



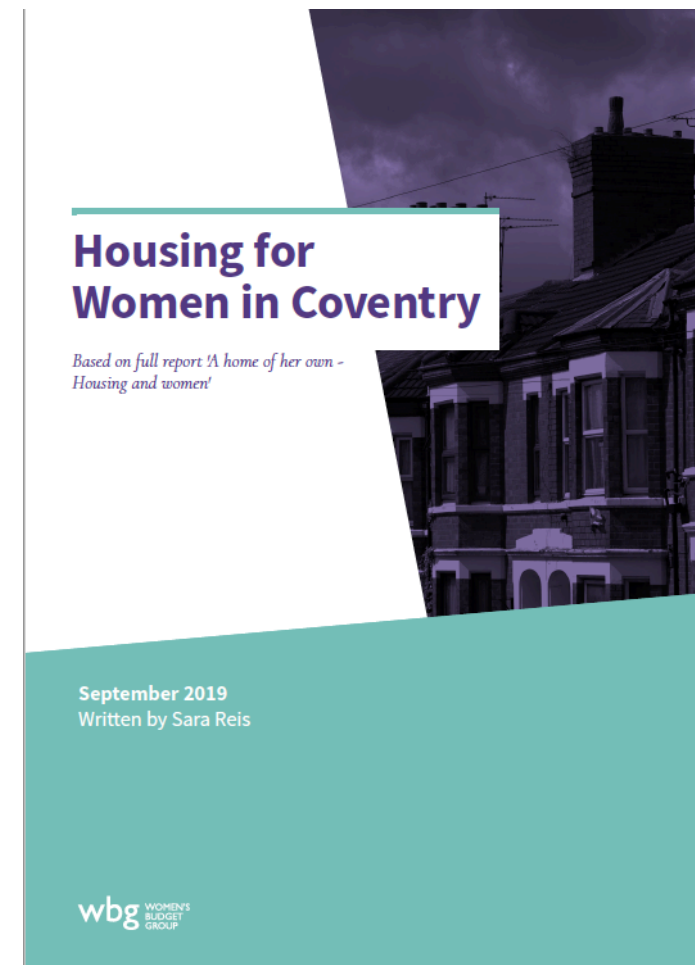
A Home of Her Own

Women and Housing in Coventry

Briefing Launch

Coventry City Council

27 September 2019



#HomeOfHerOwn

#CovWP

@WomensBudgetGrp



JAIME RICHARDS
DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING OFFICER
Coventry Women's Partnership #CovWP
funded by



Refuge Provision

- 'Refuge' in the true sense of the word –
 - A **safe, confidential, specialist, needs-led support** for women and their children, in and out of area
- There is a severe shortage of safe refuge bed spaces
- Funding for safe houses has been cut - refuge spaces have reduced
- Refuges across the UK are forced to close due to the lack of core funding/unrestricted funding
- Housing Benefit rates do not cover the full cost of refuge support
- Uncertainty around Housing Funding Formula – currently only 8 of our 17 units are funded for support by the MHCLG – our other 9 units are funded by our organisation

In Coventry

- In Coventry, the homeless in temporary accommodation has increased by:
 - **186% since 2016***
 - **47% of women are homeless due to Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA)****
 - **Women rough sleepers are particularly vulnerable and face further violence and abuse, are forced into hiding in concealed locations and go undetected on datasets**
- Coventry Haven Women's Aid Refuge Accommodation is **always full**:
 - The last 12 months occupancy rate was **98.6%**
 - For every woman who we can offer a room to, there are **another 4** we have to turn away, simply due to no space!
- Length of stay in refuge has increased:
 - In 2014, average stay **11 weeks**
 - In 2018, increased to **42 weeks**, some residents staying up to **a year or even longer**
 - **Why is this?**

*Coventry Telegraph

**St Mungo's

Women's Needs

- No longer dealing with domestic violence and abuse (DVA) **alone**:
 - **Multiple complex needs:**
 - Their children's needs
 - Risk and safety
 - Homelessness
 - Civil and Criminal Processes
 - Multi Agency Risk Assessment (MARAC) support for women facing serious harm or death
 - No Recourse To Public Funds (NRPF)
 - Mental Health – PTSD
 - Physical and sexual health
 - Coping mechanism's – alcohol/drugs
 - Language needs
 - Immigration
 - Debt
 - Plus others....
- All of these needs are supported in refuge accommodation
- While worrying over their housing crisis, victims are distracted from the work needed to help them through their journey of abuse, taking longer to heal/cope