



Domestic Abuse Services in Bristol

A Partnership Approach

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1. Introduction

Bristol's current provision of services for Domestic Abuse are due to come to an end in September 2022. The intention is for The Council to undertake a competitive procurement process to award new domestic abuse contracts to commence from October 2022. It is anticipated that a procurement process will be undertaken in February 2022 (this is an indicative timeline and may be subject to change).

The Council would like to provide organisations the opportunity and time to consider collaboration with partners, for example, the opportunity to develop a consortium approach. Our contracting arrangements allow for applications by collaborations between organisations to deliver services by a lead partnership or a severally liable partnership arrangement and a degree of subcontracting.

Collaboration between organisations brings a number of benefits to service delivery.

- Provides a coherent and more simplistic service offer to the service user. For example a one gateway approach.
- Increases the expertise available to address the complex issue of domestic abuse.
- Increases diversity to meet the need of a wider range of service users.
- Brings access to a wider group of stakeholders.

- Allows smaller VCSE organisations to be involved in the service delivery.
- Brings economies of scale.

The consultation about these services will ascertain the degree to which a collaborative approach is welcomed. The consultation is open between 8/12/21 and 31/1/22 and can be accessed here. We welcome a diverse range of views and encourage you to take part.

[Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services Consultation - Bristol - Citizen Space](#)

2. Help to find partners for collaboration

The Council will include provider contact details as an independent attachment to the procurement tender documentation when it is advertised on Procontract. This way providers can make direct contact each other if they wish to find partners to collaborate with. If you would be interested in the opportunity for collaboration, please complete the table below with your provider contact details and, confirm if you consent to your contact details being listed in the tender documentation.

Please email the details to be shared to wanda.knight@bristol.gov.uk.

Please note that your contact details will not be used for any other purpose other than to be listed as an attachment to the tender documentation. It is the sole responsibility of providers to collaborate and not the responsibility of the Council.

| Name | Position | Organisation | Email address | Telephone | How would you like to collaborate? Lead Contractor Sub-Contractor Partnership, Consortium, Other | I consent to my contact details being shared on the tender documents |
|------|----------|--------------|---------------|-----------|--|--|
| | | | | | | |

If you have any clarification questions, please raise them using the messaging function on the Procontract portal.

3. Is partnership working right for my organisation?

Partnership working brings many benefits to service delivery but anyone considering this route needs to be aware of both the pros and cons.

| Pros | Cons |
|--|---|
| Improve the chance of success and add value to the bid because partnerships bring a wider amount of knowledge, expertise, experience. | Partner selection and getting agreement can be a long and difficult process especially for those new to the process. |
| Partnerships can bring connection, understanding or access to the client group or market | Developing a relationship of trust |
| Partnerships can spread the risk in a collaborative relationship. | the need to apportion responsibility is part of the formation process and is difficult. |
| In a partnership application the combined financial assessment for all the partners can allow them to apply for higher value contracts | Other areas of difficulty are: making complex decisions; getting good governance in place; information sharing and security issues; coordination of resources; the logistics of contract delivery |

The following sections provide questions for organisations to discuss when considering partnership working

4. Understanding partnership working.

- What makes me want to be part of this work?
- What worries me about the partnership model?
- What interests me about the partnership model?
- What are the barriers to my involvement and Can these be overcome?
- What qualities would my ideal partners have? Do you know anyone like this?
- What am I like as a partner? How would partner organisations describe me?
- What has my experience of working in collaboration with others been like in the past? What was great? What was hard? What did I learn?
- How do I manage conflict and disagreement?
- What do I do when I make a mistake, or something doesn't go as planned?
- How do I like to work best?

- What is my preferred communication style?

5. Motivation for partnership working

- How does this project fit with our organisational mission?
- What are our organisational priorities over the next 5 years?
- What are our organisational values and ethos? What is non-negotiable?
- What impact do we think this way of working will have on our teams and our wider projects? How do we plan to manage this?
- What are our organisational strengths? What are we bringing to the table? What capacity, skills, qualities and knowledge do we have?
- Where are the gaps in our skills/knowledge/capacity? Do you know anyone who could fill these gaps?
- How do we like to measure impact and show meaningful change or progress?
- How do we keep service user voices at the heart of your work?
- How flexible are we or can we be?
- Where are we prepared to compromise?

6. Practicalities of partnership working

- Do we understand the collaboration model and obligations?
- Why do we want to be part of this, or any partnership model?
- How financially sustainable is our organisation?
- Is the leadership of our organisation on board? Is it likely to change and if so, will this impact the priorities/what is the succession plan?
- How good are we at managing uncertainty and change?
- What kind of role do we see ourselves having?
- Are we committed to working in this way, and with these people for the duration of the contract?
- Have we got the capacity, qualities and/or skillset to contribute to this approach?
- How do we feel about unanimous decision making?
- How do we feel about shared risk?