

Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 05 November 2025
Subject:	Approval of Domestic Abuse related contracts following procurement exercise	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion	

Summary

- 1.1 Tackling the causes and impacts of domestic violence is a priority of Bury Community Safety Partnership and Bury Council leads activity to drive this agenda. A core component of this is relates to the provision of, and support associated with safe accommodation for those fleeing from harm, and for this to support breaking the cycle of domestic violence.
- 1.2 In April 2025, Cabinet approved Bury's Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy and in doing so approved the running of a commissioning exercise to secure refreshed Safe Accommodation provision up to March 2028
- 1.3 In addition the April 2025 report approved a procurement exercise to be conducted on securing core Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) provision for the same period.
- 1.4 During the summer of 2025 these procurement exercises ran con-currently with ten eligible bid submitted via The Chest procurement system. Scoring and moderation has now been completed and this paper seeks approval to award the contracts.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the award of Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation provision to **Safenet** for a two year & five month term with a total contract value of £917,935 (£379,835 x 2 years + 5/12 taking to end of March 2028) following a competitive tender process.
- 2.2 Cabinet is asked to approve the award of core IDVA provision to **Safenet** for a two year & five month term with a total contract value of £724,635 (£299,849 x 2 years + 5/12 taking to end of March 2028) following a competitive tender process.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Safe Accommodation strategy delivers on a statutory requirement within the Domestic Abuse Bill to review and ensure provision to meet local need. This

contract award is secured provision to meet such requirements, having undertaken a competitive process to source a provider.

- 3.2 A competitive tendering process under the Procurement Act 2023 was advertised with multiple applications received across the two contracts which were assessed and moderated to determine the most advantageous tender.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- 4.1 Do nothing – this was not a viable option given the requirement to deliver against the Domestic Abuse Bill and given that existing contracts were coming to an end.
- 4.2 Deliver in-house – this was not a viable option given the specialist nature of support and in particular for the IDVA roles the need for independence.
- 4.3 Extend existing contracts – this was rejected in order to meet procurement guidelines and to not run an exercise with an updated approach would fail to capitalise on the journey made in recent years but more importantly miss the opportunity to further tailor and target the focus of such support provision.

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Background

- 5.1 The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) sets out a series of statutory duties for local authorities (and partners) to seek to prevent individuals from harm, protect and support victims of domestic abuse, and work to tackle perpetrator behaviour. This involves ensuring victims receive timely, person-centred support and a specific requirement is the provision of safe accommodation for individuals experiencing and fleeing such abuse.
- 5.2. Domestic abuse involves any single incident or pattern of conduct where someone's behaviour towards another is abusive, and where the people involved are aged 16 or over and are, or have been, personally connected to each other (regardless of gender or sexuality). The Act also recognises that children can be victims of domestic abuse in their own right, whether directly or as being part of a family/household in which such abuse is taking place, noting the abuse does not have to be physical.
- 5.3 Safe accommodation and accommodation-based support can be provided through a variety of functions and settings, including refuge, dispersed and move-on accommodation and through sanctuary schemes. A Bury Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy has been developed through partnership

engagement to outline proposed actions and commissioning intentions for the future provision of such provision and support in the Borough. This was approved by Cabinet in April 2025.

Procurement

- 6.1 The April 2025 Cabinet report approved entering a commissioning process for the future provision of both Domestic Safe Accommodation provision and core IDVA provision.
- 6.2 On 30th April a Meet the Commissioner event took place in the Peel Room at Bury Town Hall for prospective providers to hear more about the process. Following this two parallel procurements were undertaken, with potential providers able to bid for one or both of the Domestic Abuse related tenders.
- 6.3 Both tenders were made available through The Chest with Invitations to Tender sought, to cover the period from 1st November 2025 to 31st March 2028 (the end date to align with the current timescale of the Bury Community Safety Partnership strategy).
- 6.4 Six eligible tender submissions were received for Safe Accommodation contract.

SUPPLIER	RANK	TOTAL SCORE	WEIGHTED QUALITY & SOCIAL VALUE	WEIGHTED PRICE
Safenet	1	83.97	54.00	29.97
Lakem Care	2	66.00	36.00	30.00
Generation Pathway	3	65.96	36.00	29.96
Gpah Resource	4	63.97	34.00	29.97
Bardoc	5	63.96	34.00	29.96
Comprehensive Care	6	59.96	30.00	29.96

- 6.5 Four eligible tender submissions were received for the Core IDVA provision contract.

SUPPLIER	RANK	TOTAL SCORE	WEIGHTED QUALITY & SOCIAL VALUE	WEIGHTED PRICE
Safenet	1	73.30	51.00	22.30
Bardoc	2	69.88	46.00	23.88
Empower Life Supported Living	3	60.00	30.00	30.00
Ede Care	4	39.88	16.00	23.88

- 6.6 This report recommends the approval of awarding the contracts to those bids which ranked the highest demonstrating the most advantageous tenders. Upon approval contract award will take place including details of contract management and monitoring arrangements. Updates on delivery will be included in routine Community Safety Partnership updates to Overview &

Scrutiny Committee, through the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, and Bury Community Safety Partnership.

- 6.7 The awards for both contracts are to the current incumbents. Once the voluntary standstill period (8 working days) from Contract Award Notice publication has passed, the new contracts will be signed. During this period, the existing suppliers will maintain service continuity.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The development and delivery of such commissions is a component of delivering the corporate plan action of implementing the Bury Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028

In the context of the Safe Accommodation Strategy the LETS principles guide the approach – with a targeted focus to ensure that the services that available reflect and are informed by the needs of our local Bury community and anchored into neighbourhood support; the approach will seek to be innovative with an enterprising approach on how best to use resources to provide the best quality Domestic Abuse provision. By working together as agencies and building on lived experiences, provision can be tailored and take a strengths-based approach which builds on what already works well within the Borough, looking to apply learning to different areas of the system and supporting people to break the cycle of abuse.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

The Safe Accommodation Strategy details domestic abuse data subsets by protected characteristics where this data is available. The approach set out in the Strategy is to increase the flexibility of provision in order that different circumstances and experiences can be sought to be supported more. Rather than there being specific accommodation types for particular communities of interest or experience, the focus of the themes identified are on being able to tailor flexible awareness, provision and support across the system and in particular further develop ‘by and for’ approaches, particularly where any barriers to access are identified. Tender returns identified a number of different communities of identity and experience, and combination of existing approaches, and plans for tailored provision to deliver this.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Within the tender returns there was inclusion of climate action consideration in relation to increasing energy efficiency of accommodation provision and encouragement of safe active travel where possible.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Availability of suitable provision	Demand across priority 1 allocations are high, with a limited resource of both funding and accommodation. The blended approach set out seeks to increasingly support homelessness presentations due to DA; to improve triage of any cases across a broader pool of flexible support and associated move on.

Legal Implications:

Provision of support within domestic abuse safe accommodation is contained within Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Financial Implications:

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government provides £160 million annually to cover the cost to local authorities in England of carrying out their statutory duties/functions relating to the provision of support within domestic abuse safe accommodation (which is contained within Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021). For Bury Council the allocation is £521,275. In addition funding for wrap around IDVA provision includes funding contributions from Bury Community Safety Partnership and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (including as conduit from Ministry of Justice).

Appendices:

Appendix A: April 2025 Cabinet Report

Background papers:

None.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAPB	[Bury] Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor