

ORIGINATOR: POLICY OFFICER (LH)

DECISION NO. 44-2016

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN'S AID: INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISOR SERVICE – GRANT VARIATION CRISIS INTERVENTION WORKER

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 Lighthouse Women's Aid to recruit one Crisis Intervention Worker to meet demand for the remainder of the current three year grant (i.e. until 31 October 2017).
3. The funding will enable the service to deliver an effective service to victims of domestic abuse in crisis and to meet the Police and Crime Plan objective to tackle domestic abuse.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves a grant variation of up to £24,948 to fund a Crisis Intervention Worker for the period from 1 November 2016 until 31 October 2017 to Lighthouse Women's Aid.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Signature

Tina Parry

Date

*6th October
2016*

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The PCC has previously supported the costs of a part-time crisis worker for the period 1 May 2014 to 31 October 2015.
- 1.3 The PCC has entered into a grant agreement with Lighthouse Women's Aid for the period until 31 October 2017 to fund a county-wide IDVA service to address the gap in provision in Suffolk around IDVA capacity (DECISION C13-2014). It has recently been agreed to extend the service through providing an additional 3 IDVAs based on demand experienced during the first full year of the service.
- 1.4 The purpose of this paper is to recommend that a grant of up to £24,948 be made to Lighthouse Women's Aid for the addition of a full time Crisis Intervention Worker to the IDVA service for the period 1 November 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 LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN'S AID

- 3.1 Lighthouse Women's Aid is a charitable organisation based in Suffolk providing support to women and their children experiencing domestic abuse.
- 3.2 Services include crisis intervention, emergency accommodation and therapeutic programmes. Lighthouse Women's Aid was also commissioned by the PCC to provide an IDVA service for Suffolk in order to address a lack of provision in the county (Decision C13/2014 refers).
- 3.3 The IDVA service went live in February 2015, with a full complement of 8 FTE IDVAs in post by June 2015. The service received over 1,440 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) and demand continues to rise. In June 2016, a grant variation provided for 3 additional full time IDVAs.

CRISIS INTERVENTION WORKER

- 3.4 A Crisis Support Worker was employed using PCC grants between May 2014 and October 2015 however, Lighthouse Women's Aid state that since the introduction of

the IDVA services demand for their other services have not reduced and funding is requested to employ a full time crisis support worker to work with victims of domestic violence in crisis.

- 3.5 Previous monitoring reports advise that over the first grant period of six months, 232 different victims (average 39 per month) were supported through 294 sessions. Over the subsequent 12 months, 376 different victims were supported (average 31/month) through 480 sessions of support; the majority were standard risk (58%), followed by 27% medium risk.
- 3.6 Between 1 April and 14 July 2016 the Women's Aid Centre dealt with advice appointments and 'drop in' from 201 different women (average 57/month) through 284 sessions, suggesting an increase in demand.
- 3.7 The proposed funding will provide for a full time Crisis Intervention Worker at the Women's Centre in Ipswich. The role will support for women who are fleeing domestic abuse, providing immediate support to safely leave the abusive relationship regardless of whether there is police involvement.
- 3.8 The support would cover all levels of risk, encourage reporting and implement safety planning. Early intervention will ensure risk is minimised and reduce the potential for escalation.
- 3.9 The service compliments the IDVA service, filling gaps, supporting women in crisis before they reach the point of high risk. It may potentially reduce demand on the IDVA service and also the police service as specialist support and safety planning provided for a victim assessed as standard or medium risk could prevent escalating the risk to the point where the police may need to become involved.
- 3.10 It is proposed that the funding will be administered through a variation to the current IDVA service grant in order that services for high risk victims/victims in crisis are funded from within the same service.

4 MONITORING OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1 This grant award is made on the basis of financial and activity data being made available on a quarterly basis. The Crisis Intervention Worker activity will form part of the formal quarterly monitoring meetings between the Office of the PCC and Lighthouse Women's Aid.
- 4.2 The PCC may require attendance at a public meeting of the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel, on dates as determined by the PCC's Chief Executive. If this is the case the Chief Executive will advise the recipient.
- 4.3 The following will be reported on:
 - Number of victims/clients supported
 - Breakdown of type of abuse e.g. physical, emotional, sexual
 - Level of risk (Crisis - High, Medium, Standard / Advice - High, Medium, Standard)
 - Profile of victims (gender/ethnicity/sexual orientation/age)
 - Geographical spread/location (local authority)
 - Number of victims who had/had not presented to the police regarding current incident at engagement
 - Numbers of referrals, from other agencies and which agencies, and self-referrals
 - Proportion of clients/victims who have presented previously (ie repeat users)
 - Number of sessions with clients/victims / Hours
 - Average length of support.

- Number of victims who were supported to report to the police following engagement
- Number referred on to other services agencies and which agencies/type of support (e.g. other LWA service, specialist service, counselling, MARAC)
- Number of initial contacts who did not attend appointment
- Number of safeguarding referrals – Women/children

Outcomes will be measured through the LWA evaluation form which assesses whether the support met the needs of the victim and measures changes in confidence and ability to deal with issues following advice and support. Self-assessment in the reduction in risk and feelings of safety will also be evaluated.

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 in crisis and preventing risk from escalating.
- 5.2 The cost of employing a full time Crisis Intervention Worker is £24,948 for 12 months comprising salary (including pension and NI) of £23,778 and on-costs of £1,170 (including insurance, IT support, Telephone, HR, evaluation and monitoring).
- 5.3 The position will be funded from underspend arising from the current IDVA service. The PCC will fund any remaining costs.

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 both in terms of previous grant awards for Crisis Workers and the IDVA service. The monitoring arrangements outlined in section 4 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.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves a grant variation of up to £24,948 to fund a Crisis Intervention Worker for the period 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2017 to Lighthouse Women's Aid.

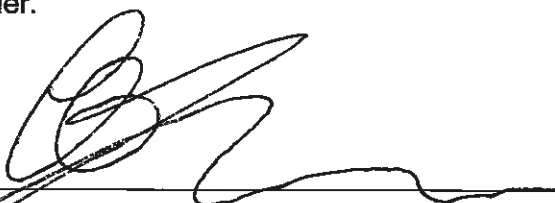
| ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED) | PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO' |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Has legal advice been sought on this submission? | YES |
| Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted? | YES |
| Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered 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

6 October 2016