



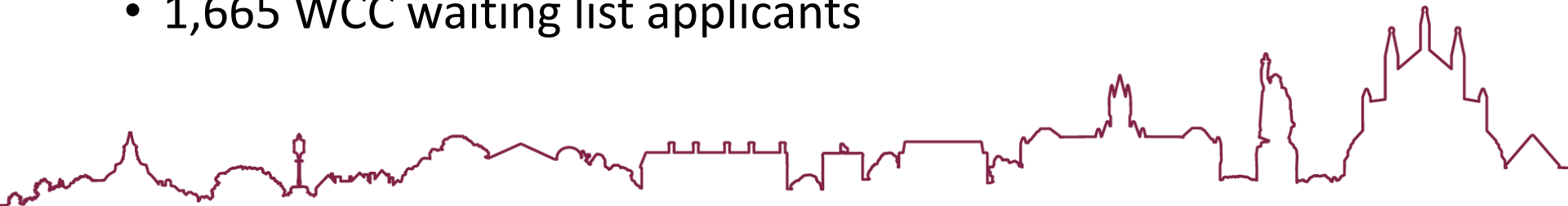
Winchester
City Council

DOMESTIC ABUSE: WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



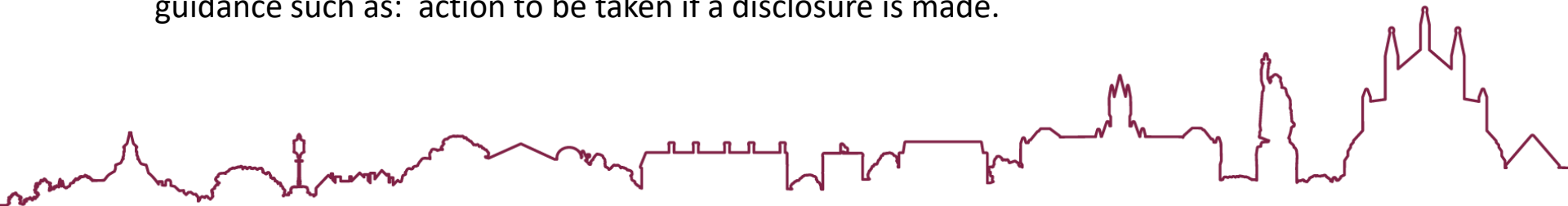
LOCAL CONTEXT IN WINCHESTER

- The population of the district is around 122,000 (50,000 households)
- The district contains both urban and rural areas and housing costs are high.
- Two tier authority area with Hampshire County Council the main commissioner of services
- Stock holding LA with approximately 6,024 properties
- Sub Regional Housing Register with 4 LA partners
- 1,665 WCC waiting list applicants



THE HOUSING OPTIONS SERVICE OFFER

- A designated domestic abuse lead who co-ordinates engagement with services for victims of domestic abuse
- Regularly meeting local refuge staff to ensure the local pathway & protocol is relevant and achievable
- Offering a triage service on site when required
- Attendance at MARAC and the Domestic Abuse forum to ensure consistent service delivery
- All Council staff receive regular e-learning DA and safeguarding training. Raising awareness and supporting staff to understand their role and the support available
- Staff are supported by the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership who provide clear guidance such as: action to be taken if a disclosure is made.



HOUSING OPTIONS DOMESTIC ABUSE TOOLKIT

- Sanctuary scheme
- Referral to an IDASH (Integrated Domestic Abuse Service)
- Legal protection to remain in the home (signposting to services who can support with this)
- Refuge referral
- Rent deposit scheme, or City Lets Scheme
- BCHA properties



TOOLKIT CONTINUED

- Hampshire wide service provision
- Social housing register application (longer term option)
- Interim accommodation provided by the Local Authority
- Friends and family (as a familiar environment for a short term measure)
- 'Trinity Freedom' local commissioned voluntary sector partner



