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Require provision of women's refuges in certain areas; to set out requirements of local councils relating to women's refuges; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Provision of domestic violence refuge services

Local authorities are required to provide domestic violence refuge services for all women and children seeking protection from domestic violence who are assessed as being in priority need for domestic violence refuge services by specialist domestic violence organisations.

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2 Domestic violence refuges: minimum standards, funding and provision

- (1) The Secretary of State must monitor a national network of domestic violence refuges and stipulate the level of funding required to be spent in each local authority area to meet the required demand.
- (2) The Secretary of State must establish a model of sustainable funding for the provision of domestic violence refuges.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall by regulation establish arrangements for the assurance of quality for the provision of domestic violence refuges.
- (4) The provision of accommodation by local authorities for victims of domestic violence must not be restricted to solely those from within the local authority's boundaries.
- (5) Domestic violence refuge accommodation must be provided on the basis of need, and available capacity, not on the basis of the location of the place of abode of the person seeking accommodation.

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3 Financial provision

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There is to be paid out of money provided by Parliament –

- (a) *any expenditure incurred under or in consequence of this Act by the Secretary of State, and*
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable under any other Act out of money so provided.*

4 Domestic violence refuge services: guidance on commissioning

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The Secretary of State must publish guidance on the commissioning of domestic violence refuge services.

Women's Refuges (Provision and Eligibility) Bill

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*Presented by Norman Baker,
supported by
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