

Appendix 4: Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation model summary

The Service Model Safe Accommodation - SUMMARY

- 1 To ensure the service is fit for the future, the offer will need to be a mixed offer of safe accommodation with support to ensure needs are best met, with an emphasis on crisis support/safety and independence planning, with a whole system approach to ensure outcomes are achieved. The main elements for the new model that will be included into a newly developed service specification include:
 - (a) **Accommodation Model:** A mixed model of beds offered across the borough to ensure needs are met. This will include traditional refuge style (women only) accommodation to meet the needs of those people who tell us that they require 24 hour on site access to support staff and communal spaces for therapies. Also, a mix of dispersed accommodation for those with larger families, male victims and those with more complexities as they prepare for independent living.
 - (b) **Support model:** A model that is trauma informed and person centred to provide safety planning, stability and resettlement and move on support. Ensuring that tailored support is offered to victims and survivors to account for their needs to enable them the best chances of achieving their outcomes.
 - (c) **Whole System Collaboration:** coordination of the offer with partners to provide a clear and visible service pathway.
 - (d) **Referral Pathway:** A clear pathway of referral into services through Cheshire East's Single Point of Access (SPA), ensuring that victims and survivors do not spend unnecessary time in temporary accommodation.
 - (e) **Children and Young People as Victims in their own right:** A dedicated offer for children and young people who through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are seen as victims in their own right. This offer is to consist of a dedicated children and young people worker who will work closely with the council's services to ensure children are well supported.
 - (f) **Transition to Independence:** An outcome focussed specification that ensures families are supported back into independence.
 - (g) **Reciprocity:** Continue to work collaboratively across boundaries to ensure victims and survivors can flee domestic abuse and move outside of Cheshire East if this is the best option for them and their families. Ensuring that the SPA is the referral route to ensure residents from Cheshire East waiting for appropriate accommodation are routed through first.
 - (h) **Funding Model:** A mixed funding model including commissioned funding for support costs and Housing Benefit for rent/property costs.

The provider will need to be or partner with a registered provider landlord to enable Enhanced Housing Benefit to cover rent and elements of the support costs in addition to the £250k commissioned funding. It is anticipated this could fund a minimum of 27 bed spaces.