call-offs under the key decision threshold.
Recommendations	<p>That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a competitive procurement process in respect of a four-year single provider Framework Agreement for the supply of Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS). The Framework Agreement shall be divided into the following Lots: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Lot A: Core Support to Victims (b) Lot B: Support in Safe Accommodation (c) Lot C: Support in the Health System (d) Lot D: Support in the Courts and the Criminal Justice System (e) Lot E: Training, Awareness Raising and Engagement 2. Appoint the preferred tenderer to this single provider Framework Agreement. 3. Award a Call-Off Contract for the supply of Core Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse under Lot A of this single provider

	<p>Framework Agreement to the sole appointed supplier. The proposed Call-Off Contract will continue for an initial period of four years and include an option to extend its term for a further period of one year on its fourth anniversary and an additional period of one year on its fifth anniversary (i.e., four + one + one years).</p> <p>4. Determine whether to exercise the two options to extend the call-off contract described in Recommendation 3.</p> <p>5. Award, subject to the financial limit set out in the Resource Implications section of this Report below, as many Call-Off Contracts as may be required by the council under Lots A to E of the Framework Agreement and to exercise any extension options. In the event that the value of any individual proposed call-off contract exceeds £500,000, a separate Cabinet decision shall be sought in order to authorise this.</p>
<p>Reasons for Recommendations</p>	<p>Recommissioning GDASS will ensure continuity of support for victims/survivors of domestic abuse in the county at the expiry of the current call-off contract (30 June 2025) to deliver GDASS under the previous Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Framework.</p> <p>Recommissioning GDASS will support delivery of the County Council’s statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as well as supporting partner agencies to deliver specialist support within the Health System and the Criminal Justice System.</p> <p>Recommissioning through a single provider framework agreement will provide sufficient flexibility to adapt to changes in demand, need and funding.</p>
<p>Resource Implications</p>	<p>The upper estimated value of the proposed single provider framework agreement described in Recommendation 1 and all call-off contracts thereunder is £20,000,000.</p> <p>The value of the Framework has been determined considering current core council funding, government domestic abuse grants and partner contributions which will fund call-offs under the framework together with any potential future funding sources for call-off contracts during the full term of the framework. There will be no guarantee that call-offs will reach this value.</p> <p>The estimated value of the proposed call-off contract described in Recommendations 3 (relating to the provision of core victim services under Lot A) is £ £3,720,000 (i.e., £930,000 per annum) across the 4-year initial contract period with an estimated total value of £5,580,000 across the full 6 year call-off if extended. This will be funded from the council’s domestic abuse budget (including confirmed contributions from Children’s Social Care, Public Health and supporting people).</p>

Background Documents	Cabinet decision, MHCLG Domestic Abuse section 31 grant funding for 2021/22, dated: 21 July 2021 Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2021 Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024 Tendering Specialist Domestic Abuse Services, Cabinet 2017 Extension of the contract for Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service, dated 21 September 2022 Statutory guidance - Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Decision - Allocation of Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (formerly known as MHCLG) section 31 grant funding for the purpose of funding accommodation-based support in the period 2023 - 2026 to be provided by Local Authorities and their (gloucestershire.gov.uk) Decision - Investment of the unallocated Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Domestic Abuse section 31 grant funding. (gloucestershire.gov.uk) In Search of Excellence — Standing Together
Statutory Authority	Domestic Abuse Act 2021
Divisional Councillor(s)	All
Officer	Name: Beth Bennett-Britton (Consultant in Public Health) Tel. no: 01452 427619 Email: Beth.bennett-britton@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Timeline	Indicative timings: Market engagement August – September 2024 Service commencement 1 July 2025

Background

1. In 2017, Cabinet approved the award of a five year call off contract (with a two-year extension option) for the provision of specialist support for victims of domestic abuse in the county (the 'Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service', GDASS). The contract was awarded to the provider GreenSquare Group Ltd under Lot 1 of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Framework Agreement. Following a subsequent merger with Accord Housing Association Limited on 1 April 2021, GreenSquare Group Ltd became GreenSquareAccord Ltd.

2. The option to extend was authorised by Cabinet in September 2022 and the contract will now end on 30 June 2025.
3. Since the current service was procured there have been legislative changes through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which placed statutory duties on the council as the tier 1 local authority in Gloucestershire. The statutory duties are:
 - a. Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board which it must consult as it performs certain specified functions (see below).
 - b. Assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims and their children who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area.
 - c. Prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area having regard to the needs assessment.
 - d. Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / decommissioning decisions).
 - e. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.
 - f. Report back annually to central government.
4. There is now a Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy in place for 2021 – 2024, and the development of a new strategy is due to start imminently which will be informed through a refresh to the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment.
5. The council varied the current Lot 1 contract as part of its duties described in paragraph 3d above to build in specific support to victims/survivors in safe accommodation (see paragraph 8 below).

Current contract – July 2018 – June 2025

6. Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) is a countywide service providing specialist support to all victims of domestic abuse aged 16 and older. Support is tailored to victims based on their level of need/risk with the aim of supporting their safety and the safety of their family. There is a core Lot 1 call-off contract commissioned by the council, together with four further Lot 1 call-off contracts commissioned by partners on the framework.
7. The council's GDASS contract provides:
 - a. A front door to the Service through the provision of a Helpdesk (Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm) offering immediate support, safety planning and advice, and referrals for support packages. There are also specialist referral routes through the Police, Safeguarding and Children's Social Care. The service also provides a professionals' helpline.
 - b. Support to high-risk victims/survivors of domestic abuse through the provision of safety planning and support through Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) including a Young Persons Violence Advisor (YPVA) and Court IDVAs.

- c. Support to medium and standard risk victims/survivors of domestic abuse through the provision of 1:1 floating support including safety planning and emotional support, and the provision of group work programmes.
 - d. Support to victims/survivors engaging with the criminal justice system through the provision of Court IDVAs and a Family and Civil Court Advocate/Litigant in Person role.
 - e. Support to the multi-agency response to domestic abuse including presence within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to provide specialist information and intelligence to assist decision making, representation of the victim/survivor within Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), engagement with the Domestic Homicide Review process (DHR, soon to be named Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews), attendance at the Clare's Law Panel (Domestic Abuse/Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)) and facilitation of support for victims within the Prisoner Release Scheme. GDASS also co-locates staff within specialist partner settings.
 - f. Prevention and early intervention work including community awareness raising and engagement and awareness raising with professionals.
 - g. Delivery of basic domestic abuse training for professionals such as recognising and responding to domestic abuse and sessions focusing on working with victims from protected characteristic groups such as male victims, older victims, and young people.
8. As a later addition, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act and accompanying central government grant funding, the council varied its contract to include specific support to victims/survivors to access, and support in, domestic abuse safe accommodation, including:
- a. Additional capacity to support access to safe accommodation.
 - b. Direct support to victims/survivors in Places of Safety (dispersed domestic abuse safe accommodation scheme) and target hardened accommodation (where additional security measures have been installed to enable the victim/survivor to remain safely in their own home).
 - c. A flexible funding pot to help address barriers to accessing safe accommodation.
 - d. Support to victims/survivors living in accommodation provided by Registered Social Landlords.
 - e. Awareness raising with/upskilling for professionals within the housing system.

- f. Additionally, the four separate call-offs within the Lot 1 GDASS contract by partner agencies deliver specialist support through external/grant funding for:
- g. Health IDVAs (HIDVAs) providing direct support to victims/survivors and upskilling of staff with Gloucestershire hospitals, and General Practice Development Workers (GPDWs) whose role is to ensure that health professionals in primary care are competent and confident in identifying and responding to domestic abuse (Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) contract and funding).
- h. Response IDVAs (RIDVAs) who are based within the local Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and are aligned to the Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Team (DAST) and investigating teams to support police colleagues in engaging with victims where their involvement has been identified as a potential barrier to accessing a disclosure such as Claire's Law and prisoner release notifications (Gloucestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) contract with funding from the Ministry of Justice).
- i. Mental Health IDVAs to provide support to victims of domestic abuse accessing mental health services, develop pathways of support and develop links between mental health services and the wider GDASS service (OPCC contract with funding from the Ministry of Justice).
- j. Rural Champions Network Coordinator to develop a rural champions network, working in partnership with rural district councils to identify professionals and members of the public and train them to understand domestic abuse and to develop pathways for referrals (rural district council contract and funding).

Proposed single provider framework model

- 9. The funding landscape for domestic abuse locally and nationally is uncertain and, while the council has an allocated domestic abuse budget, a number of elements of the current service are resourced either through grant funding from central government or non-recurrent funding commitments from partner/external agencies.
- 10. A single provider framework will enable the council to award a framework agreement to a specialist provider capable of delivering the required services across all five lots, but to only call off services in line with available confirmed funding. The framework approach provides flexibility to quickly call-off from each lot as often as needed to meet the requirements and timescales of the council or funding partners, as well as reacting to any changes in legislative requirements or further funding streams.
- 11. The single provider framework contract would be awarded with a 4-year term. The framework agreement will include scope that both the call-off contracts and any subsequent extensions to the call-offs can exceed the term of the framework, provided the initial call-off is completed prior to the termination of the framework agreement.

