



**Lambeth**

**Supporting People:**  
helping our residents live **independently**



Lambeth Supporting People Service  
**Supporting Victims Of Domestic Violence**



# Domestic Violence



The Lambeth Supporting People (SP) Service helps people live in the community by commissioning housing related support across the borough. Our plans for the type of support we want to provide are described in the Lambeth Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010.

The summary below is taken from the strategy and is about services for women who experience domestic violence. Information about the whole programme is contained in the Executive Summary and detailed information is contained in the full strategy. Both are available on the Lambeth Website or from the Supporting People Service. Contact details are on the back cover.

**If you are experiencing domestic violence and would like help or to talk to someone about it you can call Refuge – a 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline – on Freephone 0808 2000 247.**

## Types of Services

Refuges provide emergency accommodation for women escaping domestic violence and are “designated” cross-authority services for Supporting People funding and Service Review purposes. This means that they are open to non-Lambeth residents.

There are eight refuge services for women escaping domestic violence in Lambeth. One is a generic refuge service, with the other seven providing culturally specific services for Irish, African and African-Caribbean, and Asian women. The average length of stay for the refuges is 6-12 months. Lambeth has one floating support service and one service providing second stage accommodation for Asian women.

Currently, there is no joint commissioning of SP services for domestic violence.

## People who use the services

Client Records show that 22% of service users are Lambeth residents, with the majority of women being referred to Lambeth services from out of the borough. This compares to a London average of 35% residents accessing services within their own borough.

The current practice in Lambeth is to place women escaping domestic violence out of borough. The profile of service users reflects the culturally specialist refuge provision in Lambeth, with higher numbers of White Irish, Black Caribbean and Black African women.

**Chart 1 demonstrates the current position of domestic violence services:**

| SP services 2004/05                   | Women escaping domestic violence                               |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Total spend                           | £919,211   |
| Percentage of total SP spend          | 4.1%   |
| Number of people supported            | 86   |
| Percentage of total SP clients        | 1.6%   |
| Percentage of people local to Lambeth | 22%  |
| Commissioning partners                | -  |
| Consultation forums                   | Domestic Violence Forum<br>Domestic Violence Partnership Board |

## Needs of this group

The impact of domestic violence on the health, and the social and economic well-being of women and children is far-reaching. Some women may want support before they leave the home or in order to eject the perpetrator from their home. In many cases leaving the home can be the only way to end the violence. Moving from a refuge to independent accommodation is also a time when support is often needed.

## Domestic violence across SP client groups

In consultations for the Strategy domestic violence was identified as an issue across many SP client groups, including young people, teenage parents, single homeless people and rough sleepers.

## Gaps in Services

Single women involved in prostitution escaping violent partners or pimps have been identified as a specific group with high support needs, and specialist services are needed for this group.

The lack of access to move on accommodation has been consistently identified in consultations, and as a particularly acute issue for single women. Currently, there is limited resettlement support available for women once they have moved from a refuge service to Council temporary accommodation or other housing. Similarly there is limited support available for women wanting to remain in their home.

Services are required for Refugees and those with no recourse to public funds.

**Lambeth is currently establishing a One Stop Shop for people fleeing domestic violence. The Shop will link with housing and support needs assessment.**

Service Reviews will take place from July to September 2005. Anecdotal information has highlighted that levels of support needed by women escaping domestic violence are increasing, and that local services do not have the resources to respond to higher support needs.

As part of the review process, Lambeth SP will work with the Domestic Violence Partnership Board to review levels of support needed by women living in Lambeth refuges. This will provide evidence to plan and commission services that meet identified need. Lambeth SP will also identify models of good practice, for example the Harrow Sanctuary Project, to inform future commissioning.

## Consultation and research

Consultation with stakeholders and local research has highlighted the increasing number of women escaping domestic violence and with high and multiple support needs, particularly mental health and substance misuse. This is supported by Matrix Research (2004) which identified increasing demand from women with specialist needs in London, including women with drug and alcohol problems and women with mental health needs.

Lambeth Housing has recently undertaken focus groups with women escaping domestic violence to inform its work.

## Our vision for 2010

Tackling domestic violence is recognised as a corporate priority by Lambeth Council and Lambeth SP has a clear role in providing services to support women escaping domestic violence.

Over the next five years we will develop a wider choice of services available to women escaping domestic violence, including services that can support women to continue living in their own home, and resettlement services to support women to move to independent accommodation in the community. A mix of generic and specialist services will be provided.

We will work with the ALG and other London authorities to improve the data and development of services, and to ensure a co-coordinated cross-authority approach.



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The following sections of the Lambeth Supporting People Strategy are available: Executive Summary, Young People & Homeless Families, Domestic Violence, Vulnerable Adults, Mental Health, Older People, People with Disabilities and Socially Excluded Groups.

If you would like more information or have any comments or suggestions about the Lambeth Supporting People Strategy or any Supporting People Service, please contact:

Lambeth Supporting People Service,  
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Email: [supportingpeople@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:supportingpeople@lambeth.gov.uk)

[www.lambeth.gov.uk/supportingpeople](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/supportingpeople)  
[www.spkweb.org.uk](http://www.spkweb.org.uk)

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If you would like this information in large print, braille, audio tape or another language please call 020 7926 7520.

#### Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al **020 7926 7520**

#### Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutro idioma é favor telefonar para **020 7926 7520**

#### French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au **020 7926 7520**

#### Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার সহোজল হলে অনুগ্রহ করে কোন কলম **020 7926 7520**

#### Twi

Se woƆe saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa fofoɔ mu a fre **020 7926 7520**

#### Yoruba

Ti e ba fe imoran yii, ni ede Omiran, ejo, e kan wa l'agogo **020 7926 7520**