



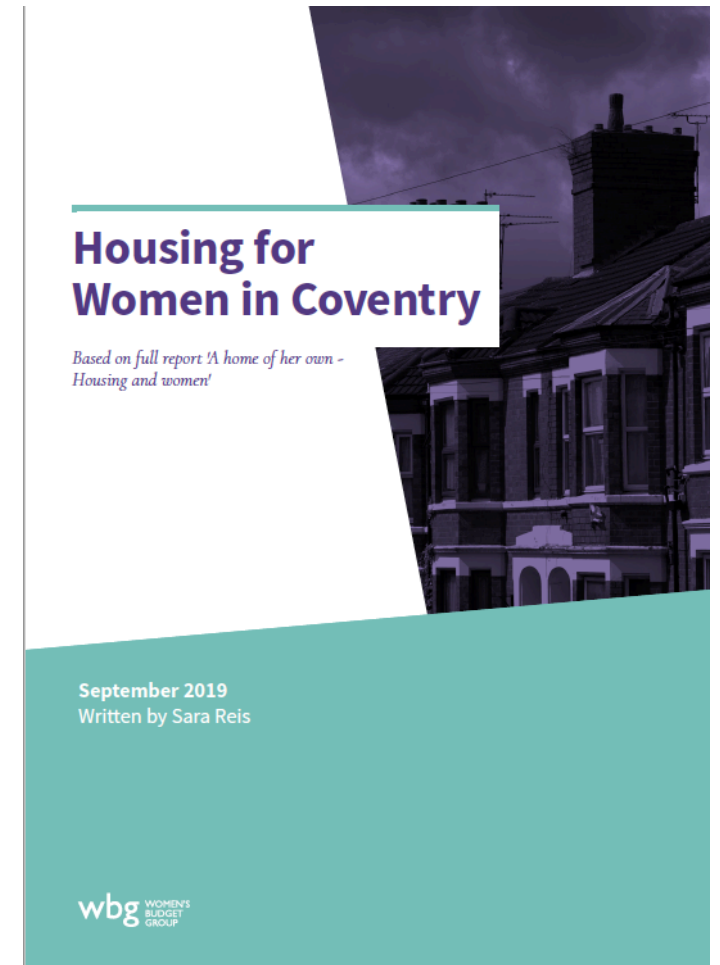
A Home of Her Own

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



Why Is Domestic Abuse So Difficult?

- It's at a **pandemic** level – we only see the tip of the iceberg
- It's **hard to understand**
- Not enough action is taken **against abusers; remember, the victim is not accountable/responsible for their abuser's violence, abuse and behaviour**
- Abusers are **unpredictable**, the victim knows exactly what they are capable of – need to be listened to when assessing risk
- Gender **inequality/stereotypes and victim blaming**
- Statutory **rely heavily on voluntary sector** specialists
- All agencies are fixated on assessing risk, but need the **victim's trust** to even begin to gauge the **true level of risk (only building trust leads to full disclosure)**
- Cannot tell a woman what to do, this compounds the abuse

What Is Needed?

- More **safe housing options**, resources and funding
- An **agreed definition of 'Affordable'** Social Housing rent
- **Review Benefit Caps and Pre-Tenancy Checks** those affected by DVA/financial abuse
- **A review of Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Rates** in the private rented sector
- **Shared Accommodation Rate (under age 35) – review exemptions** – ensure women subjected to DVA are exempt – provide **same gender shared** option
- Remove the **threat of closure to existing specialist refuge** services
- More focus on **holding the abuser to account** – the victim is not responsible
- **Cultural widespread training and awareness raising** of the dynamics of DVA Specialism based on experience and expertise, accessible to **all** communities – including older women, BAMER, LGBT and disabled
- Further **statutory and voluntary sector collaboration** to inform practice within agencies of DVA – “lack of understanding is the root of poor judgment and poor practice”***

Thank you for listening

#CovWP