12. Awarding the Lot A call off on a 4 year initial term with two options to extend by a further one year each will allow the council to manage the impact of the partner/grant funding for specialist roles for Lots B-D where funding periods do not align with the confirmed longer-term funding for Lot A.
13. The overarching GDASS specification will provide direct support to all victims/survivors aged 16 and over (reflecting the statutory definition of domestic abuse). It should be noted that there is a separate commissioned service (Safe Teenage Relationships Education and Empowerment Team – STREET) who can support young people aged 13-19 who are experiencing harmful relationship behaviours or domestic abuse. It is acknowledged that children aged 0-18 can also be victims in their own right if they see, hear or experience the effects of domestic abuse and GDASS will be required to take a whole family approach to support reflecting that the support provided to non-abusing parents has an impact on the whole family including safeguarding of children (as well as vulnerable/at risk adults) through multi-agency working. The service will also be required to develop positive relationships and work proactively with other commissioned providers delivering domestic abuse services in Gloucestershire, including children and young people's services.
14. The overarching services specification will require the appointed service provider to maintain and further develop a protected characteristics champions approach, as currently in place within the current service. The champions approach enables staff to come together to consider challenges and barriers to victims/survivors from protected characteristic groups and other vulnerable groups such as the armed forces community and care leavers. However, this will be enhanced with specific funding that will be available to the service through the Lot A call-off for targeted work to increase engagement with, and remove barriers for, victims/survivors from underrepresented protected characteristic groups. For example, working with specialist organisations (e.g., 'By and For' which are designed and led by those that share the same protected characteristic(s) as the victims they aim to serve, and where victims are able to see themselves reflected in the staffing, management and governance structures) to upskill staff, develop targeted awareness raising campaigns such as for older victims/survivors (who may not come in to contact with as many professionals as young victim/survivors especially those with children) or develop specialist resources for different protected characteristic groups.
15. The overarching services specification will also require the continued co-location of workers within relevant partner settings/commissioned services supporting vulnerable/at risk client groups as agreed with commissioners. The service will also be required to co-locate workers within new partner settings/ commissioned services that may be identified by the council during the term.
16. The overarching services specification will include high level requirements describing the services to be provided under each lot, allowing for detailed specifications to be developed for each call-off encompassing some or all of the functions of the lot. The five specifications will consolidate all the previous high level functions and activity carried out under the Lot 1 of the council's current

GDASS call-off contracts to ensure there is a wide overarching remit for the service, enabling a comprehensive support offer to victims. However, the overarching services specifications for each lot will allow for further development of Services in future call-offs reflecting emerging needs or trends, including within the new Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and Strategy due later this year. The overarching lots will be:

- a. **Lot A – Core Support to Victims/Survivors of Domestic Abuse:** including providing a front door to the service, support to high-risk victims/survivors, support to medium & standard risk victims/survivors, a multi-agency response to domestic abuse, prevention & early intervention work and delivering entry level and level 1 (basic) training to professionals on the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Training Pathway (see Annex 1).
 - b. **Lot B – Support for Victims/Survivors Accessing Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation** including direct support to access safe accommodation in and out of county, domestic abuse support within specified in-county safe accommodation, upskilling of housing professionals and the management of a flexible funding pot.
 - c. **Lot C – Support for Victims/Survivors in the Health System** including both direct support to victims/survivors and development work with health professionals.
 - d. **Lot D - Support for Victims/Survivors within the Courts and the Criminal Justice System** including the provision of direct support to and advocacy for victims/survivors in contact/engaging with the police and criminal/civil/family courts, as well as work within the criminal justice system’s response to domestic abuse.
 - e. **Lot E – Training, Awareness Raising and Engagement** – including delivering training to professionals at entry level, level 1 (basic) and level 2 (enhanced) of the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Training Pathway (see paragraph 24 below) and awareness raising activities within the wider community. There would also be scope to incorporate support to statutory partners for example consultation and engagement work, and network coordination.
17. The overarching services specification will also allow for scope for the commissioning of other domestic abuse support roles within each lot to adapt to future funding streams/legislative requirements etc. For example, the development worker role within the current health contracts would be included within all overarching specifications. Likewise, while the current health and criminal justice support to victims/survivors focuses on support through IDVAs there will be scope to provide alternative support roles if these meet partner/funding requirements.
18. The council would call-off contracts for its requirements as well as calling off contracts to meet the requirements of the ICB, the OPCC and the district councils and would therefore be contract manager for all call-offs under the framework.

Contract management/monitoring would be carried out in conjunction with funding partners where applicable.

