



INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
REGENERATION AND HOUSING	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	24 JANUARY 2022	16
DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021 – FUNDING FOR ENHANCED SUPPORT SERVICES			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

A report was presented to this Committee in October 2021 that provided an update on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and new statutory duties placed on Local Authorities. Fylde Council have been awarded funding for 2021/2022 totalling £33,196, to undertake new Part 4 duties and provide support within their local authority area.

Fylde Council are working in partnership with Wyre Council and Fylde Coast Women's Aid (FCWA) to support victims and their children. A Housing Outreach Worker has been employed to engage and support female and male victims and their children, employed by FCWA. The cost of the Housing Outreach Worker is £18,500 for 12 months leaving £14,696 available to enhance other support services in place, for example assistance with legal costs above that budgeted in the project and financial support for victims to move into new accommodation.

Further discussions were held with Lancashire County Council, Wyre Council and FCWA and it was agreed the remaining funding would be used to support a range of interventions, with a guide maximum budget of £800 per person. Included with this report is the final funding application form. Interventions include:

- Security measures under the Sanctuary Scheme in current home
- Emergency accommodation before a Refuge or safe temporary accommodation can be secured.
- Assistance with white goods, carpets and household items
- Dedicated legal fund to cover; First two hours advice from a solicitor, cost to process server and, costs to issue a prohibited steps order. (Note: this is in addition to legal costs funding of £4,000 included as part of the Housing Outreach Worker support)

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

Finance and Democracy Committee requested a further report be brought back to Committee advising of recommendations for a separate budget for legal representation to be brought back to a future meeting.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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