**Memorandum of Understanding**

Between the Respect/SafeLives

and [London Borough] (the Participating Borough)

16th August 2020

**Purpose**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describes the understanding between the SafeLives/Respect and London Boroughs participating in the Domestic Abuse Early Intervention and Accommodation Project, as outlined below.

**Context**

ALDCS, London Council and Respect/SafeLives have secured funding from MOPAC to support the delivery of an **early intervention programme for those who are at risk of perpetrating domestic abuse within families already in contact with social services**.

COVID-19 and lockdown has put increasing strain on individuals and families, in many cases escalating the risk of domestic violence and abuse. Respect has seen an increase in the number of people who are calling their phonelines not because they are experiencing abuse, but are experiencing increased conflict in the home, which could descend into abuse and violence.

In response to this, Respect/SafeLives will be delivering an emergency wrap around intervention to individuals who have been identified as being on the cusp of perpetrating abuse. This intervention will be designed to fully assess risk and potential for abuse alongside offering support and tools to help them manage their thoughts and behaviour in the longer term. Temporary alternative accommodation may also be offered to this individual, creating safe space to enable and appropriately respond to any further disclosure of abuse.

The aim of this intervention and accommodation pathway is to:

* provide a preventative intervention and potentially alternative accommodation for a temporary period until the added tensions of lockdown have eased
* reduce the risk of perpetration during lockdown and as restrictions ease
* increase safety of family members
* identify any additional previously unidentified risks or abuse and manage appropriately

This is a novel intervention, drawing on expertise developed through the delivery of [Drive](http://driveproject.org.uk/) and [Safe and Together](https://safeandtogetherinstitute.com/).

Funding for this initiative is being provided by MOPAC for a period of 6 months. The temporary accommodation element is being managed by the London Borough of Camden.

**SafeLives/Respect Commitments**

Funding has been provided by MOPAC to SafeLives and Respect to deliver the wrap-around intervention to individuals, identified by children’s social care in participating boroughs who are at risk of perpetrating domestic abuse.

Staff from SafeLives and Respect will be overseeing the project in terms of programme management, coordination of participating boroughs and project partners and reporting.

SafeLives/Respect will:

* Develop assessment and intervention tools suitable for this particular cohort and new service – drawing from established learning and evidence base from the Safe and Together model and the Drive 1-2-1 co-ordinated multi-agency response model
* Oversee stakeholder engagement, provision of service information and establishing referral pathways into wrap-around intervention for those at risk of harming their partner/family
* Oversee the work of 1 X FTE equivalent Early Intervention Practitioner (employed by Cranstoun) who will be delivering:
  + Consultation with social workers / Children’s Social Care Practitioners to develop risk management and intervention plans on cases that have been identified, including those that may not be suitable for the intensive behaviour change intervention
  + 1:1 assessment and delivery of intensive behaviour change interventions to individuals at risk of perpetrating abuse where consent has been obtained from them and their partner. Where appropriate, this intervention will sit alongside the provision of alternative accommodation for the individual receiving the intervention for up to 4 weeks (although the behaviour change work may extend beyond the 4-week period).
  + Identification and onward referral of cases where domestic abuse and risk is higher than originally identified, and more intense intervention required.
* Work with the London Borough of Camden, who are managing the alternative accommodation component of the intervention to facilitate access to temporary accommodation where required
* Support the work of the evaluation and learning partner, Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)

**Participating Borough Commitments**

Participating boroughs will:

* Provide a named SPOC for the project. SPOCs will be responsible for engaging with model development and learning as well as supporting and facilitating relationships with relevant teams including children’s social care, housing, adult social care and information governance
* Work with SafeLives/Respect to develop and refine the model in response to feedback
* Identify cases which may be suitable for the intervention and referring them to the service
* Working with the Early Intervention Practitioner to support the assessment, ongoing risk management and intervention planning and case closure process as outlined in the *Early Intervention Project – Guidance Pack for Social Care Practitioners*
* Support the partner and family during the intervention as outlined in the *Early Intervention Project – Guidance Pack for Social Care Practitioners*
* Source appropriate temporary accommodation placements where it has been identified that it is suitable for an individual to be offered this alongside the behaviour change intervention.
* Facilitate access to alternative/additional child, victim and perpetrator services where required as part of the risk management and intervention plan, including onward referrals to perpetrator programmes, where an individual is assessed as not being suitable for this early intervention project.

**Next Steps following signing of this agreement**

SafeLives/Respect and the participating borough will work in collaboration to complete the following actions as soon as possible:

* Ensure that Respect and Cranstoun are signed up to the relevant local information sharing protocols, for example MASH/MARAC/Community Safety information sharing agreements
* Share information with children’s social care practitioners on the intervention so as to raise awareness and generate referrals.
* Participate in fortnightly calls to share information on the progress of the intervention, identify and manage risk and facilitate model learning and adaptation

**Duration**

This MOU shall become effective upon signature and will remain in effect until 17th February 2021 it it is modified or terminated by either partner by mutual consent, or it is replaced by an alternative agreement.

**Signed by**

for and on behalf of **Respect/SafeLives**

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for and on behalf of **the Participating Borough**

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[Name, role]