

**Neighbourhood Portion of  
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Bath**

**APPLICATION FOR FUNDING  
(Express form for applications under £5,000)**

**Section 1 - Contact Details** *(Please note this should be the lead organiser)*

<b>Name:</b>	Rowena Knight
<b>Organisation:</b> <i>(If applicable)</i>	Julian House
<b>Contact Number:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

**Section 2 - Description of your Project**

**Description of your project, including the outcomes and objectives.** *(Maximum 300 Words)*

We would like to build a “therapy shed” where we can deliver one-to-one support for survivors of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and enable them to rebuild their lives. The shed will provide an essential space for our caseworkers to work with clients in a quiet and calming environment.

Julian House is the main provider of DVA refuge support in Bath and North East Somerset (Bathnes). Our one-to-one casework support is an essential part of each DVA survivor’s recovery. Our clients face issues relating to safety, mental and physical health, custody of children, substance misuse, housing, and finances, among others. Intensive support provided by our caseworkers enables us to identify and understand clients’ issues, as well as any barriers they may face to moving on from refuge to settled accommodation. Without this one-to-one support, it is unlikely that DVA survivors would be able to exit abusive situations and secure their own housing.

We would like to create a bespoke therapy space where clients can feel safe to relax and open up to our caseworkers about their issues. We have identified an ideal location, behind our head office in central Bath, which can be accessed both from our main, public entrance and a smaller, more private side street (the latter is suited to clients who are still at risk of abuse and may be further

endangered if the perpetrator discovers they are seeking support). Currently there is an old tool shed in this location, which we plan to demolish and replace with a purpose-built “therapy shed” complete with electricity, heating, and comfortable furnishings. The shed will be a quiet and calm space separate from the busy main office where staff work and meet other clients. It will have step-free access so that clients with mobility issues and/or pushchairs can use it.

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*The therapy shed will be similar to this casework space built by local company Haven Timber in the garden of one of our supported accommodation units in Bath.*



*The interior of the casework space above.*

**Section 3 - Criteria** (To be eligible for funding your project must meet the criteria set out in the accompanying guidance notes)

**3.1 How does the project address the specific impacts of the new developments from which the funding has been generated? (This may be considered on a ward, a locality or a city wide basis)**

Please also explain how the project meets the following criteria:

- How this supports the development of the relevant area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure.
- (or) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area. (Maximum 300 words)

Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is a significant and rising problem in Bathnes, with the most recent data showing 1,110 DVA crimes took place in 2015/16 (representing an increase of nearly 25% on the previous year) and referrals to our DVA services more than doubling in recent years (from 52 in 2012-13 to 111 in 2017-18). DVA incidences are likely to rise further as a result of Bathnes Council's local development plans, which will increase the local population. This will, in turn, place more pressure on already stretched DVA, mental health, and substance misuse services (DVA has a significant impact on survivors' mental health and substance misuse is a common coping mechanism). It is therefore essential that, going forward, Julian House has increased capacity to provide DVA survivors with one-to-one caseworker support, which includes support with mental health and substance misuse issues.

Demand for Julian House services has increased significantly in recent years due to the government's policy of austerity and consequent cuts to local authority budgets and essential support services; this is likely to increase further as the Bath population rises. For example, we have seen a dramatic rise in the need for our homelessness services due to a phenomenal increase in rough sleeping (278% in Bath since 2010), and our DVA services are more in demand than ever. As a result, the two meeting rooms in our offices (our only spaces for working one-to-one with clients, including DVA survivors) are often fully booked. In addition, these two rooms are inappropriate for this vulnerable client group due to their location: one is situated off reception, a busy space where staff and clients are often talking, and the other is a large basement room which is difficult for parents with pushchairs and mobility issues to access.

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**3.2 How does the project provide links to the locality in the area where development has taken place? (if your project has city wide impact you will need to demonstrate how the broader community in the city will benefit) (Maximum 300 words)**

The therapy shed will benefit DVA survivors from across Bathnes. All will have experienced some

form of domestic violence or abuse; for some, the abuse will be ongoing. The majority will be staying in one of our local refuges. A large number will have young children; in some cases their children will be staying in refuge with them.

Clients will face a number of issues acting as barriers to exiting their abusive relationship and/or moving on to their own settled accommodation. The majority will have been directly caused, or exacerbated by, the abuse they have experienced/are experiencing. Issues will relate to: safety (the risk of continued abuse from the perpetrator, which can involve harassment/stalking); mental and physical health; children (e.g. securing custody, finding new school/s); addiction and substance misuse; housing; finances (e.g. debt, accessing their own funds or benefits). Most clients face a combination of these, which they would struggle to address without one-to-one support from one of our experienced DVA caseworkers. Our caseworkers provide intensive support to clients so that they can benefit from:

- Increased understanding of DVA and its impact on themselves and their children.
- Reduced feelings of isolation.
- Reduced feelings of shame and guilt.
- Increased confidence, self-esteem, and resilience.
- Improved safety.

Their children will, in turn, enjoy improved mental and physical health as a result of their parent's improved wellbeing and from living in a new space away from the abuse.

