

ORIGINATOR: DEPUTY CHIEF
EXECUTIVE

DECISION NO. 29-2017

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE FOR SUFFOLK

SUMMARY:

1. Tackling domestic violence and abuse is one of Suffolk PCC's priority themes and is included in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.
2. In 2014 a decision was taken to establish an Independent Domestic Advisor Service in Suffolk. The background and rationale for the decision is set out in Decision Paper C13-2014.
3. Following a competitive process the grant to deliver the IDVA service was awarded to Lighthouse Women's Aid. The service was commissioned for three years' concluding on 31 October 2017. In order to keep abreast of changing demands additional resources were subsequently approved.
4. The purpose of this Decision Paper is to seek approval to extend the grant for the IDVA service from 1 November 2017 to 30 September 2018 in order that the processes for commissioning the IDVA service can be aligned with the process for the Outreach Services (to be commissioned by Suffolk County Council) can be aligned.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the grants to Lighthouse Women's Aid in respect of the IDVA service and Crisis Worker are extended from 1 November 2017 to 30 September 2018 at a cost of £530,786.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approves the recommendation to extend the above arrangements to 30 September 2018.

Signature *Tim Parnore*

Date *18th October*
2017

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 2014 a decision was taken to establish an Independent Domestic Advisor Service in Suffolk. The background and rationale for the decision is set out in Decision Papers C13-2014.
- 1.2 Following a competitive process the grant was awarded to Lighthouse Women's Aid to deliver the service. The grant for the services expires on 30 September 2017. In order to keep abreast of changing demand additional resources were subsequently approved (see Decision Papers 34-2016 and 44-2016).

2 JOINT COMMISSIONING

- 2.1 In March 2015 research commissioned by the PCC was published. The research, which focussed on the perceptions of victims of domestic abuse, concluded amongst other things:
“Organisations providing support for those affected by domestic violence and abuse need to clearly identify the services they are providing. They need to ensure that they provide equal access to safe and confidential advice and support, and work more collaboratively with other agencies. They should systematically review the services they are providing to ensure that they dovetail and minimise duplication”.
- 2.2 In considering this recommendation statutory partners acknowledged that more needed to be done to work more collaboratively and that they should systematically review the services to ensure that services dovetail and minimise duplication. In order to take forward this piece of work the Deputy Chief Executive has been working with representatives from Suffolk County Council (SCC). As will be appreciated this is a complex piece of work involving different commissioning partners. However to kick-start the work it was agreed that the OPCC and SCC should work together to re-commission the new IDVA service (for 'high risk' victims of domestic abuse) and the Outreach Service (for 'medium risk' victims) when the current service periods. The OPCC and SCC will work together to agree the two specifications, strip out any duplication and address any gaps in services. The two services will be commissioned separately in order that the OPCC and SCC can seek best value for money, efficiency and effectiveness according to their individual organisations' requirements and needs.
- 2.3 SCC recently confirmed that they are aligning all their Public Health contracts so that all contracts award dates are aligned. To achieve this they advised they would be extending the contract for the Outreach Service until October 2018. Given the OPCC's commitment to aligning the commissioning processes with SCC, it has been agreed with the PCC and the PCC's senior management team that the grant for the IDVA service should also be extended to 30 September 2018 so that it remains aligned with the SCC Outreach Service and which will facilitate the co-commissioning arrangement. The purpose of this Decision Paper therefore is to seek approval to extend the grant for the IDVA service from 1 November 2017 to 30 September 2018.

5. SERVICE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial implications of extending the IDVA service for a further 11 months are as follows:
- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| IDVA service | - £507,032 |
| Crisis Worker | - £ 23,754 |
| Total | - £530,786 |

6. RISKS

- 6.1 At the outset of this grant award a number of risks were identified. A number of the original risks have since been ameliorated and the only risk remaining relevant relates to the uncertainty of grant funding as set out at paragraph 6.2 below.

Uncertainty regarding Ministry of Justice Victims' Services Funds

- 6.2 The cost of this much needed service is funded the Ministry of Justice Victims Services' grant. However, announcements on future funding are made by the MoJ on an annual basis around late Autumn or early in the New Year. As a consequence there remains uncertainty as to the availability of funds. The grant has been designed to be flexible so it can be easily modified in the event of funding difficulties, and the grant agreement also allows for cessation of the grant with a suitable notice period should it be deemed necessary. Alternatively, the service could be supported by a larger contribution from the PCC's Crime and Disorder Reduction Fund albeit this would result in pressures elsewhere.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	YES
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have human resource implications been considered?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	YES
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	YES
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	YES

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:



Date 18 October 2017