

OVERVIEW

The ESSF continues to be a vital resource for professionals supporting survivors of domestic abuse across Essex. In Q1 of 2026/27, successful ESSF applications totalled £30,524.30. So far in Q2, we have spent £30,353.42. These figures closely mirror Q1 and Q2 in 2025/26, suggesting that the ESSF is now a well-established and consistently used source of support.

As a reminder, survivors must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Aged 16+
- A resident of Essex
- Has experienced domestic abuse within the previous 12 months

Our ongoing objective is to improve safety and access to secure accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse. Applications can be submitted through the ESSF portal [here](#).

NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS

As in previous rounds of the ESSF, each Essex local authority has ringfenced funding to support clients with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). This means survivors with NRPF can still access ESSF support where no statutory duty applies. Examples of how the ESSF can support NRPF cases include:

- Funding replacement clothing for a survivor and any dependants when they are placed in temporary accommodation by statutory services
- Funding a safe mobile phone and top-up for a client
- Funding transport to an out-of-area refuge

In urgent situations, funding requests can be approved verbally by Teams, phone or email to avoid delays in supporting the client. Contact details are provided in the Get in Touch section below.

NEWLY ON-BOARDED

A warm welcome to Cranstoun, the latest organisation to be onboarded to the ESSF.

Cranstoun can now access the ESSF across Essex to support survivors of domestic abuse. The organisation is the largest provider of behaviour change interventions in England as well as delivering services specifically for survivors, including refuge provision and IDVA support.

For more information on Cranstoun, please [click here](#).



Q1 UPDATES FOR ESSEX

In Q1, 224 ESSF applications were approved, with total spend reaching £30,524.30. These applications supported the 224 survivors as well as 355 children, who also benefited from the additional support provided through the ESSF.

During Q1 2026/27, 58% of all applications were for security items, including video doorbells, additional lighting and personal alarms. This is similar to Q1 of the previous year, when 55% of applications were for security items. This suggests a consistent pattern in the types of support being requested through the ESSF.

There are now widely available video doorbells that do not require a monthly subscription. These non-subscription devices can be particularly useful where evidence may need to be gathered, for example in relation to a breach of an order or bail conditions. Although they are slightly more expensive than subscription-based devices, the additional features can make them worthwhile in certain cases.

NATIONAL DATABANK

The National Databank, an initiative from the Good Things Foundation, works like a food bank for mobile data.

It provides free mobile SIM cards to people who cannot afford internet connectivity. These data packages are donated by the Good Things Foundation partners Virgin Media O2, Vodafone and Three.

Members of the National Digital Inclusion Network can apply for and distribute these SIM cards to people in their local communities through the National Databank.

Safe Steps/Compass has recently joined the National Databank. Being able to provide victims and survivors with prepaid SIM cards will be an invaluable additional resource.

Applications are now open for organisations that would like to join. If this could benefit your organisation, please visit the Good Things Foundation website [here](#).



WOMEN'S AID FLEE & FUTURE FUNDING

The latest round of Women's Aid Flee and Future funding opened in August 2026. Member organisations and services listed on Routes to Support can apply to the fund on behalf of survivors they are supporting.

- The Flee Fund provides £250–£500 to support survivors experiencing immediate financial barriers linked to domestic abuse, including essentials such as food, clothing, transport and accommodation-related costs
- The Future Fund provides £500–£2,500 to support survivors with longer-term stability, including housing costs, furnishings, utilities, debt and other essential needs

In September 2026, Safe Steps secured £1,450 through Women's Aid funding. This is a valuable funding source, and where appropriate, victims and survivors can receive funds directly into their bank account.

For more information about Women's Aid funding, please contact grants@womensaid.org.uk. Please note that this fund is separate from the ESSF and is intended to make you aware of other funding options should you need them.

KIND WORDS - PROFESSIONALS



“I would like to say that I found the process smooth and easy to follow, everyone involved is kind and professional.”

“For a client to be able to move and receive a quick decision from ESSF about help with costs, to allow them to flee quickly and have one less stress when they might otherwise not be able to go, is just so huge. There is no other such help available and this goes a long way towards helping clients be free from abuse.”

“Our client is now able to live safely and independently, far away from the last known address her perpetrator has for her. Her family is also safe and she can continue to access support without fear of abuse or her perpetrator locating her.” - **ESSF funded all costs associated with moving client out of area.**

“Having the ring doorbell will provide valuable safety to our client if her address should become known to the perpetrator and wider family. It will give her time to contact the police and her husband via Hollie Guard if they come to the property and will also capture evidence of the stalking which could improve her chances of being granted protective orders.” - **ESSF funded a video doorbell for client.**

IMPACT - CLIENT WORDS



I am afraid he will come back again and I want to make sure I feel safer.” - **ESSF funded security lights and a video doorbell for the property.**

“I am pregnant with NRPF. I have no support or family in the UK, I wanted to move safely for me and my unborn child’s safety.” – **ESSF funded a taxi for client to move out of area.**

“Me and my daughter could stay in a safe place, unknown to him.” – **ESSF funded one night emergency accommodation prior to moving to refuge.**

“I will be able to feed my children as AP has intervened with my universal credit account.” – **ESSF provided a client with a shopping voucher.**

DUE DILIGENCE – TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION



In recent news, there were details of a case in which a woman was sexually assaulted in her hotel room in 2022. A male falsely told the reception staff that he was her boyfriend and needed a key to access the room. The male provided the staff with the woman’s name.

This upsetting case acts as a reminder for professionals to be vigilant and mindful when booking clients into temporary accommodation. Unfortunately, there are times when we as professionals have no choice but to place clients into temporary overnight accommodation for their own safety – for example when appropriate refuge has been sourced but is unable to accept the client until the following day.

This case acts as a stark reminder for us all to ensure that we always use pseudonyms when booking hotels or taxis, and that appropriate safety planning has been completed with client. Read the news article [here](#).

GET IN TOUCH



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**THANKS
FOR
READING**