Initial call-off contracts

19. It is recommended that the council awards a call-off contract for the provision of core support to victims under Lot A of the proposed GDASS framework agreement. It is proposed that such call-off contract shall commence on 1 July 2025 to ensure the continuation of core support to victims and survivors (aged 16 and older) across the spectrum of need as described in paragraph 16a following the expiry of the current call-off contract for the delivery of Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Services under the previous Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Framework on the 30 June 2025. This will deliver a responsive and flexible approach to supporting and engaging with victims/survivors at the earliest opportunity to prevent harm and to safeguard high risk victims/survivors (and their children). This supports the council in meeting the priorities as set out in the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24 (as noted above in paragraph 4 this is due for a review and refresh in 2024 and any learning from the new needs assessment and strategy will be considered within the development of the individual call-off specification). It will ensure there is a range of direct specialist support tailored to the needs of individual victim/survivors. It also enables GDASS to continue to work as a vital part of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse and safeguarding and raise awareness of domestic abuse. This call off would include two options to extend the contract by a further year in both cases. A decision would be made on the initial contract extension prior to the end of the framework agreement, to align with the final call-offs on Lots B-D as applicable.

20. It is also proposed that a call-off contract be awarded for the provision of Support in Safe Accommodation under Lot B of the proposed GDASS Framework Agreement. Such call-off contract shall commence on 1 July 2025 and be funded from confirmed funding from the DLUHC 2024/25 grant allocation. The call-off contract is the subject of a separate Cabinet report July 2024 which will address the subject of allocating DLUHC grant funding during 2024/25. This will ensure the council continues to meet its statutory duties under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act to provide support in a range of safe accommodation (Places of Safety and target hardened accommodation) as well as enabling access to safe accommodation in and out of county, reflecting needs identified within the current Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy.

Potential future call-off contracts

21. The council will have the opportunity to call-off further support from Lot A of the proposed GDASS framework agreement to meet emerging needs in relation to changes in demand for support, new funding streams and legislative changes, for example the Victims and Prisoners Bill which may bring about additional statutory

duties in relation to the provision community based support for victims of domestic abuse.

22. The Council will call off further contracts from Lot B of the proposed GDASS framework agreement to provide support in safe accommodation subject to the availability of central government funding to support the Council in meeting its statutory duties under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Any call-offs will be reflective of the findings of the new domestic abuse needs assessment in 2024 (and its subsequent refreshes) and the aims of the county's next domestic abuse strategy.
23. The council will have the option to award call-off contracts from Lot C and Lot D of the proposed GDASS framework agreement to meet its needs, and the needs of the ICB and OPCC, subject to the availability of funding. Working with fellow commissioners across the system to provide specialist workers located within the health and criminal justice systems reflects best practice for a Coordinated Community Response¹ to domestic abuse. The call-offs from these lots may include roles that:
 - a. Enable specialist workers to work within the health system to provide a direct response to victims.
 - b. Increase opportunities for early identification of, and interventions for, victims of domestic abuse.
 - c. Advocacy, support, and empowerment to victims/survivors to enable their voice to be heard and their needs considered through the courts and the criminal justice system.
 - d. Multi-agency work to support victims.
 - e. Deliver upskilling/awareness raising with frontline staff.
24. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is exploring options to commission the delivery of training within the Domestic Abuse Training Pathway (see annex 1). If funding is available, then Lot E would be used to call off a contract to deliver training up to and including level 2 of the pathway covering the Enhanced Domestic Abuse and Domestic Abuse & Risk modules. This would support the Local Partnership Board in meeting an objective within the current Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy to ensure professionals across all agencies have access to specialist training that enables them to feel confident and competent in their response to domestic abuse (as well as stalking, honour based violence, forced marriage and child to parent abuse which will be reflected in training within the context of domestic abuse but will also be addressed through other specialist training provision outside of GDASS). This objective is likely to be further developed within the new strategy which should take effect October 2024, and will

¹ <https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/blog-3/in-search-of-excellence>

further help bring about a Coordinated Community Response to domestic abuse. Lot E can also be utilised to call-off additional training to meet the changing needs of the multi-agency response to domestic abuse e.g., child to parent abuse etc. Including the domestic abuse specific elements of the pathway within GDASS is a cost-efficient means of delivering the training as well as ensuring the training is delivered by a specialist provider. Lot E could also be used to deliver consultation and engagement work, and network coordination.

