

## Safe Accommodation Strategy: DRAFT Commissioning and Action Plan

### “Ensuring victim survivors and their children are safe and supported to recover and thrive”

| Recommendations                     | Action Owner(s)  | Year 1 (21/22) | Year 2 (22/23)   | Year 3 (23/24)   |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|--|--|
| <b>Finding a Safe Space to Stay</b> |  |                |  |  |
| <b>FSS1</b>                         | Torbay Council and Registered Providers adopt Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation to ensure policies and procedures are in place to support early identification of DVA and interventions to avoid the victim needing to access safe accommodation |                | Part of wider DVA Strategy                               |  |
| <b>FSS2</b>                         | Explore interventions such as management transfers or the removal of the person displaying harmful behaviour to prevent the need for victims and their children to access safe accommodation (see The Whole Housing Approach).                               |                | Part of wider DVA Strategy                               |  |
| <b>FSS3</b>                         | General increase in safe space capacity to minimum 19 units to account for current housing landscape and withdrawal of local connection criteria.  | SB/TDAS        | 7 new DA Temp Accom units in pipeline                    | Part of MCN Service design   |
| <b>FSS4</b>                         | Increase safe space capacity for people with a disability and single people including younger adults, including units with mobility access (in partnership with Adult Social Care).  | SB & ASC       | Work with Peninsula to review no of mobility units       |  |
| <b>FSS5</b>                         | Review pathways and affordability of crisis safe accommodation for young people aged 16 and over who may be in low paid employment   | DASVOG         | To be tasked   |  |
| <b>FSS6</b>                         | Review length of stay in safe houses (balancing sufficient time to engage in support, not silting up, and use of outreach and resettlement staff to support once moved on).  | SB             |  | Review once new units and workers are embedded<br>Consider as part of MCN service design |
| <b>FSS7</b>                         | Develop framework of specialist DVA safe accommodation to call off as required for additional capacity   | Hsg/Proc/SB    | As part of wider TA procurement, include mobility access |  |

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| <b>FSS8</b>  | Specialist support to address the needs of minority groups should be considered, for example LGBT+.   | DASVEG            | TDAS hosting regional LGBT+IDVA post  | Learning from LGBT+ IDVA and other specialised roles across region |   |
| <b>FSS9</b>  | Develop Safe Accommodation pathway that is simple and clearly publicised, consider single access point  | DASVOG            | Interim pathway To be tasked  | Align with regional pathways                                       | Consider alongside MCN service design                 |
| <b>FSS10</b> | Address wider accessibility issues with specific focus on addressing cultural and societal stigma around domestic violence and abuse  |                   | Action for wider DVA strategy   |  |   |
| <b>FSS11</b> | Targeted information about the service that is available to practitioners   | TDAS              | To be tasked  |  |   |
| <b>FSS12</b> | More information for victim survivors about what to expect – developed by and for   | TDAS & Hsg        | Safe Accommodation workers to be tasked once in post  |  |   |
| <b>FSS13</b> | Robust demographic data collection from homelessness and safe accommodation applicants, particularly around ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation to ensure true levels of need are evidenced. Identify common datasets that can be used across the system | DASVEG            | To be tasked. MARAC system will contribute in part. LGBT IDVA and Sexual Health IDVA roles to contribute. | To be tasked   | To be included in MCN reporting as agreed by Alliance |
| <b>FSS14</b> | Consider co-location of DVA staff within Housing Options team to support assessment of DVA homelessness presentations and develop preventative safe accommodation options for DVA victims as described in the Whole Housing Approach.                             | TH/S}@B           | 2x FTE Safe accommodation workers to be co-located with Hsg Options                                       | Review if further co-location required                             |   |
| <b>FSS15</b> | Review consistency in respect of DHC banding decisions  | TH                | To be tasked  |  |   |
| <b>FSS16</b> | MCN Alliance to take account to voices of lived experience in designing services that meet intersectional needs   | MCN commissioners | Included in MCN service specification   | Part of MCN service design   | Part of MCN service delivery and oversight            |

