

Community Domestic Abuse & Behaviour Change Service Contract Award Briefing

Contract Award Briefing Paper Part I



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I.1 The Domestic Abuse & Behaviour Change Service Contract meets the following minimum requirements:

- a. Domestic abuse and behaviour change hub (front door) to triage, risk assess and process incoming referrals; provide consultation, advocacy and support to survivors, people who harm, professionals, affected others and wider community; and connect with external services.
- b. Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) service for all adult survivors aged 16+ identified as 'medium' and 'high' and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) cases to provide advocacy and casework including risk assessment and safety planning; trauma stabilisation; groupwork; co-located IDVAs with the police, Alliance, housing, children's services Integrated Front Door (IFD) and health services; and coproduction opportunities to shape service design.
- c. Specialist children and young people's domestic abuse offer to work with age 11-18 and to include advocacy/1-2-1 casework, group work, and will work in collaboration with the Healthy Relationships Alliance to support delivery in schools.
- d. Provision of Sanctuary Scheme to provide the administration, coordination and installation of a range of adaptations to support victims/survivors and their children to remain safe within their own home.
- e. MARAC Coordination to complete referrals from partner agencies, prepare agendas and meeting minutes. Attend and develop MARAC with the MARAC steering group including collating data to enable continual review of MARAC effectiveness
- f. Respect Accredited Behaviour Change service for people who harm for adults (16+). A High-Risk High Harm worker will support the work of the Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) model for those posing high risk and high harm. A MATAC IDVA to support partners/ex-partners of those held at the MATAC and MARAC behaviour change support.
- g. Supports the delivery of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (DASV) partnership workforce development programme including Risk Assessment and Safety Planning, Trauma Stabilisation and Plymouth Safeguarding Children Partnership (PSCP) Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Training.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This Lot 2 contract award covers the replacement of both the Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service (community offer) and the Behaviour Change contracts, to cover the provision of community domestic abuse services for survivors of domestic abuse and behaviour change services for people causing harm. The Lot 1 Safe Accommodation service is part of the

current Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service (PDAS) contract including a refuge and dispersed units.

2.2 The original Business Case for the Procurement of a Domestic Abuse Service, agreed in Cabinet in December 2022, described procuring the domestic abuse service in one integrated contract. Following an unsuccessful tender process and feedback from the market, the community domestic abuse and safe accommodation elements were split into two lots and the specification further developed to ensure maximum market participation in the tendering process as the safe accommodation element has a limited market.

3. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

3.1 Procurement for Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service and Behaviour Change was published on Supplying the South-west portal on 10th June 2025, this was a 2 stage Competitive Flexible Procedure. A Tender Notice was published on the Central Digital Platform reference number 2025/S 000-031334 on 10th June 2025.

3.2 The procurement was advertised as 2 Lots: Lot I – Safe Accommodation and Lot 2 – Community Domestic Abuse & Behaviour Change Service. The Stage 1 submission deadline was 24th July 2025 at 9am, Stage 2 ITT was issued on 8th August 2025 with the Stage 2 submission deadline 3rd October 2025 at 12 noon.

3.3 Tenderers passing all the pass/fail criteria at Conditions of Participation stage had their responses evaluated, within Stage 2, by the evaluators to determine the most advantageous tender based on the quality and social value criteria that are linked to the subject matter.

3.4 The high-level award criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
Quality	95%
Price	0% (Pass/Fail)
Social Value	5%
TOTAL	100%

3.5 Six compliant tender submissions were received by the submission deadline for Stage 1 of the 24th July 2025. Three tender submissions were received by the submission deadline for Stage 2 of the 3rd October 2025. The tender submissions were independently evaluated by Council Officers and external partners all of whom have the appropriate skills and experience, in order to ensure transparency and robustness in the process.

3.6 The evaluation results are contained in the confidential (Part II) paper.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 To award the Community Domestic Abuse & Behaviour Change Service Contract Award to Forward Outcomes Partnerships Limited for a total value over 10 years of £8,037,404 (4 year initial period with 3 additional 2-year increments).