

Sexual & Domestic Violence Service User Scrutiny and Reference Group

Role Profile and Frequently Asked Questions

Purpose of the group

The Council is encouraging anyone who has used any of the commissioned domestic/sexual violence support services (either directly or as a friend/family member), to become involved in this group.

The group is there to improve local services and the response people affected by sexual and domestic violence receive.

What will I be expected to do?

The group will aim to meet quarterly, but may meet more often if necessary. Members will be expected to read meeting papers, prepare for meetings and participate. That participation can be through attending meetings and by telephone and email contributions.

Individual group members will commit to:

- Equality and be mindful of the barriers, and uniqueness of experience of individuals and groups
- Take responsibility for their own personal safety and needs in the group
- Inform council facilitators if they become uncomfortable or no longer wish to participate in the group
- Be fair and constructive in any comments about service providers
- Be conscious of different experiences, learning and communication styles
- Respect the views of others and their right to contribute their thoughts and feelings
- Not communicate any confidential information learned as part of the group outside of the audience it was originally intended for
- Respect the confidentiality of any personal information disclosed.
- Be non-discriminatory and challenge discrimination against anyone, regardless of age, colour, disability, ethnic/national origin, gender, marital status, race, religion/belief or sexuality

What experience, skills or abilities do I need?

Aside from having accessed one of the support services, no formal experience/qualifications are needed.

If you have:

- The ability to communicate clearly (with support if need be);
- The ability to be objective, impartial, fair and
- Experience of help seeking around DV or SV (e.g. Support Services, Police, Housing)

Expenses

Reasonable expenses arising from attending group meetings will be met. The group has an expenses policy which can be provided on request for information purposes.

Support

Support will be provided by the Contract Monitoring Officer (CMO) for other issues such as claiming expenses and preparing for meetings. The council is also committed to providing opportunities for learning & development in line with the terms of reference for the group.

If you are currently receiving support from one of the commissioned services, we will discuss this with you in our initial meeting. If you wish to raise any issues or concerns about the support you are receiving, we will need to obtain full details and the appropriate consent if you wish us to take this up on your behalf.

Next Steps

Complete the short enquiry form and return to:

sharon.bryan@leicester.gov.uk or post to:

Community Safety Team

Phoenix House

1 King Street

Leicester

LE1 6RN

Potential members will meet individually with the CMO from the city council before joining the group. This will be to collect in some basic contact and safety information, to talk through the role in more detail and to answer any questions you may have.

Membership is subject to approval from the Domestic Violence Coordinator and Contract Monitoring Officer and you will be notified of this within 2 weeks of your individual meeting. There is an option to appeal to the group, if you are not satisfied with the outcome of your application.