With the therapy shed in place we will work with approximately 45 DVA survivors per year, around 43 of whom will identify as women or non-binary. Around 2 survivors will be male. We expect the shed to last a minimum of 10 years, so have estimated that your funding will benefit at least 450 people.

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### **3.3 Please provide evidence which shows how the community has been listened to and what existing support you have for your project?(Maximum 300 words)**

Unfortunately, our ability to formally consult with DVA survivors is limited. Most of this client group have multiple and complex needs which make it difficult for them to follow through on commitments, meaning that contact with them must be reserved for addressing their issues. Many experience social anxiety, making focus groups intimidating and stressful. Furthermore, DVA is an incredibly sensitive issue, making it inappropriate to include all but fully recovered clients in service development, and the recovery process can take years.

However, our DVA team has listened closely to clients' needs and views in one-to-one sessions. Clients have expressed discomfort with the spaces we currently use to deliver this support, and requested a quiet, confidential, and soothing space. Currently, we deliver one-to-one support in:

- two meeting rooms in our offices, which are inappropriate for reasons listed in 3.1
- our refuge accommodation, in either playrooms or living rooms, which prevents children from playing and families from accessing their only leisure space
- community spaces, which often lack the necessary tranquil environment (e.g. one room we have used was above a fire station) and can be costly



“Improve support for victims of domestic abuse” is a key objective of Bathnes Council’s 2018-21 Domestic Abuse Strategy. One of the ways Bathnes meets this objective is by commissioning Julian House to provide local refuge accommodation and casework support. Bathnes has renewed their contract with Julian House every 3-5 years since 2006, demonstrating their support for our services and confidence in their efficacy.

We also have the support of charitable foundations: we recently received a £3,500 grant from the Screwfix Foundation towards the therapy shed, and local charity the St John’s Foundation funds the salary of our Bath caseworker for homeless women, who refers a number of clients to our DVA services.

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**3.4 Please provide us with any details of previous experience that you or your organisation have been involved with in the delivery of projects. (You may wish to tell us about the people involved in your project and why you are confident in their / your ability to make the project succeed).**

Julian House has been delivering projects supporting the most socially excluded people in Bathnes for over 30 years. In 2006, we extended our services into DVA support and are now the main provider of DVA refuge services locally having been commissioned by Bathnes Council to provide refuge accommodation and casework support. We have been commissioned by a number of voluntary organisations to deliver staff training in supporting DVA victims, and have recently deepened our knowledge and expertise in gender and trauma informed approaches by employing specialist women’s caseworkers in two of our homeless outreach teams, including Bath.

We provide a comprehensive recovery pathway for people who have experienced, or are experiencing, domestic abuse. This includes:

- DVA refuges providing 17 bed spaces for adults and 33 for children
- Holiday playschemes for children staying in refuge
- One-to-one casework support
- Freedom, a 12-week educative group work programme on understanding the impact of and recovering from DVA
- Support to move on to settled accommodation

Our DVA team consists of a Service Development Manager, team leader, and three casework coordinators, one of whom focusses on supporting the children of survivors. The team has over 30 years combined experience of supporting vulnerable women and is trained in delivering gender and trauma-informed support. Two members of staff are IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) with the training and expertise to coordinate appropriate responses for clients, specialising in sexual violence, young people’s DVA, and older people’s DVA. The team is trained in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and undergoes refresher training every 2 years. Staff are skilled in delivering group work, managing difficult emotions, and dealing with conflict, which will enable them to run therapeutic activities (e.g. arts and crafts, creative writing) for small groups of survivors in the therapy shed.

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## **Section 4 - Breakdown of Funding**

**This form is for grant applications under £5,000.**

<b>Total cost of your project</b>	<b>£7,500</b>
<b>How much of the total has been raised already</b>	<b>£3,500</b>
<b>How much CIL funding are you applying for</b>	<b>£4,000</b>

### **Please provide a breakdown of what the CIL funding will be spent on**

We plan to commission local company Haven Timber to build the therapy shed. Haven has visited the proposed site of the therapy shed and drawn up a specification based on using as many eco-friendly and recycled materials as possible, quoting £6,500 (including VAT). Haven has extensive experience in creating bespoke sheds and garden buildings. We recently commissioned them to build a small casework shed in the garden of one of our units of supported accommodation for rough sleepers; the result is a high-quality, comfortable building which gives casework staff a much-needed space to carry out the intensive, one-to-one work their clients need. We have secured £3,500 from the Screwfix Foundation towards these costs and are asking the Community Infrastructure Levy to fund the remaining £3,000.

We need a further £1,000 to install electrics, wall heaters, and a phone line, and to buy furniture, blinds, a clock, pictures, and soft furnishings such as rugs and cushions. These additions will ensure the therapy shed is a comfortable and welcoming space where clients feel supported to disclose sensitive information. We are asking the Community Infrastructure Levy to cover these costs.

### **OFFICE USE ONLY:**

<b>Project reference</b>	<b>BA075</b>
<b>Date received</b>	<b>17 October 2019</b>
<b>Date of approval or rejection</b>	

