



Sent by email:

Lord Lucas

LUCASR@Parliament.uk

11 February 2021

Dear Ralph,

Domestic Abuse Bill: Support provided by local authorities to victims of domestic abuse

During the debate on Monday 1 February on Lord Rosser's amendment 89 to clause 55, I made a commitment to write to you with details on further information that the Government anticipates will be collected by local authorities as they develop the needs assessment and strategy required in Part 4 of the Bill.

MHCLG has recently published draft statutory guidance on Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Bill, the guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-overarching-documents>.

The Guidance is clear on the requirements Tier One authorities must meet in preparing and publishing a local strategy based on a robust needs assessment (see section B2).

To support Tier One authorities in completing their needs assessment the Government will provide a standardised form. The needs assessment form will set out a range of data local authorities will be encouraged to consider as they develop their strategies, including demographics (including gender and protected characteristics), local provision, demand on services, the barriers faced by some in accessing support and specialist support services.

The guidance encourages Tier One authorities to publish their evaluation and monitoring approaches and outcomes. They will also be required to report back to Government annually on their local delivery - MHCLG will use the data provided by local authorities to monitor the progress of delivery of this new duty. The Government has also committed to establish a Ministerial-led National Expert Steering Group to monitor the delivery of the new duty, advise MHCLG on changes needed to guidance and, publish annual reports summarising progress across the country. The Group will include representatives from local government, Police and Crime Commissioners, health bodies, specialist domestic

abuse service providers and housing associations. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner will also be a member. Under Part 2 of the Bill, the Commissioner will have the power to make formal recommendations to local authorities, who will be under a duty to cooperate, and to respond to her recommendations.

I hope this reassures you that local authority strategies will be evidence based and, driven by data from needs assessments.

I am copying this letter to Lord Rosser, Lord Woolley of Woodford, Lord Young of Cookham, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe, Baroness Uddin, Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Baroness Butler-Sloss and Baroness Burt of Solihull; I am also placing a copy in the library of the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan', written in a cursive style.

Baroness Williams of Trafford