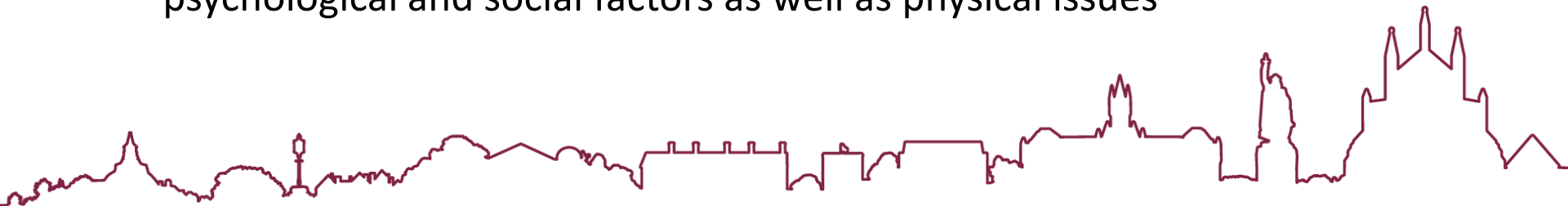
SERVICES AVAILABLE IN WINCHESTER

- Domestic Abuse Forum
- MARAC
- The Freedom Programme
- Multi Agency Working



SOCIAL HOUSING

- In November 2017 the DCLG launched a consultation on new statutory guidance to improve how those in refuge access social housing
- As a sub regional group we reviewed our Allocations Framework and identified we were compliant
- LC criteria for those fleeing domestic violence and whereby a Part VII duty is owed
- Band 1-Urgent priority awarded for serious MARAC cases, cases involving MAPPA and for witness protection
- Health and Welfare priority banding criteria taking account of psychological and social factors as well as physical issues



PARTNERSHIP WITH BOURNEMOUTH CHURCHES HOUSING ASSOCIATION

BCHA purchased 2 properties to support victims of domestic abuse and offered WCC full nomination rights

The nomination agreement was a joint piece of work between the 2 organisations to ensure that strategic objectives were met on both sides

- Move on accommodation from the local refuge
- Alternative offer for those with older male family members, those wishing to work or explore training opportunities

The Housing options team ensure all relevant tenancy/DA outreach support is put in place with BCHA providing all tenancy management functions

OUTCOMES OF THIS SERVICE

- Support a wider offer, extending the housing options toolkit for those fleeing domestic abuse
- Reduce the number of applicants accessing inappropriate temporary accommodation
- Ensure that tenants are appropriately supported to positively move on from their experiences.
- Offering a minimum 12 month AST , with tenancy support
- Reduce the reliance on social housing offers
- Further positive new build discussions with BCHA to provide additional local housing provision to support our Homelessness Reduction Act duties and bespoke housing offers



HAMPSHIRE MAKING SAFE SCHEME: FUNDING FOR SPECIALIST ACCOMMODATION BASED SUPPORT AND SERVICE REFORM TO MEET THE PRIORITIES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

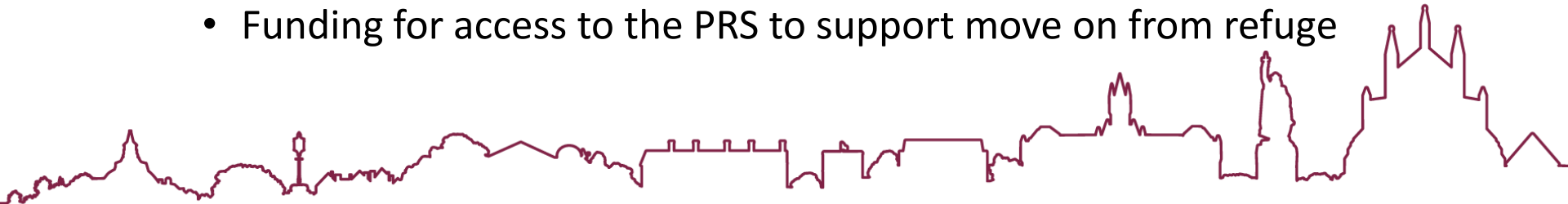
The bid was supported by Police, Public Health, Hampshire Domestic Abuse Forum and various providers of DA services across Hampshire

£905,000 funding was provided across the 11 Local Authorities for 2 years. This money was used for:

- Target hardening/outreach workers (Sanctuary plus scheme)
- Project Coordinator
- Perpetrator programme- to support already in place services which were due to come to an end (match funded by the County)
- PSL Scheme- Funding to incentivise landlords to increase supply of PSL properties, as move on
- Market purchase provision- 47 units of community based accommodation dispersed across Hampshire to provide move on from refuge or more flexible housing options for difficult to place families

