

APPENDIX 1

Open consultation: New duties on local authorities to provide domestic abuse support in safe accommodation in England: consultation

Published 15 June 2021 Deadline: 27 July 2021

Nottinghamshire County Council response in bold

About you

Q1. Are you answering the consultation as?

- a. An individual with personal interest
- b. An individual as a member of an organisation

c. An Upper Tier Local Authority

- d. A Lower Tier Local Authority
- e. Other – please specify

Comments

Q2. From the list below, where are you or your organisation based?

- a. London
- b. South East
- c. North West
- d. East of England
- e. West Midlands
- f. South West
- g. Yorkshire and the Humber
- h. East Midlands**
- i. North East
- j. National

Statutory guidance

14. The statutory guidance supports the new duties on relevant local authorities with the aim of ensuring all victims of domestic abuse have access to the right support within relevant safe accommodation.

15. The statutory guidance will accompany the Domestic Abuse Act and gives further details on the new provisions for all tier 1 and 2 local authorities in fulfilling their functions under Part 4.

Q3. Are you happy with the level of clarity and detail within the statutory guidance?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Comments

Q4. Are there any areas within the statutory guidance that need further clarification?

a. Yes

b. No

Q5. If yes, please specify which areas and what you would like to see clarified?

Comments

Q6. Are there any areas within the statutory guidance that you think it would be helpful to have more detail?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Comments

Q7. If yes, please specify where it would be helpful to have more detail.

Comments: **It would be useful to have more detail around the reporting that will be required for MHCLG to support the planning resources and commenting timescales in large two tier authorities. The depth and detail required for the reports will directly impact on the workload for both tier 1 and tier 2 authorities.**

Q8. Are there any areas missing from the statutory guidance that you think would be helpful to include?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Comments

Q9. If yes, please specify which areas are missing that you think it would be helpful to include in the guidance comments

Q10. (for local authorities) Do you agree that June is a reasonably practical time after the end of each financial year for the submission of annual reports to MHCLG?

a. Yes

b. No

Q11. If not, please specify what would be a reasonably practical time for the submission of annual reports to MHCLG.

Comments: The authority needs to have a complete understanding of what the annual report will include to appreciate the level of reporting that will be required. June is not practical for a Tier 1 Authority needing to collect data from Tier 2 authorities before producing and submitting the report. A more reasonable timescale would be end of July at the earliest to allow for the process of data collection from Tier 2 Authorities and providers.

Annex A: Recommended terms of reference for Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards

Tier 1 authorities must appoint a Local Partnership Board (Board) consisting of key local partners with an interest in tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims, including their children. To support local authorities in setting up these Board we have provided recommended terms of reference.

Q12. Do you agree with the recommended terms of reference for Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards?

a. Yes

b. No

Q13. Is there anything missing that you would like to see included?

Comments

Annex B: MHCLG quality standards

Q14. Do you agree with the updated MHCLG quality standards?

a. Yes

b. No

Q15. Is there anything missing that you would wish to see included?

Comments

Regulations

The Domestic Abuse Support (Relevant Accommodation) Regulations 2021.

The regulations provide a description of 'relevant accommodation'. This description is intended to be broad based and recognise the wide diversity of safe accommodation that domestic abuse victims and their children may live in or choose to live in, including:

- Refuge accommodation
- Specialist safe accommodation
- Dispersed accommodation
- Sanctuary schemes
- move-on or second stage accommodation

The description covers accommodation provided by a local housing authority, a private registered provider of social housing or a registered charity whose objects include the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse, or accommodation which is part of a local authority sanctuary scheme.

Q16. Do you agree with the description of refuge accommodation as defined in the regulations?

a. Yes

b. No

c. **Comments:** The refuge description should highlight the single gender nature of the provision.

Q17. Do you agree with the description of specialist safe accommodation as defined in the regulations?

a. **Yes**

b. No

c. Comments

Q18. Do you agree with the description of dispersed accommodation as defined in the regulations?

a. **Yes**

b. No

c. Comments

Q19. Do you agree with the description of sanctuary schemes as defined in the regulations?

a. **Yes**

b. No

c. Comments

Q20. Do you agree with the description of move-on or second stage accommodation as defined in the regulations?

a. **Yes**

b. No

c. Comments

Q21. Is there anything missing that you would wish to see included in the regulation?

Comments

Domestic Abuse (Local Authority Strategies) Regulations 2021

These regulations make provision about the preparation and publication of strategies under section 57 of the Act. The regulations make provision about the matters to

which a relevant local authority must have regard to in preparing a strategy for example links/join up with other local authority functions such as Violence Against Women and Girls, how the strategy must be published, the date by which the first strategy should be published, the frequency with which a relevant local authority must review its strategy and the effect of their strategy on other local authority domestic abuse support.

Q22. Do you agree with the frequency of the publication of strategies?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Comments

Q23. Do you agree that the first strategy should be published by 31 October?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Comments

Q24. If not, please specify when it should be published

Comments: As a 2 Tier Authority we have several processes that need to be undertaken following the writing of a Strategy before it can be officially published. The timescale of October will not give sufficient time for the strategy to be written, consulted upon, and approved through Committee processes before it can be published.

Q25. Is there anything missing that you would wish to see included in the regulation?

Comments: There should be consideration of the breadth of the strategy and the interdependencies of the domestic abuse safe accommodation alongside the wider domestic abuse agenda. The proposed approach in Nottinghamshire is to develop a strategy with several chapters that focus on key elements bringing all the elements together to fully address domestic abuse. There will be 8 chapters;

- **safe accommodation**
- **MARAC high risk and DHRs**
- **criminal justice and the courts**
- **children and young people**
- **community support services**
- **health services/pathways**
- **prevention**

- perpetrators

Each chapter will be completed separately making considerations on their inter dependencies within their action plans.

About this consultation

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the consultation principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent, and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), the EU General Data Protection Regulation, and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will process your personal data in accordance with the law and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. A full privacy notice is included below.

Individual responses will not be acknowledged unless specifically requested.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

Are you satisfied that this consultation has followed the Consultation Principles? If not or you have any other observations about how we can improve the process please contact us via the [complaints procedure](#).