

ORIGINATOR: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DECISION NO. 34 - 2016

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY (IDVA) SERVICE: GRANT VARIATION FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SUMMARY:

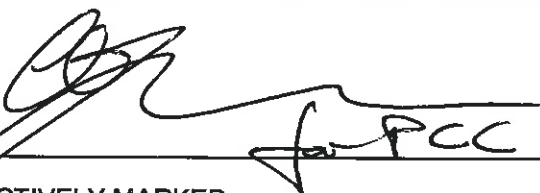
1. The Police and Crime Commissioner can commission services that:
 - a) secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
 - b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017.
2. This report seeks approval to award a grant variation to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) service to enable an additional 3 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) IDVAs to be recruited to meet demand for the remainder of the current three year grant (i.e. until October 2017).
3. The funding will enable the IDVA service to continue to deliver an effective service to high risk victims of domestic abuse and to meet the Police and Crime Plan objective to tackle domestic abuse.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the PCC approves a grant variation of up to £186,482 based on actual costs incurred to fund 3 additional FTE IDVAs for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 October 2017.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Signature



for PCC

Date

12/8/16

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner can commission services that:
- secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
 - are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
- This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017.
- 1.2 That the PCC approves a grant variation of up to £186,482 based on actual cost incurred to fund 3 additional FTE IDVAs for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 October 2017.

2 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Following the issue of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 work has been on-going to ensure that the Police and Crime Objectives and the Plan's principal themes will be achieved.
- 2.2 The themes within the Police and Crime Plan that this grant aims to address are 'supporting victims and vulnerable people' and 'tackling domestic abuse'.

3 THE SUFFOLK IDVA SERVICE

- 3.1 In October 2014, the PCC assumed responsibility for commissioning of victims' services. Soon after this, Lighthouse Women's Aid was commissioned to introduce an IDVA service for Suffolk in order to address a lack of provision in the county (Decision C13/2014 refers). The service was established with the following key principles:
- To support domestic abuse victims assessed as high-risk with effective safety planning
 - To attend Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences and be a component part of the multi-agency solution for high-risk victims
 - To support any high-risk victim of domestic abuse regardless of gender or ethnicity and to serve victims in all areas of Suffolk.
 - To work effectively with the Constabulary's domestic abuse team and other voluntary sector providers
 - To support victims through the court processes and ensure the victims wishes are understood by the court.
- 3.2 Following set up, the service went live in February 2015, with a full complement of 8 FTE IDVAs in post by June 2015. Since April 2015, the service has provided monthly data on demand.
- 3.3 Throughout the first full year of the service, the demand was carefully monitored. The service received well over 1,446 referrals in its first full year (on average around 120 a month). By April 2016, it was clear that the demand was exceeding resources (with April and May 2016 seeing over 140 referrals a month). By the end of May 2016 the IDVA service had 615 cases open and demand was continuing to rise. Lighthouse Women's Aid reported that they would no longer be able to satisfy demand without an injection of additional resource.

- 3.4 Following consideration by the PCC and his Senior Management Team there was support to fund the cost of 3 additional FTE IDVAs. Lighthouse Women's Aid will recruit the IDVAs and continue to show how the demand is being met around the county. The next public report on the IDVA service will be presented to the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel in October 2016.

4 MONITORING OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

- 4.1 This grant award is made on the basis of financial and activity data (which had been previously agreed with the IDVA service) being made available on a monthly basis. In addition that the service will continue to attend formal quarterly monitoring meetings between the Office of the PCC and IDVA service and will produce a public report for the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel in October 2016.
- 4.2 This funding is made on the basis of the increased demand; therefore if demand decreases, a corresponding decrease in funding will be applied.

5 SERVICE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There should be service and financial benefits in terms of reduced costs and resource implications on the Constabulary as a direct result of the activity in supporting victims of domestic abuse who have been assessed as high-risk.

6 RISKS

- 6.1 There are no risks flowing from the consideration of this report.
- 6.2 An assessment of risk in delivery of the service has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the value of the grant sought, the duration of delivery and the grant recipient's history of delivery and ability to deliver since the start of the IDVA service. The monitoring arrangements outlined in paragraph 4.1 will ensure that risk, and demand, is monitored by the service. Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, the grant recipient is required to notify the PCC in accordance with the grant agreement applicable to the IDVA service.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

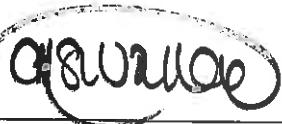
- 7.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves a grant variation of up to £186,482 based on actual costs incurred to fund 3 additional FTE IDVAs for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 October 2017.

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
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this 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 13/8/16