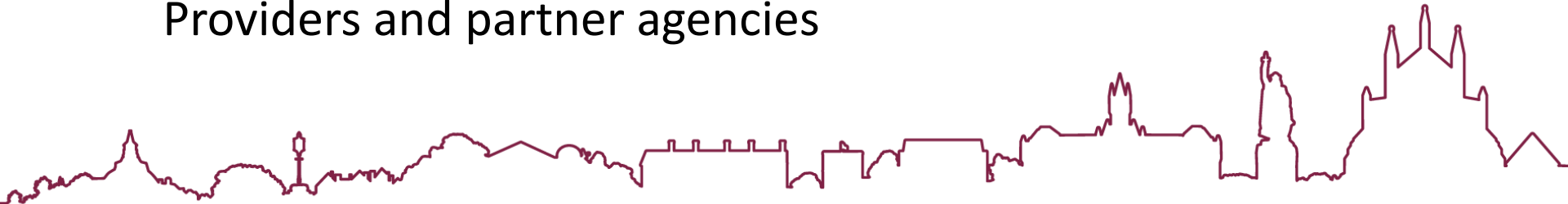
FURTHER FUNDING

- Positive outcomes and commitment from all 11 boroughs
- Signed support from Chief Executives and the Chief of Police
- Second bid for funding was approved in December 2016
- This funding focused on:
 - Target hardening with 3 workers attached (Sanctuary plus scheme)
 - Personalisation funding & dedicated support for those clients with particular complex needs (focus of DCLG bid requirements-reaching excluded communities)
 - Funding for access to the PRS to support move on from refuge



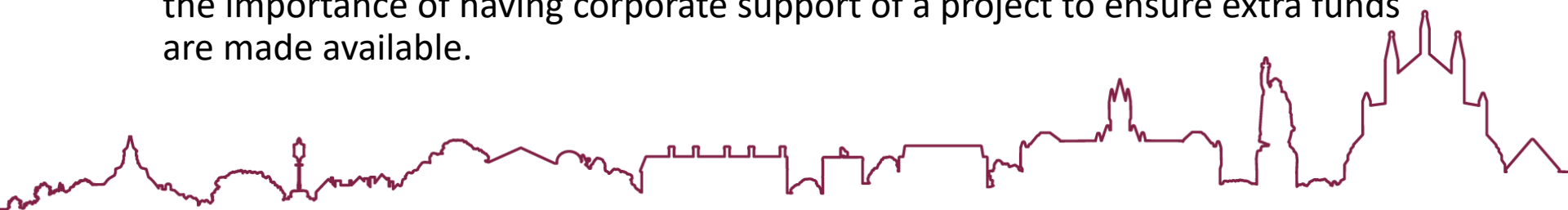
POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- 11 new social housing units for victims of domestic abuse, 1 in each borough. Bought on the market place by an RP
- 30 private rented sector homes and funding for landlord incentives across the boroughs
- Delivery of security measures to nearly 400 households across all of the 11 districts preventing a significant number entering refuges or approaching as homeless
- Training and increased awareness of provision for our homelessness teams and increased joint working with Providers and partner agencies



GOING FORWARD

- Working in partnership across the LA areas, with the County Council and accommodation providers the project has been extended for a further year at which point DA contracts will be re-tendered.
- New contracts will include a requirement for target hardening/ sanctuary provision.
- Small contributions from the LA's from homelessness grant budget and match funding from the accommodation providers and public health
- The project continues to be successful in preventing homelessness, providing a broader range of housing options for those experiencing domestic abuse
- Focus on staying safe in the home & avoiding the need for refuge – achieved through mix of DA outreach and man & van providing physical security measures
- The project is a fantastic example of mutual benefit of partnership working and the importance of having corporate support of a project to ensure extra funds are made available.



HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT

- The Homelessness Reduction Act requires local authorities to design advice and information services to meet the needs of those experiencing domestic abuse
- Authorities are encouraged to establish arrangements with partners that go beyond the duty to refer
- Regular briefings to partner agencies in respect of the new HRA legislation
- Straightforward referral process into the service via the website and generic email address & triage service



CHALLENGES FACED AND HOW WE WILL OVERCOME THEM

- **Welfare Reform** - Universal Credit to be rolled out locally in July. Working closely with our landlord services and other accommodation providers through various forums, eviction protocols, to support tenancy sustainment opportunities
- **The future of funding for supported housing & other commissioned services.** Working closely with HCC and HB officers to influence outcomes
- **Commissioning local homelessness services.** Cabinet report to local members in July to consider future in house local commissioning opportunities



QUESTIONS?



GROUP DISCUSSIONS

In small groups please discuss the following questions for 15-20 minutes to then feedback to the wider group:

- What is your LA doing in this area of work?
- What do you see as the biggest challenges you need to overcome?
- How do you plan to overcome these challenges?
- What support or guidance would help you to do this?

