



# 20 Questions for Commissioners of Services for Women Experiencing and Escaping Violence<sup>1</sup>

## About the process

- 1 How have the commissioning process and documents been informed by an understanding of local need and the existing specialist knowledge and skills in the locality developed to meet that need?
- 2 Which frontline specialists in violence against women are you consulting during the commissioning process to identify local needs and the range of current provision?
- 3 Which other commissioning bodies are you consulting during the commissioning process to know what other services are likely to be available?
- 4 What research has informed your understanding of the needs of different groups of survivors and the evidence base for different interventions?
- 5 What do service users from marginalised or socially excluded groups say about how best to meet their needs?
- 6 What is your price – v – quality ratio?
- 7 What help will you give to tenderers to ensure a level playing field, particularly for smaller specialist providers, including those led by marginalised groups? Are you allocating specific provision for BME women and girls in line with your locality demographics?
- 8 What support are you providing for the development of partnerships, alliances or consortia to preserve diversity, expertise and specialisms?
- 9 What will be the lead-in time for the successful bidder to begin to achieve the results sought?
- 10 What are the objectives for the service and how does the commissioning model used (competitive tendering, grant-making, other) specifically support achievement of these objectives?
- 11 Have the long-term cost implications of any reductions in funding been considered?

<sup>1</sup> This list is an amended version of that first produced by Anthony Wills of Standing Together for the APPG on Domestic and Sexual Violence on 9th September 2013.



## About the services

- 12** Are the organisations who are bidding for the contract active<sup>2</sup> members of their national professional, specialist violence against women bodies, e.g. Women's Aid, Imkaan and Rape Crisis England and Wales? Does your commissioning area contain an existing BME service?
- 13** What evidenced track record do organisations bidding for the contract have of meeting the specific holistic needs of service users in the locality?
- 14** What feedback is available from service users who are survivors of violence about the organisations bidding?
- 15** Is the primary purpose of the bidding organisation to address violence against women and girls?
- 16** What evidenced track record do the organisations bidding have of enabling survivors from more marginalised, less visible/heard or poorly served communities to access their services?

## About the impact of tendering

- 17** What impact might the tender have on local partnerships and working relationships?
- 18** How will existing agencies relate to each other after your decision?
- 19** How will you measure success and review your decision?
- 20** Will the planned contract period allow services adequate time to plan and develop?

<sup>2</sup> Able to demonstrate adherence to the core principles of their national professional organisation and engaged in on-going practice development.