Options

The following options have been considered:

25. Option A (recommended): To proceed with all the recommendations as outlined above.

26. This would enable the council to meet its statutory duties as a Tier 1 Local Authority under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 by providing support in safe accommodation, as well as providing the best range of community-based support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Gloucestershire, drawing upon funding from partner agencies to deliver an enhanced and wide-reaching service. The flexibility from the single provider framework agreement will enable the council to adapt to future changes in the local and national funding landscapes, while also maintaining core service provision. The flexibility of the single provider framework agreement will also enable commissioners to secure additional service provision under the scope of the overarching services should further statutory duties be placed upon the council. **This is the recommended option.**

27. Option B (not recommended): To approve Recommendations 1 and 2 i.e., to tender for and award a single provider framework agreement but not approve Recommendations 3 and 4 i.e., to call off services delivering core support to victims.

28. This would enable the council to have a mechanism by which to procure services including to meet its statutory duties as a Tier 1 local authority under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to providing support in safe accommodation but would not immediately deliver the wider community based support offer that is currently available through GDASS. This option is not recommended as it does not take a preventative approach which is in conflict with the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy which includes a priority on prevention and early intervention when responding to domestic abuse. It would not deliver value for money as it does not capitalise on the benefits of having a core service where senior management and infrastructure is delivered within the Lot A call-off.

29. Option C (not recommended): to recommission GDASS as single provider service delivering the functions described in paragraph 16 but to award as a contract with scope to vary the delivery of services annually based on availability of funding.

30. This option is not recommended as it doesn't offer the same level of flexibility as a framework agreement especially in the event of significant increases in available funding.

Financial Risks

31. The financial risks with the single provider framework agreement are considered to be low as they are managed by only calling-off contracts where there is available grant/partner funding or committed funding within the council's domestic abuse budget.

Contractual risk

32. The recommended approach is considered to have a low contractual risk of challenge as the single provider framework agreement allows for multiple call-offs from each lot within the remits of the overarching service specifications up to the maximum value of the single provider framework agreement.

Service viability

33. Market engagement will be undertaken in the run up to publishing the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the proposed GDASS Framework Agreement, including testing the deliverability of such a complex type of service with variable call-off lengths under a single provider framework. The approach to have one core service supporting high risk and medium/standard risk victims, as well as providing awareness raising/engagement has proved successful over the last six years and does not require the service to build in multiple hand-offs/referrals as risk changes.

34. It is appreciated that the call-offs for Lots B-E may not be the most attractive offer for the market given they will require the recruitment of short-term posts, but this is not dissimilar to the current service and is a national issue in relation to recruiting to grant funded roles. The intention that each call-off from Lot B – E will have their own dedicated workers and lead worker/s, while accessing infrastructure and senior management that is funded within the core GDASS service (Lot A). In the event of funding for the Lots B-E not being available there would need to be a review of service capacity and service delivery within Lot A with regards to any functions that would need to be taken on by the core service. A good contract management relationship with the provider can also help to manage these risks through transparent and early communication on any updates to the funding and the use of annual operational plans to manage capacity and development activity.

Procurement challenge risk

35. The successful tenderer for the single provider framework agreement would be procured through a public procurement law compliant open procurement process.

36. The single provider framework agreement allows the council to channel available funding.
37. Consideration was given as to whether the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) would be applicable for the commissioning of this service. GDASS will not provide health care (i.e., treatment, diagnosis, or prevention of physical or mental health conditions) to its service users, and as such is not a relevant health care service as defined by the statutory guidance, therefore PSR does not apply.
38. Consideration was given as to whether to wait and procure the service once the Procurement Act 2023 has taken effect in October 2024 however this would not allow sufficient time for the tendering and mobilisation of the recommissioned service prior to 1 July 2025. Therefore, this Procurement falls under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
39. GDASS does fit the criteria of 'Social and related services', and therefore Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (light touch) is deemed to apply.

Financial implications

40. Lot A (core support for victims) will be entirely funded by the council from its allocated domestic abuse budget (currently £969,858 per annum for GDASS noting that this amount includes resourcing that will be included in a Lot D call-off). The services currently set out within Lot A will be provided through the recurrent domestic abuse budget and as such there are no new financial implications for the council. Should additional funding be made available internally for additional resource then further call-offs could be made in line with that funding.
41. Lot B (support in safe accommodation) call off contracts will be entirely funded by government funding (via section 31 grant funding or another payment mechanism) available to meet the part 4 statutory duties arising under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and call-offs will only be made for the duration of available funding.
42. Contracts will only be awarded under Lots C-E in the event of available (council or partner) funding and any funding from partner agencies becoming available and provided that it is sufficient to call-off services will be confirmed through a funding agreement or equivalent prior to the council calling off services, which will document any financial implications for the council.

Climate Change and Ecological implications

43. A Climate Impact Assessment Tool (CIAT) has been completed for the recommissioning of GDASS as whole, and the CIAT has identified several areas where there are slight or short-term negative impacts in relation to: air quality, sustainable transport, and energy use. These are predominantly linked to travel by staff across Gloucestershire to deliver direct support in person where the service user will receive more benefit from receiving face to face support than alternative

methods, however much support can also be delivered via telephone (i.e. calls in to the Help Desk) or virtually where it meets the clients' needs and it is safe to do so. Staff will also need to travel to attend meetings where these are held in person. We will work with the provider to consider if there are options to reduce the impact during the lifetime of the contract.

44. An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) has not been completed, as the CAIT has not highlighted any biodiversity impacts.

Equality implications

45. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed for the Lot A (core support service) and while support through GDASS is available to all victims/survivors of domestic abuse aged 16 and above (in line with the statutory definition of domestic abuse within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021), there are areas where further work will be undertaken to improve engagement from underrepresented protected characteristic groups and other vulnerable groups as identified in the EqIA. The current service has a protected characteristics champions group, and this approach will be built on and further developed in the recommissioned service, including the provision of a budget to support activity to improve support for underrepresented communities.
46. An EqIA has already been completed with regards to Lot B (support in safe accommodation) with regards to the separate paper presented to this cabinet on the DLUHC grant funding allocations in 2024/25.
47. An EqIA has not been completed for Lots C and D as the council does not currently contract these elements of the service. In the event of an initial call-offs from these lots, data would be gathered by the Council to review the accessibility of these services, and EqIAs would be produced for further call-offs.
48. An EqIA has not been completed for Lot E as this will work with/ train/ coordinate professionals across the county.

Cabinet Members should read and consider the Equalities Impact Assessment to satisfy themselves as decision makers that due regard has been given.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications

49. There is an existing DPIA for GDASS which was completed for the contract extension in 2022. The data controllership arrangements will remain largely unchanged between the Council and the provider (with the council as the data controller and the provider as the data processor). However, the council will work with Information Management colleagues to consider any implications from incorporating the specialist roles previously employed by the ICB and OPCC, for example the ICB and OPCC having joint data controllership for call-off contracts they fund and put in any data sharing agreements/arrangements as needed. The

specifics of these will be considered at the point of each call-off. The service will have a privacy notice in place, which will be updated as needed in relation to further call-offs.

50. As the council will be the data controller for the whole of GDASS, service users will move seamlessly through the service between different support offers and different parts of the service. All workers will have access to the whole database to ensure that there is a holistic understanding of needs and risks.
51. The tendering process will assess the information management and information governance arrangements for prospective providers. Commissioners will liaise with the Council's Information Communication Technology (ICT) Service to ensure that the successful provider is fully compliant with the council's required security standards.
52. The DPIA will be further reviewed and updated once the successful provider is confirmed to reflect on individual processes, policies and referral pathways for the successful provider and the service.
53. The DPIA will be reviewed at the point of each call-off to consider any additional impacts.

Social value implications

54. Social value will be assessed within the tendering process with prospective providers being required to complete a social value application via the Social Value Portal based on the National TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures) where they will propose credible targets, and the successful provider will be monitored against their targets.

Consultation feedback

55. No formal consultation has been undertaken with regards to these recommendations, but they are informed by feedback from victims and survivors through engagement work undertaken to inform the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and Strategy, and regular feedback provided from service users within currently commissioned services and feedback from partner agencies. The intention is that survivor voice (as well as the views of professionals and the wider community) will be captured in an upcoming consultation to inform the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and Strategy for 2024-2027, which will include feedback on commissioned services including GDASS. This feedback will be used to inform the development of the Services Specifications.
56. There has been engagement with funding partners in relation to the commissioning approach, as well as engagement with the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board in relation to the use of DLUHC funding. There was support for these recommendations.

Officer recommendations

57. It is recommended that cabinet delegates authority to the director of public health, in consultation with the cabinet member for adult social care delivery to implement Option A set out in paragraph 26 above and, more particularly, the recommendations set out in the “Recommendations” section of this report.

Performance management/follow-up

58. GDASS will be contract managed by the council. Where there is funding from partner agencies in call-off contracts this will be with involvement from and reporting to the ICB and the OPCC as needed. Regular contract monitoring and reporting processes will be in place. There will also be requirements to provide data as needed for DLUHC, the Ministry of Justice and any other funding bodies to evidence appropriate use of grant funding.

59. Updates will be provided to the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board particularly in relation to meeting the Council’s statutory duties to provide support in safe accommodation, and any activity that relates to the delivery plan for the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy.

60. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will report progress on implementing the Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Strategy to Safer Gloucestershire as well as informing the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Annex 1 – Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Training Pathway

Entry Level	Induction/Basic Introduction	
Training details	Delivery mechanisms	
<p>Staff level: All staff</p> <p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide a general awareness of what domestic abuse (DA) is what support services exist and agency policies. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professionals to be aware of DA as an issue and the associated risks - To understand their role and responsibility in identifying and responding to DA/safeguarding (including internal responsibility to colleagues/employees). - To understand the services available locally and the Coordinated Community Response (i.e. Local strategy and partnership approach) - To understand agency protocol and policy in responding to DASV (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence). <p>Examples of training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading materials (policies, guidance and leaflets) - Inclusion in corporate induction messages - Details of specialist services (leaflets) 	<p>Agency induction processes</p> <p>Agency run awareness session</p> <p>E-Learning</p> <p>GDASS awareness sessions</p>	
Level 1	DASV Basic Awareness Training	
Training Details	Delivery mechanisms	
<p>Staff level: All frontline staff and support staff involved in providing support to employees</p> <p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide a basic awareness of DA and its impact. <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professionals to be aware of DA scale and impact on victims/society - Introduction to the different types of abuse and the risk associated - To understand their role and responsibility in identifying and responding to DA/safeguarding (including internal responsibility to colleagues/employees). - To support professionals in spotting the signs of abuse and knowing how to 'ask the question'. - To understand the services available locally and the Coordinated Community Response (i.e. Local strategy and partnership approach) - To understand the importance of multi-agency working and information sharing. - To understand what action to take. - To understand countywide protocol and policy in responding to DASV. <p>Examples of training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E-learning (GSCP) - Reading materials (policies, guidance and leaflets) - Single agency internal training - Safeguarding training 	<p>Face to face or virtual training delivered by a specialist provider</p> <p>Refresher sessions to also be available</p>	

