



ORIGINATOR: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DECISION NO. 6 - 2015

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)

SUBJECT: LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN'S AID CRISIS WORKER

SUMMARY:

1. In October 2014 the Police and Crime Commissioner assumed responsibility for commissioning of victims' services. The PCC's key objective is to deliver effective victims' services to all Suffolk victims of crime according to their needs and regardless of their geographic location or any other factor.
2. This report seeks approval for the award of a Victims' Services Grant to Lighthouse Women's Aid for continuation of funding for a crisis support worker to support women suffering domestic abuse.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

The PCC approves £18,467 to Lighthouse Women's Aid for the period 1 November 2014 to 31 October 2015 for continuation of the Crisis Support Worker post.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation is agreed.

Signature

Tina Pannone

Date *22/01/2015*

DETAILS OF THE SUBMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2014 the PCC assumed responsibility for commissioning victims' services. The PCC's key objective is to deliver effective victims' services to all victims of crime according to their needs and regardless of their geographic location or any other factor. The plans for commissioning of services for victims of domestic violence and abuse have therefore taken place against this backdrop.
- 1.2 In April 2014, the PCC agreed to support the costs of a crisis worker to respond to increasing demand and unmet need for the period 1 May 2014 to 31 October 2014. Lighthouse Women's Aid has provided a report on the demand which it has been possible to meet by having this extra resource and has applied for the post to be funded up to October 2015.
- 1.3 The PCC has entered into a grant agreement with Lighthouse Women's Aid for the next three years to fund a county-wide IDVA service to address the gap in provision in Suffolk around IDVA capacity. The IDVA service is currently in its set up phase and will commence its service on 1 February 2015. These factors have been considered in relation to this new application for funding and the PCC is recommended to continue the funding for the crisis worker until the 31 October 2015. This will ensure capacity is in place throughout the transition to the new service.
- 1.4 The purpose of this paper is to recommend a grant be made to Lighthouse Women's Aid to continue the funding of a crisis support worker to support women suffering from domestic abuse in Suffolk for the period 1 November 2014 to 31 October 2015.

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 will be achieved. The Police and Crime Plan sets out a clear commitment to providing services that meet the needs of victims of crime and vulnerable people.
- 2.2 Since the publication of the plan the PCC has engaged extensively to pursue the ambitions set out within the Plan, including the provision of high quality services to victims and to prevent and respond to domestic violence.

3 LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN'S AID

- 3.1 Lighthouse Women's Aid is a local charity based in Ipswich. Lighthouse Women's Aid is a charitable organisation based in Suffolk providing support to women and their children experiencing domestic abuse.
- 3.2 This grant is to continue to fund a crisis worker to work with victims of domestic violence in crisis. The role is unique in its support for women who are fleeing, as it can provide immediate support to enable women and children to safely leave the abusive relationship regardless of whether there is police involvement. This is a standalone service, working alongside the police and other agencies as well as independently to support women to be safe from harm and reduce the potential of a high risk situation from escalating.
- 3.3 The Support Worker also refers to other services to secure further support such as counselling, legal advice and running a Freedom Programme for victims of domestic abuse. Since commencement in the role demand for the services provided by the post holder has been high and has reinforced the need for this service. This grant has helped Lighthouse Women's Aid develop their capacity and capability to deliver

services to victims of domestic abuse. A monitoring report on the service advises that over the period of the initial grant 232 women have been supported.

- 3.1 The crisis worker post will assist towards meeting key aims of the Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk 2013-17: 'Preventing and Reducing Crime' and 'Caring for Victims and Vulnerable People'.

4 OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

- 4.1 In common with the PCC's policy for determining both Crime and Disorder Reduction and Victims' Services Grants, grants will be awarded only where there is a robust business case which clearly sets out the success criteria (e.g. intended outcomes, milestones, risks, etc.) and how the initiative for which funding is sought will deliver clear and measurable outcomes against the PCC's Police and Crime Plan objectives.

- 4.2 The intended outputs and outcomes are set out below.

- Target output – It is estimated that 450 women could be supported by this provision over the period to 31 October 2015. (this is based on the demand experienced during the first 6 months of the crisis worker being in post when 232 women were supported).
- Number of victims supported
- Average length of time supported
- Breakdown in numbers: Ethnicity/background/age etc
- Breakdown in geography (where the victims come from e.g. Ipswich etc)
- Breakdown of type of abuse eg physical, emotional
- Level of Risk – number: H/M/S
- Number referred to MARAC
- Number already referred to Police prior to accessing the Centre
- Number not referred to police before or during support – reasons why: e.g. not high risk, referred to refuge, no crime
- Number supported to refer to police.
- Number referred on to other services within LWA for ongoing support
- Number referred to other agencies outside LWA for further support. Name agencies
- Number of safeguarding referrals – Women/children
- Where appropriate the completion of perception surveys by victims regarding the support provided by the crisis support worker and the impact the service has had on aspects such as improved self-confidence.
- Assessment of the impact on existing project workers (e.g. restoring capacity to allow them to take on other activities).

- 4.3 The grant award will be made on the basis that monitoring information will be supplied to enable the PCC to develop an understanding of the demand met and impact that the grant has made.

5 MISCELLANEOUS CONDITIONS OF AWARD

- 5.1 Full 'Conditions of Award' including conditions relating to transfer of funds, monitoring, and publicity and marketing are specified separately but include the following.
- 5.2 This award is a one-off award and is made on the condition that Lighthouse Women's Aid uses the grant for the purposes described. In the event that the grant is not used for these purposes the monies must be repaid to the PCC.
- 5.3 Payment of the award does not confer any ongoing obligation by the PCC to make payments beyond the grant period to Lighthouse Women's Aid.

- 5.4 Lighthouse Women's Aid must be able to demonstrate that they are managing the grant in an efficient and effective manner, and are actively seeking to minimise bureaucracy and streamline processes in order to deliver the best possible outcomes.
- 5.5 Lighthouse Women's Aid will formally report on progress including financial monitoring and the outputs/outcomes of the project. Monitoring requirements are detailed in the conditions of award and an end of year report on the outcomes shall be submitted to the PCC on or before 14 November 2015.
- 5.6 Lighthouse Women's Aid must notify the PCC as soon as reasonably practicable if the organisation ceases operation, the project does not go ahead, or if an underspend is forecast. All underspends must be returned to the PCC.
- 5.7 By accepting the award from the PCC, Lighthouse Women's Aid makes a commitment to acknowledge the PCC's support publicly and must acknowledge their funding from the PCC in all promotional work.
- 5.8 Lighthouse Women's Aid shall ensure that third party recipients have adequate insurance coverage (including but not limited to public liability insurance) in place and shall provide evidence of such insurance to the PCC on request.
- 5.9 The PCC accepts no liability to Lighthouse Women's Aid or any third party recipients for any costs, claims, damage or losses, however they are incurred, except for to the extent that they arise from personal injury or death which is caused by the PCC's negligence.
- 5.10 Lighthouse Women's Aid agrees to indemnify the PCC for any costs, claims, damages or losses which arise as a result of negligence by Lighthouse Women's Aid or out of any breach of any of the conditions of award.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is proposed to award a grant of £18,467 for the period until 31 October 2015.

7 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 7.1 There are no direct human resources implications or risks arising from the consideration of this report.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that:

- 8.1.1 The PCC approves a grant of £18,467 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 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 - NONE
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
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

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

19 - 1 - 15