

# SPOTLIGHT ON DOMESTIC ABUSE



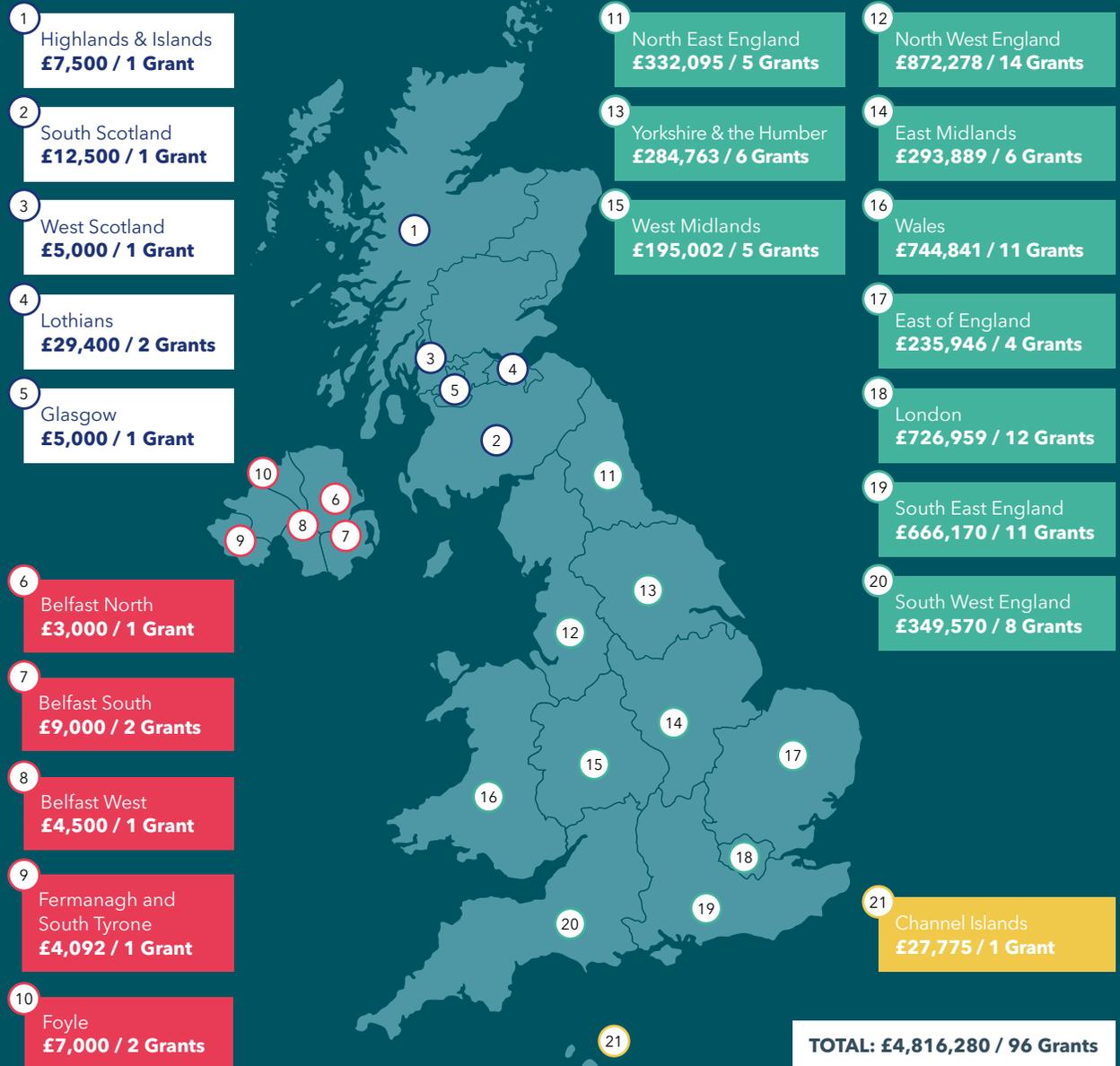
In 2017, Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales, Bank of Scotland Foundation, Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland and Lloyds Bank Foundation for the Channel Islands (“the Foundations”) received £20.7 million from Lloyds Banking Group as part of the Group’s commitment to Helping Britain Prosper. The Foundations donated these funds to charities across the UK through Grants Programmes and a Matched Giving Programme for Lloyds Banking Group employees.

**Spotlight on Domestic Abuse** is the second in a series of ‘Spotlights’ highlighting some of the key issues supported by the Foundations. In 2017, across the UK, the Foundations were funding charities who help support victims of domestic abuse with over £4.8m.

## GRANTS

Domestic abuse can affect anyone regardless of gender, social, cultural or religious background and includes physical, psychological/emotional, sexual and financial abuse. The effects of domestic abuse cause immense distress and are at the root of a range of problems including: mental and physical ill health, substance and alcohol misuse, homelessness, loss of employment, isolation, poverty and debt.

During 2017, through their grants programmes, the Foundations supported 96 domestic abuse charities and projects across the United Kingdom, helping to support thousands of victims and survivors of violence.





Dave Moore and Louise Tyne

**Behind Closed Doors supports people in Leeds whose lives are or have been affected by domestic abuse. The charity equips women to exit harmful situations, enables them to take preventative steps, and provides support to aid recovery from recent or historic experiences, enabling them to move on with their lives.**

A three-year grant of £73,767 from Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales supported the charity with their core costs, contributing to the salaries of their Operational Director and their Monitoring and Finance Coordinator.

