

ORIGINATOR: SUFFOLK RAPE CRISIS

PAPER NO: AP14/22

SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

SUBJECT: SUFFOLK RAPE CRISIS - CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT

SUMMARY:

The PCC for Suffolk has awarded a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant totalling £10,000 to Suffolk Rape Crisis representing the period 31 January 2014 to 31 January 2015, subject to conditions.

The funding is for the purposes of delivering counselling services for survivors of sexual violence and enables SRC to contribute to the PCC's police and crime objectives by providing services that meet the needs of victims of crime and vulnerable people.

This submission is the first report to the Accountability and Performance Panel on progress achieved.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this report is noted and the panel endorse the continuation of the counselling services for women and young girls in Suffolk which this grant supports.

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. KEY ISSUES AND PROGRESS:

1.1 BACKGROUND

Suffolk Rape Crisis (SRC) was formed in March 2010 in direct response to the lack of specialist services in Suffolk to support women and girls that had experienced sexual violence. The service started with a free confidential telephone helpline running Tuesdays and Thursdays between 7pm and 9pm. In March 2013 our one-to-one counselling service was launched from our main premises in Ipswich. Demand for counselling quickly led to setting up an outreach service in Bury St Edmunds to serve the west of the county. Within weeks, SRC had a waiting list for counselling both in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.

All referrals received are offered an initial appointment, which is an opportunity to explain our services and to explore options. For women and girls that decide counselling is the right option for them, we offer weekly sessions for up to 6 months (25 weeks). This gives time for trust to be built between the survivor and counsellor, work on short-term coping strategies and long-term recovery. We receive referrals from every district across Suffolk from a range of agencies and self-referrals, including:

The Ferns SARC
Local authority
GPs
NHS psychosexual service
Mental Health Trust
Domestic violence services
Social care
Education services

SRC is an organisation member of BACP (the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy); SRC works to the robust Rape Crisis National Service Standards; our services comply with articles 8 and 9 of the EU Directive establishing standards on the rights, support and protection of victims; and the EU Directive requirement to provide services without discrimination.

1.2 PROGRESS AND IMPACT OF GRANT

The PCC recognised that delays in providing survivors of sexual violence with services is of a significant detriment which could have a long term effect on their recovery. The PCC grant has been awarded to deliver 200 counselling sessions (in addition to SRC's existing services) for survivors of sexual violence over 12 months. Since the funding was awarded:

- SRC has engaged the services of two counsellors experienced in working with women and girls that have experienced sexual violence
- This award has reduced the amount of time a woman needs to wait for counselling from between 8 to 9 months to approximately 4 to 5 months
- Up until mid-April (2.5 months into the award year) 27 sessions of counselling have been delivered. Although this is slightly under the amount of sessions expected so far, month 1 was spent advertising and recruiting suitably qualified and experienced counsellors. We are expecting to slightly over deliver on the target of 200 counselling sessions overall

- SRC are currently supporting six women through this award who had been waiting for counselling up to 7 months. We expect to support 10 to 12 women over the year with this funding
- SRC believes that woman and girls should have support and advocacy they need whether they choose to report to the police or not. 17% of survivors supported through this funding have not reported to the police

1.3 KEY ISSUES

The closure of Waveney Rape Crisis a few months ago resulted in Suffolk Rape Crisis being the only provider of specialist sexual violence services for women and girls in Suffolk. SRC has just started to deliver counselling in Lowestoft with funding from the Lloyds TSB Foundation but this is only for 2 hours per week. We are unable to advertise our counselling services as widely as we would like to, due to waiting lists.

We are currently drafting a comprehensive needs assessment which will provide a picture of need across Suffolk and include: a demographics' analysis; identify women and girls that are at a higher risk of social exclusion; identify barriers to accessing services, and determine unmet need for specialist sexual violence services. As part of this, we will be looking at how accessible our services are for women and girls in rural localities and how we can address unmet need in those areas. We are receiving a regular number of referrals from surrounding villages to the west and north of Suffolk for women who do not have access to cars or reasonable public transport.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The funding is being spent directly on frontline services for victims. As of mid-April (2.5 months of the project) 10.3% of the grant award has been spent. This represents a slight underspend as we were expecting to have had costs of 20.8%, however we did not incur any costs for counselling sessions for month 1 of the funding period due to the time needed to engage the sessional counsellors. Over the life of the grant we are not anticipating any underspend as the counselling sessions will be made up over the course of the year.

3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS: *See checklist below. The relevant issues identified from the checklist should be explained as appropriate.*

No other implications or risks have been identified at this stage of the project.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
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?	No
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes