



## Service mapping and funding streams across Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire

### **Who are EMPOWER?**

EMPOWER is a network of stakeholders delivering services in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Northamptonshire. This includes statutory bodies including police, crown prosecution service (CPS), local government, as well as third sector organisations that support survivors and perpetrators of VAWG. EMPOWER is a 9-month project (concluding July 2023) identifying issues and co-producing projects to uncover and explore problems and potential solutions to VAWG. Next steps from these mini-projects will seek to ensure the sustainability of the network and undertake co-designed and co-produced research to develop effective solutions to VAWG-related issues.

### **What key issues have been identified in this project so far?**

Five key issues were prioritised by stakeholders at the beginning of the project. These are:

1. Accessing and engaging in the criminal justice system
2. Multi-agency/Multi-systems
3. Education (Intervention and training)
4. What works (using best-practice/evidence-based working)
5. Culture in the criminal justice system

Each of these issues was explored via a workshop, which led to the identification of mini-projects designed to further explore the issue. This briefing summarises the Service mapping and funding streams project, developed from workshop 1: Accessing and engaging in the criminal justice system.

### **What were the key aims of this project?**

1. Map service delivery within EMPOWER organisations including services provided, forms of VAWG addressed, and client service criteria.
2. Determine the nature of funding for EMPOWER organisations including funding streams (identifying those that are VAWG specific), stability of funding, and commissioning processes.

### **What did we do for this project?**

We gathered 18 responses from the EMPOWER network and related organisations regarding their organisation, services provided and funding streams related to those services.

### **What did we find?**

Of the 18 responses, 8 delivered services across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, 7 across Leicester and Leicestershire, and 3 across Northampton and Northamptonshire. All organisations delivered services that supported survivors who have experienced or are experiencing violence. Five organisations provided services to individuals who have perpetrated or are perpetrating violence, and a further 4 provided services to families and individuals who are not directly experiencing or perpetrating violence but are impacted.

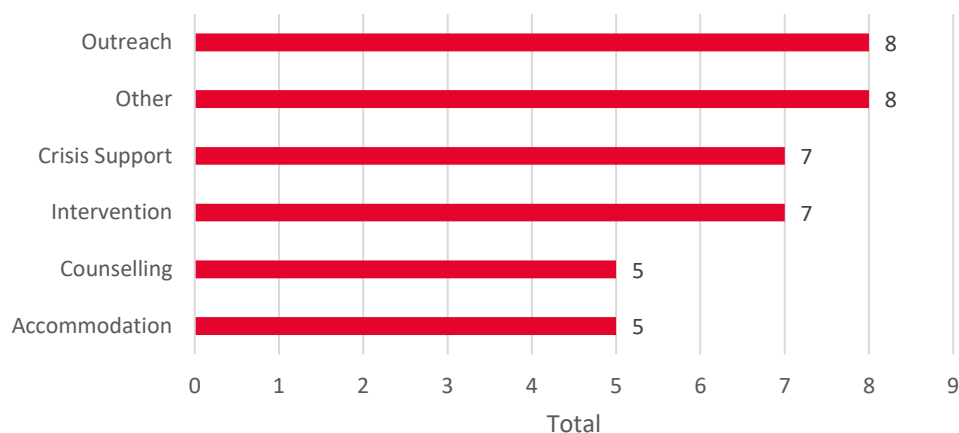
Of the 18 responses, 56% provided tailored or specialist services for specific communities including:

- Multi-cultural and male refugees.
- Black and minoritised clients.

- LGBTQ+ clients.
- Sex workers.
- Women in contact with the criminal justice system.
- Disabled clients (e.g., survivors who are hard of hearing).
- Non-English speaking survivors.

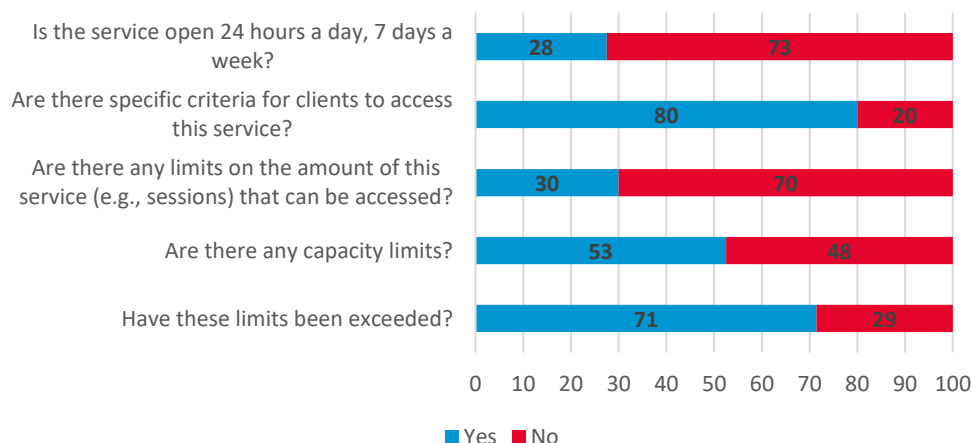
Regarding service delivery, organisations reported 40 different services across the East Midlands. Figure one reports the range of sources the different organisations reported. Eight services reported offering *other* services, which included: (1) an Advice Line, (2) Partner Support, (3) Forensic Medical, (4) Specialist Criminal Justice IDVA, (5) Well-being and Post-Separation abuse support, (6) a General Women’s Centre, (7) Ongoing Support and (8) Crisis and Intervention for those involved with the Criminal Justice System.

**Figure 1: Distribution of Services Offered**



We asked specific questions for each service (see below). Figure 2 shows the proportion of responses to each of these questions.

**Figure 2: Proportion (%) of Individual Variation in Services**



*Note.* The proportion of responses to whether capacity was exceeded only included the organisations that indicated they had capacity restrictions.

- **Opening hours:** most organisations reported not operating 24 hours/7 days a week, with the majority providing a weekday service, with typical operating hours ranging between 8 am and 11 pm.
- **Criteria for access:** most organisations reported having criteria for accessing the service, with multiple criteria (see Table 1 for the themed criteria). Most services had restrictions on the age of clients accessing the service, varying between only accepting adults and some accepting young people. Most services were tailored toward women (especially adult women), with only two tailored toward men (aged 13+). Organisations reported restricting access to their service depending on the geographical area; only clients within some regions of the East Midlands could access particular services. Certain services also reported being tailored toward specific minoritised groups, such as LGBTQ+ people and black and minoritised women.
- **Limits on access:** one-third of services ( $n = 12$ ) reported limitations concerning service access. Limitations included: (i) timing, such as limiting service access to a maximum of 12 months (mainly for Counselling services); (ii) space, such as the number of clients that can access at once; and (iii) the number of sessions clients could complete.
- **Capacity limits:** over half ( $n = 21$ ) of the services reported capacity limits. All services providing accommodation ( $n = 5$ ) and one Intervention service reported space capacity limitations (e.g., the number of beds and the number per intervention group). Eight services reported limitations caused by the service's caseload. Two reported staffing constraints (Intervention service and an Advice Line), and one reported limitations due to funding restrictions (Crisis Support).
- **Consequences of exceeding capacity:** Of the 21 services that reported capacity limits, nearly three-quarters (71%) indicated that these limits had been exceeded. Exceeding these limits resulted in halted service delivery, long waiting times, and increased stress on staff.

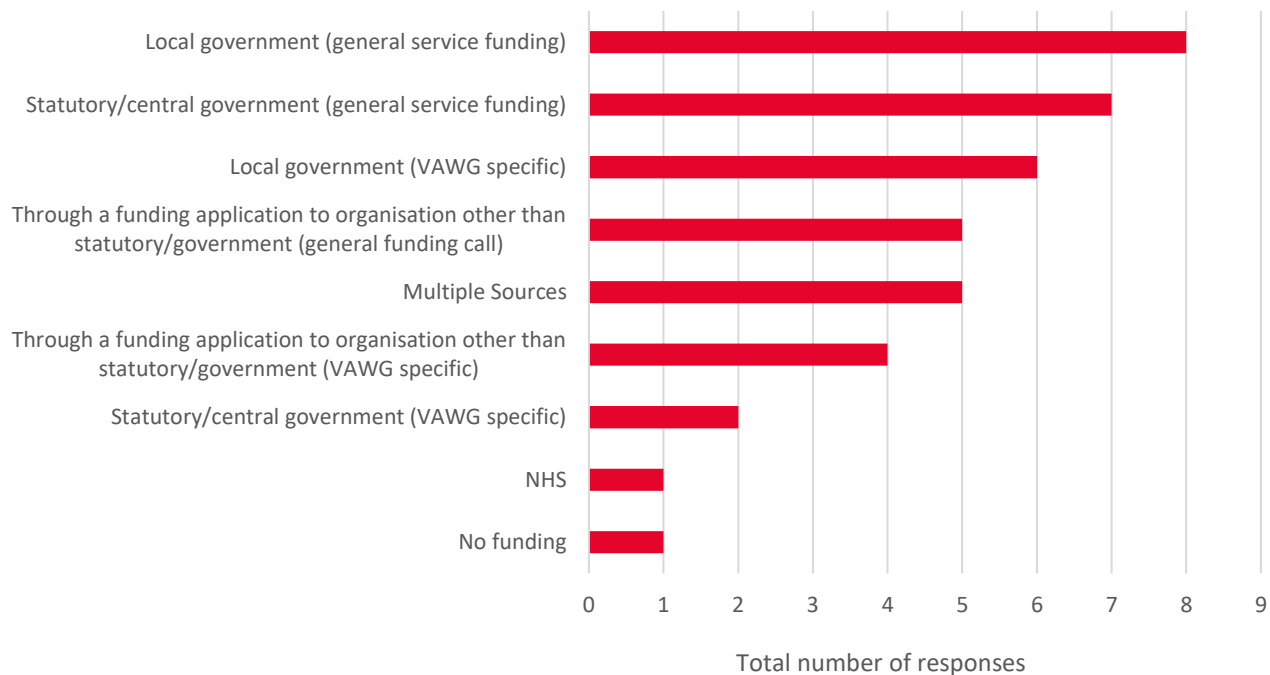
**Table 1**

*Summary of the Criteria for Access*

Criteria for Access	Frequency
Age	19
Gender	17
Geographical Area	11
Domestic Abuse Survivor	7
Other	4
Sex workers	3
Minoritised Groups	2
In contact with the police	2
Sexual Abuse Survivor	2

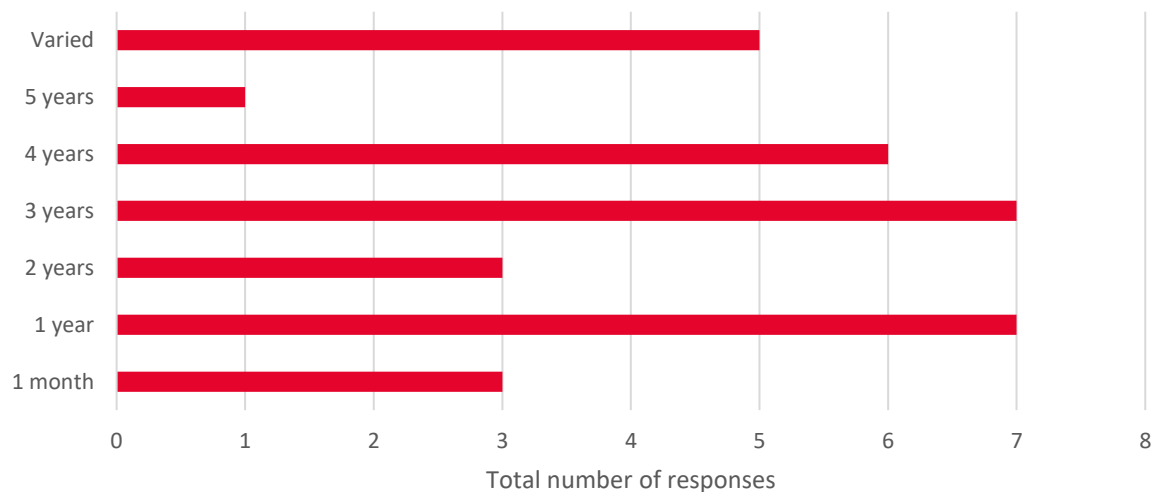
To examine the second aim of this mini-project, Figure 3 summarises the funding streams for the services where this information was provided ( $n = 39$ ). Services predominantly reported receiving general funding from local and statutory government sources. However, nearly a third ( $n = 12$ ) of services reported receiving funding from VAWG-specific sources (spread across all types of services). This included funding from local and statutory government sources and other VAWG-specific sources.

**Figure 3: Service Funding Sources**



Funding duration is shown in Figure 4, with nearly a third of services ( $n = 10$ ) reporting receiving funding for a year or less. Nearly two-thirds ( $n = 20$ ) were funded for three years or less. There was no clear link between receiving VAWG-specific funding and funding duration.

**Figure 4: Duration of Funding Sources**



**What does this mean?**

- Potentially reflective of the scope/limitations of funding, there are gaps in service delivery evident within our brief map of the service landscape. For instance, the availability of services for



specific communities (e.g., with just over half of the organisations offering specialised/tailored provision), have restricted service delivery hours (e.g., weekdays only), and have capacity limitations (e.g., due to caseload). The consequences of which impact both survivors and staff.

- The funding landscape remains unstable, with most services funded for less than three years. Funding from VAWG-specific sources remains somewhat scarce, particularly at central government levels.

**Thanks to all of our EMPOWER partners who contributed to this work.**

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You can find out more about the EMPOWER project here: <https://le.ac.uk/criminology/research/empower>

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