

The Safety by Experience Project:

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence are pleased to be working in partnership with St Mungo's on the Safety by Experience Project, which is funded by Homeless Link's Ending Women's Homelessness Fund. Standing Together have been leading on the coordinated community response to domestic abuse in West London for over 20 years. St Mungo's are a leading homelessness charity that provide a range of services for people experiencing homelessness in London and across the South East.

Safety by Experience was born out of a clear gap in provision and support for women experiencing homelessness, violence and abuse and other forms of multiple disadvantage. Research has shown that homelessness services often lack the specialist skills and knowledge to support this group of women, and that these women also face barriers to accessing specialist support from women's sector providers. This issue had been reflected upon in various meetings and forums attended by Standing Together and St Mungo's staff in London, where questions have been raised around how safety planning and risk assessment might need to look different for this group of women? And how much do we know about what this group of women are already doing to stay safe?

Safety by Experience sets out to address these key issues and questions. Our vision is to find out more about the experiences of women living in homelessness services whose lives have been impacted by violence and abuse, create guidance and resources that can be used across sectors, and ultimately ensure that women feel safer and better supported.

We will do this by consulting with staff and clients in St Mungo's services, and build on existing VAWG tools and resources to create practical guidance around risk assessment and safety planning tailored for women living in homelessness services, and those who are sleeping rough. This guidance will then be piloted in specific St Mungo's teams, and specialist support and training around VAWG will be provided.

The Safety by Experience projects aims to:

- Provide the homelessness sector and specialist women's sector with guidance on VAWG risk assessment and safety planning in homelessness settings
- Ensure that survivors of VAWG accessing St Mungo's services are (and report feeling) safer and better supported.
- Make sure that St Mungo's staff are better equipped to recognise and respond to VAWG.

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**STANDING
together**
against domestic violence

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