Louise Tyne, Operational Director, said core funding was much needed, commenting: "In the last few years we've experienced a huge rise in demand for services. All our staff are over capacity and last year we had to temporarily close our waiting list, to prioritise those already referred into the service."

Behind Closed Doors has also made the most of the development support offered by the Foundation

alongside their grant. This has included consultancy to strengthen their governance and business planning, and the charity has also been working with a Lloyds Banking Group Charity Mentor, Dave Moore, Relationship Director for Lloyds Banking Group. Dave supported the charity through a range of challenges and is now co-chair of the charity's Board of Trustees.

Louise added, "Dave is dynamic and energetic, and he's motivated the board to become more proactive. He's encouraged a business-like approach, where we can more easily consider the long-term future, setting clear goals and a strategy for achieving them, and he's supported the board to become more strategic in their governance role. It's been great having his support."

**Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre (SBRCC), is a Borders wide service and offers free and confidential emotional and practical support, information and advocacy to female survivors, aged 12+, who have experienced rape or sexual violence at any time in their life. Often survivors who access SBRCC have experienced domestic abuse and intimate partner sexual violence. Formed in 2010, the charity provides a safe, non-threatening environment where women and girls can talk freely and in confidence.**

They were awarded £12,500 for the cost of a part-time support worker to deliver support to ten survivors per week, providing 12 sessions of support over the course of a year. The one-to-one support provided aims to improve survivors daily functioning and well-being, focusing on impacts such as anxiety, flashbacks, intrusive thoughts, self-blame, shame and anger. The charity aims to support survivors to reduce the adverse impact of sexual violence and reclaim control of their lives.

Susie Stein, Service Manager at Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre said, "Anyone who has experienced sexual violence, needs to be listened to, believed and have access to support. The funding we received from Bank of Scotland Foundation has given us the capacity and resources to enable us to provide outreach support to survivors in their local community and as a result of this improved access, we can support more survivors and reduce waiting times."





Donna-Maria Logue

**La Dolce Vita Project is a charity based in Derry/Londonderry with a remit to support victims of domestic abuse across Northern Ireland, regardless of gender. Founded by Donna-Maria Logue in 2016 originally as a Facebook group, the charity has grown its services over the last few years and now provides one-to-one therapeutic counselling, online and telephone support, assistance to those going through the judicial process and training and advocacy work on domestic abuse.**

The charity received £4,500 of funding from Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland in 2017 to deliver the 'Free to Be Me' project, which supported their counselling service and the facilitation of support groups. This helped address the mental health needs of the people using these services and increase knowledge and awareness on the abuse issues faced.

Donna-Maria, Founder and Coordinator at La Dolce Vita Project, commented: "The funding we received from Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland has given La Dolce Vita Project a lifeline opportunity to empower, support, change and save the lives of those impacted by domestic abuse and sexual violence."

**Located in Guernsey, Safer supports and provides counselling services to all victims of domestic abuse whether they are adults, children, male or female, to help them move forward positively. The charity runs the island's Women's Refuge and also provides outreach to the community.**

In 2017 they were awarded a grant of £27,775 from Lloyds Bank Foundation for the Channel Islands for the salary of their Refuge Worker.

Safer is seeking to enable all islanders to enjoy a life free of domestic abuse, coercion and harm. Everyone should feel safe in their own homes and should be able to live lives free of abuse. The principal activities include: the provision of a 'safe house' under the umbrella of the Guernsey Women's Refuge, outreach, counselling irrespective of gender, and advisory

services to victims of domestic abuse, as well as a campaign of prevention through increasing public awareness of the issue and an education programme.

Dr Maggie Costen MBE, Chair of Safer, said: "The grant has enabled Safer to maintain current staffing levels for Refuge support workers, meaning people who have been the victims of domestic abuse and who need our help can be supported both in the Refuge and in the community. Without the grant additional income would need to be raised to maintain the levels of staffing."





## INVESTING IN INFLUENCING POLICY AND PRACTICE

**In addition to the four Foundation's investment in small and local domestic abuse charities, since 2015 over £4m has been invested by the England and Wales Foundation through its national domestic abuse programme to help the sector develop and improve. This has included supporting specialist services to be more successful in a tough commissioning environment and driving up commissioning standards with the development of a commissioning toolkit which the Home Office then adapted and issued themselves as official guidance to commissioners.**

The England and Wales Foundation is also the main independent funder of Drive, a new approach to working with serious domestic abuse offenders. Piloting in Essex, South Wales and West Sussex, Drive focuses on tackling domestic abuse at source by changing perpetrator behaviour.

As part of seeking to change policy and practice locally, regionally and nationally the England and Wales Foundation is also supporting an additional 16 projects that work to improve the responses to domestic abuse for specific groups such as people with a learning disability, the LGBT community, male victims and migrant women.



## WORKING WITH LLOYDS BANKING GROUP

**Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales has been working closely with Lloyds Banking Group around their response to domestic abuse for colleagues and customers. Built upon the experience of the specialist domestic abuse services it funds, the Foundation has been able to share expertise to inform the bank's approach and act as a critical friend at each stage throughout the process.**

Through the Foundation, the Group has been able to meet with specialist domestic abuse charities to understand the support that people need and where challenges can arise in accessing financial services. The Group has

also been able to test its approach with these charities to understand their value.

As a result of this partnership working the Foundation has joined the Expert Panel informing the new UK Finance Code on Financial Abuse, representing the experiences of small and local charities to influence activity across the banking industry.

The Foundation's ongoing work with Lloyds Banking Group around domestic abuse is a great example of how the Group and the four Foundations can work together on shared aims, bringing together their expertise to tackle critical issues.



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