Level 2	Enhanced Awareness and Topic Specific Training (Modular Based)	
Module: Enhanced Domestic Abuse	Delivery mechanisms	
<p>Staff Level: All frontline staff in positions where they may come in to contact with victims of DA</p> <p>Aim: To provide a more enhanced awareness of domestic abuse, associated risks and the response required from professionals</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professionals to be aware of the different types of DA (with a more in depth focus when compared with the basic training) and the cycle of abuse - Professionals to understand legislation and any criminal offences (including the DA Act 2021) - Professionals to understand the impact of DA on victims, reflecting on intersectionality and all protected characteristic groups (including both younger and older victims) - Professionals to understand DA in the context of the whole family, including risk and impact on children (noting separate module on children) - To understand perpetrator behaviour (in brief, noting separate module available) - To understand the role of complex needs in DA and how professionals can respond to victims who present with multiple and complex needs - To understand the impact of trauma on victim responses and how professionals can be trauma informed in their approach - To understand the impact DA can have on mental health and the risks associated, including suicide - To understand referrals pathways and role of professional in identifying and responding to DA <p>Examples of training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face to face training - Training delivered virtually - Use of case studies/lived experience - Handouts and resources to support beyond training 	<p>Face to face or virtual training delivered by a specialist provider</p> <p>Refresher sessions to also be available</p>	
Module: Domestic Abuse and Risk	Delivery mechanisms	
<p>Staff Level: All frontline staff in positions where they may come in to contact with victims of DA</p> <p>Aim: To ensure professionals are given the skills and knowledge to risk assess domestic abuse and understand the multi-agency processes for safeguarding</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professionals understand the risk factors associated with domestic abuse - To understand how to risk assess cases utilising risk assessment tools such as the DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Harassment risk assessment) and YP (young person's) DASH - To understand children as victims in their own right (noting separate module of training available) - To understand the role of multi-agency working in safeguarding and safety planning, including the MASH, MARAC and DVDS processes. - To understand processes for Information sharing in domestic abuse cases 	<p>Face to face or virtual training delivered by a specialist provider</p> <p>Refresher sessions to also be available</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For professionals to understand their role in identifying risk, onwards referral and safeguarding - To share the learning from DHRs and promote an understanding of the risks of domestic homicide and suicide - To ensure an understanding of relevant offences and legislation <p>Examples of training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face to face training - Training delivered virtually - Use of case studies/lived experience - Handouts and resources to support beyond training 	
<p>Module: Domestic Abuse and the Impact on Children</p>	<p>Delivery mechanisms</p>
<p>Staff Level: All frontline staff in positions where they may come in to contact with victims of DA and those working with children</p> <p>Aim: To ensure professionals understand the impact on children and young people and know how to support and safeguard</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure professionals understand children as victims in their own right - To ensure an awareness of the impact of DA on children and the wider role of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - To ensure professionals can spot the signs of DA amongst children and know how to ask the question - To ensure an awareness of safeguarding and support for children and young people - To ensure professionals understand safeguarding processes, including the process for challenging decisions - To ensure an awareness of prevention activity, including healthy relationships work and service provisions for children and young people <p>Examples of Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face to face training - Training delivered virtually - Use of case studies/lived experience - Handouts and resources to support beyond training 	<p>Face to face or virtual training delivered by a specialist provider</p> <p>Refresher sessions to also be available</p>
<p>Module: Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>Delivery mechanisms</p>
<p>Staff Level: All frontline staff</p> <p>Aim: To ensure professionals can spot the signs of perpetrator behaviour, are provided with the skills to intervene early, and understand the support available locally</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide an awareness of perpetrator behaviour and how to spot the signs - To provide the skills needed to have conversations with potential perpetrators of abuse; challenging their behaviour appropriately 	<p>Face to face or virtual training delivered by a specialist provider</p> <p>Refresher sessions to also be available</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide an awareness of programme available for perpetrators of abuse and understand the referral pathway <p>Examples of Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face to face training - Training delivered virtually - Use of case studies/lived experience - Handouts and resources to support beyond training 	
<p>Module: Stalking</p>	<p>Delivery mechanisms</p>
<p>Staff Level: All frontline staff and support staff involved in providing support to employees</p> <p>Aim: To ensure professionals understand stalking, its impact and the support available</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure professionals understand the definition of stalking and the behaviours associated with it - To ensure an awareness of legislation and offences - To ensure an understanding of the different types of stalker and the motivations - To ensure professionals understand the risks associated with stalking - To provide awareness in safeguarding and safety planning measures for victims (including stalking protection orders) - To ensure an awareness of support available both locally and nationally, including multi-agency processes (MARAC and Stalking Clinic) <p>Examples of Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face to face training - Training delivered virtually - Use of case studies/lived experience - Handouts and resources to support beyond training 	<p>Face to face or virtual training delivered by a specialist provider</p> <p>Refresher sessions to also be available</p>
<p>Module: Honour Based Abuse (HBA)/ Forced Marriage (FM)</p>	<p>Delivery mechanisms</p>
<p>Staff Level: All frontline staff and support staff involved in providing support to employees</p> <p>Aim: To ensure professionals understand Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage, its impact and the support available</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure professionals understand HBA/FM and wider harmful traditional practices - To ensure an awareness of the risk factors and the impact on victims - To ensure professionals are aware of the behaviours associated with HBA/FM and how to spot the signs - To ensure professionals understand their role in responding to HBA/FM and how to safeguard and safety plan - To ensure an awareness of support service available both nationally and locally and the referral pathways - To ensure professionals understand their role in supporting the reporting and recording of HBA/FM in Gloucestershire to support our understanding across the county 	<p>Face to face or virtual training delivered by a specialist provider</p> <p>Refresher sessions to also be available</p>

<p>Examples of Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face to face training - Training delivered virtually - Use of case studies/lived experience - Handouts and resources to support beyond training 		
<p>Module: Child to Parent Abuse (CPA)</p>		<p>Delivery mechanisms</p>
<p>Staff Level: All frontline staff and support staff involved in providing support to employees</p> <p>Aim: To ensure professionals understand Child to Parent Abuse, its impact and the support available</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure professionals understand the definition of CPA and the behaviours associated with it - To ensure an understanding of the different behaviours associated with CPA and the barriers for victims in seeking support - To ensure professionals understand the risks associated with CPA - To provide awareness in safeguarding and safety planning measures for victims and children perpetrating CPA - To ensure an awareness of support available both locally and nationally, including multi-agency processes <p>Examples of Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Face to face training - Training delivered virtually - Use of case studies/lived experience - Handouts and resources to support beyond training 		<p>Face to face or virtual training delivered by a specialist provider</p> <p>Refresher sessions to also be available</p>
<p>Level 3</p>	<p>Advanced Specialist Training</p>	
<p>Training details</p>		<p>Delivery mechanisms</p>
<p>Staff level: Specialist staff within services providing support to victims and/or perpetrators of abuse</p> <p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure specialist services have appropriately trained staff with accredited skills/qualifications <p>Training includes (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IDVA (Safe Lives) - ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) (Lime Culture) - ISAC (Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers) (Paladin) - Perpetrator Intervention (Respect) - DASV Counselling qualifications - Specialist training for support worker/helpdesk roles for standard/medium risk cases - Further specialist education 		<p>Provided by a National specialist services/accredited provider of qualifications</p>