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| <b>FSS17</b>                         | Ensure all staff working with victims of domestic violence and abuse understand the requirements of the DAA 21 and follow the updated Homelessness Code of Guidance in respect of assessing domestic violence presentations.               | DASVEG                 | To be tasked  | Refresher programme to be put in place |                          |
| <b>FSS18</b>                         | All staff working with victims of domestic violence and abuse receive training in trauma informed approaches and skills that better support victims with more complex needs  | DASVEG                 | TIA training programme in progress across agencies            | Part of MCN requirements               | Part of MCN requirements |
| <b>Support in Safe Accommodation</b> |  |                        |   |  |                          |
| <b>SSA1</b>                          | Ensure age appropriate programmes of support in safe accommodation all age ranges  | SB                     | To be reviewed  |  |                          |
| <b>SSA2</b>                          | Ensure other agencies and practitioners understand the referral processes for support for CYP in safe accommodation  | DASVOG                 | To be tasked  |  |                          |
| <b>SSA3</b>                          | Ensure group work and peer support is included in domestic abuse service offer   | SB/TDAS                | ongoing   |  |                          |
| <b>SSA4</b>                          | Develop community based emotional wellbeing support for victim survivors in the safe houses.   | TDAS/Standing Tall     | Ongoing   |  |                          |
| <b>SSA5</b>                          | Commissioners encourage service providers to collaborate closely with the third sector to identify community groups and activities to facilitate peer support and networking for those who do not meet the thresholds for clinical support | SB/DASVOG              | Ongoing<br>Standing Tall<br>Community Strategy in development |  |                          |
| <b>SSA6</b>                          | Availability of peer support networks that meet survivor needs   | TDAS and Standing Tall | ongoing   |  |                          |
| <b>Moving On to a Permanent Home</b> |  |                        |   |  |                          |
| <b>FPH1</b>                          | Better communications and information around move on   | TDAS/Hsg               | Safe Accommodation workers to be tasked once in post          |  |                          |
| <b>FPH2</b>                          | Provision of resettlement support for those moving on from safe accommodation and ongoing for a period after move on to prevent re-victimisation.  | TDAS                   | 2 x FTE posts being recruited Sept/Oct 21                     |  |                          |

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| <b>FPH3</b>                | Establish move on grants from a flexible funding pot (Whole Housing Approach) to facilitate timely move on and avoid “silting up” of safe accommodation, enabling victim survivors experiencing financial barriers to access safe accommodation. | SB/TDAS/Hsg                         | To be tasked - Protocol to be agreed<br>Funding identified in New Burdens monies                             |                            |  |
| <b>FPH4</b>                | Consider a guarantor system for victims of domestic abuse to facilitate access to the private sector.  |                                     | Part of broader systemic approach in addressing homelessness through working with the private rented sector. |                            |  |
| <b>FPH5</b>                | Establish affordable move on pathways for young people who are in low paid work and not be eligible for benefits   | Housing and Children’s              | To be tasked<br>Strategic link to edge of care and homelessness strategies                                   |                            |  |
| <b>FPH6</b>                | Peninsula wide or local operational partnership that includes expert advisers in domestic abuse, housing, financial and legal matters to help victims navigate complex economic barriers to access safe accommodation.                           | SB or Peninsula Commissioners Group | Link to wider DVA Strategy. Potential role for CVS.  |                            |  |
| <b>Regional Priorities</b> |  |                                     |  |                            |  |
| <b>RP1</b>                 | Develop cross border referral pathways and processes   | Peninsula Commissioners Group       | Peninsula Co-ordinator appointed   | Regional plan to be agreed |  |
| <b>RP2</b>                 | Raise awareness of DAA21 requirements  | Peninsula Commissioners Group       | Peninsula Co-ordinator appointed   |                            |  |
| <b>RP3</b>                 | Peninsula referral coordination function for refuge/safe accommodation across the region for agencies that operate across the footprint  | Peninsula Commissioners Group       | Peninsula Co-ordinator pathway mapping   | Develop prototype/pilot    |  |
| <b>RP4</b>                 | Development of regional datasets   | Peninsula Commissioners Group       | Peninsula Co-ordinator appointed   | Regional plan to be agreed |  |

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| <b>RP5</b> | Peninsula managed reciprocals agreement and protocols  | Peninsula Commissioners Group | Peninsula Co-ordinator appointed               | Regional plan to be agreed                                    |  |
| <b>RP6</b> | Peninsula safe accommodation joint commissioning plan for specialist requirements and by and for services    | Peninsula Commissioners Group | To commence once all Peninsula SA NAs complete |   |  |
| <b>RP7</b> | Addressing quality issues and disparities between different types of safe accommodation across the Peninsula | Peninsula Commissioners Group |  | Regional plan to be agreed. Include DAC Office regional lead. |  |

**Partnership Board Actions**

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| <b>PB1</b> | Ensure Safe Accommodation priorities are reflected and to the wider DVA Strategy and other connected strategies and strategic plans.        | DASVEG |  |
| <b>PB2</b> | Hold partner agencies to account in considering joint commissioning options and opportunities to pool budgets to achieve strategic outcomes | DASVEG |  |
| <b>PB3</b> | Ensure compliance with recommended quality standards in current and current and future commissioned services                                | DASVEG |  |
| <b>PB4</b> | Ensure compliance with requirements of Part 4 DAA21   | DASVEG |  |