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With financial support from the

DAPHNE Programme of the European Union

**Workstream 3 deliverable 3.3a**

**Summary EU Vision Document Breaking the Cycle: Integrated support for women with multiple needs.**

**Purpose**

The Daphne project *From Street to Home* sets out a vision of how to achieve an EU standardized approach to establishing and running integrated services for women with multiple needs at risk of violence to include the provision of social on-going support and housing.

**Vision and Approach**

A coherent and committed strategy is required that focuses on the needs and expectations of all stakeholders and aims to address the barriers and constraints that currently affect provision. There is a need for a harmonizing initiative to guide alignment in policy and implementation and ensure that best practices are followed, mistakes are not repeated, and collaboration occurs where it is needed. Furthermore, it is imperative that these issues are promoted in the public and political domains to encourage action to alleviate the difficulties faced by women with complex needs. There is also a need to bring cost effective best practice into play more widely amongst EU member states and introduce practical help and promote solutions that will deliver benefits.

**What is needed?**

Responding to the needs of women who have experienced DV and abuse is reinforced by a commitment to human rights including the right to live free from violence and the right to make informed choices.

The project has indicated that Member States are currently at different stages of implementing effective approaches to address need. We recommend that a realistic minimum standard of provision is formulated and implemented. The standards that follow are informed and underpinned by the lived experience of women’s experiences of domestic violence and abuse and interviews with key stakeholders who provide services for the women. We recommend that a minimum standard of provision should be predicated on the following:

1**. Holistic service provision** to include help with accessing safe and secure housing;

2. **Empathetic, accepting and non-judgemental service delivery;**

3**. Empowerment** –women are able to identify and express their needs and to make decisions in a

supportive and non-judgmental environment.

4. **Increased awareness** of mental health issues affecting women among both professionals and the

public;

5. **Partnership between agencies** - services that women access should operate within a situation of

inter-agency cooperation, collaboration and coordinated service delivery that complements and

minimises duplication.

6. **Sustainability of service provision** – moving away from sole reliance on NGOs to state provision

7. **Commitment to keep women out of prison -** as many of their crimes are related to DV, abuse

and exploitation.

8. **Confidentiality** –women’s confidentiality is respected and observed and they are made aware of

situations where their confidentiality may be limited.

9. **Advocacy** – workers advocate for the needs of women affected by DV and abuse on an individual

basis as requested by the women and with her consent

10. **Focussing attention** on children - recognising that early intervention is needed to break the cycle

of abuse

Further, responses to meeting the needs of women with multiple needs should:

* Be cost effective and include a cost benefit focus;
* Include compelling impact assessments;
* Not replicate existing services and compete against each other for funding;
* Be sustainable and not reliant on NGO or external funding;
* Include a joined-up approach across criminal justice systems;
* Consist of committed partnerships;
* Foster a highly collaborative community to share and adopt best practice;
* Lend themselves to standardisation;