

Refuge and Floating Support Provision for Domestic Abuse in B&NES



Current Provision

- 10 units of Refuge (safe house) provision, across 2 projects – Next Link and Julian House
- For women and children in their households
- 2 units can meet higher needs
- All Refuge units situated in Bath city centre
- None able to take male victims
- 12 units of Floating and resettlement support – across B&NES

Utilisation and Outcomes

- In 2015/16, 28 women and 33 children accessed the refuge services compared with 35 households in 2014/15.
- In 2015/16, 28 families accessed the floating support/resettlement service compared to 44 households in 2014/15.

Unmet Demand

- Demand for spaces in the refuge remains very high and the units are always fully occupied.
- Women from out of area are able to access the services and households from B&NES access services in other parts of England
- Existing provision is sometimes unsafe for local clients as location is known to perpetrator
- Clients can be turned down if their needs and risks are assessed as being too high for current provision

New Investment – Serena House

- In December 2015 B&NES was awarded £100,000 to set up up to 8 additional units of refuge provision in B&NES
- The project is being managed by Commissioners in Supporting People together with partners including Curo, DHI & Julian House
- This new provision is aimed at people fleeing DVA who have additional complex needs including mental health and substance misuse. It will be situated away from city of Bath and will be able to accommodate male survivors as well as women with or without children

Future Commissioning Plans

- Supporting People contracts end later this year and Commissioners are consulting on future plans.
- Aim to protect services for DVA; prioritise B&NES applicants; ensure services are available across B&NES; person centred and whole family approach; link clients in with community (and friends and families), and mainstream services; support to stay at home and to resettle; able to work with male victims as well as women, and those with complex needs