

Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	6 April 2023 20 April 2023
Subject:	Supplementary Revenue Report Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding		
Report of:	Assistant Director of People (Communities)	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report sets out the supplementary revenue grant funding received by the Council from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in respect of Domestic Abuse New Burdens funding for the period of 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 to 31 March 2024.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet recommendation to Council:

- 1) To approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.832m which is fully funded by Domestic Abuse New Burdens funding; and
- 2) The Assistant Director of People (Communities) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing be granted delegated authority for the future acceptance of the same grant funding and the allocation of the funding in line with the grant conditions.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To approve updates to the 2023/24 Revenue programme so that the funding can be used by the Council to discharge its duty under part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

There are no alternative options to consider.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

New Burdens funding of £619,418 has been allocated to Sefton for 2023/24. This brings the total allocation of new burdens funding to £1,832,284 since the additional duties were introduced.

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
The Domestic Abuse Act places additional duties on the Council which have resource implications, however the funding is partially intended for this purpose and will adequately cover those costs. The rest of the funding will be used to commission new Domestic Abuse services to further meet the Councils duty.	
Legal Implications:	
Equality Implications:	
The equality implications have been identified and mitigated.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
The proposals will not have either a positive or negative impact on climate.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:
The purpose of the New Burdens funding is to provide specialist Domestic Abuse support to victims/survivors living in safe accommodation in Sefton.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services:
New Burdens funding will be used to commission new specialist Domestic Abuse support services to victims/survivors living in safe accommodation in Sefton.
Place – leadership and influencer:

Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7122/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5322/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The Domestic Abuse (DA) Act came into force in April 2021 and is the biggest piece of DA legislation ever. It introduced numerous new measures that can be broadly broken down into 3 categories:

- Governance;
- Support for victims/survivors, their children, and families; and
- Strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators.

1.2 The statutory responsibility placed on the LA by the Act are:

- Formation of Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (LDAPB). Sefton’s LDAPB was formed in March 2021 with Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing as chair.

- Conduct a Needs Assessment. An external consultant was appointed to complete this work and this was completed and signed off in September 2022.
- Develop & Publish a Strategy. Sefton has a published strategy and has done for several years. Cabinet recently received the refreshed DA Strategy for adoption.
- Give effect to the Strategy. Once adopted the New Burdens funding will be used to commission services to address the gaps in service provision for DA victims, their children, and their families.
- Monitor Strategy effectiveness. Sefton is developing a data dashboard to support the work of the board.
- Report back to government via the Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office. Local Authorities are required to submit an annual report to the Commissioner and engage with their regional office.

2. Part 4 Responsibilities

- 2.1 Part 4 of the Act places a duty on Local Authorities to provide DA support services to victims/survivors, their children and their families living in safe accommodation in their area. To support LAs to discharge their duty DLUHC have provided additional “New Burdens” funding.
- 2.2 New Burdens funding of £619,418 has been allocated to Sefton for 2023/24. This brings the total allocation of new burdens funding to £1,832,284 since the additional duties were introduced.
- 2.3 Confirmation has also been received that the Local Authority will receive further New Burdens Funding from DLUHC for 2024/25 of £631,105.
- 2.3 Following Councils approval of the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023-28 a programme of commissioning to address the gaps in service provision will be undertaken. All commissioning will be reported to the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

3. Summary

- 3.1 The Council has been allocated additional revenue funding to the value of £1.83m up to 2023/24. The funding provided by DLUHC is to support LAs to discharge their duty under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.