

ORIGINATOR: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DECISION NO. 26-2014

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)

**SUBJECT: VICTIMS' SERVICES PREPARATORY FUNDING –
COURT BASED INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE ADVISORS**

SUMMARY:

Ministry of Justice funding for Court Based Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (CIDVAs) in Suffolk ceases on 30 September 2014.

This report seeks approval to award £25,100 from Victims Service Preparatory Funding to Lighthouse Women's Aid to maintain their current CIDVA service between 1 October and 31 December 2014, enabling a smooth transition to the new service.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The PCC approves a grant of £25,100 to Lighthouse Women's Aid.
2. The grant is funded from the Victims' Services Preparatory Fund.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation is agreed.

Signature

Tina Parnmore

Date 13/08/2014

DETAILS OF THE SUBMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Court Based Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (known as CIDVAs) have been employed by Lighthouse Women's Aid through grant funding from the Ministry of Justice. This funding will cease at the end of September 2014.
- 1.2 CIDVAs are trained domestic violence professionals who provide confidential advice, safety advice, advocacy and support to victims of domestic abuse, who have been assessed as high risk and who have ongoing court proceedings.
- 1.3 Arrangements are currently being developed by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for a countywide IDVA service to commence on 1 October 2014.
- 1.4 In November 2013 the Victims Minister announced grants totalling £20.8m would be made available to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for the purposes of victims commissioning. This Ministry of Justice funding will enable PCCs to:
 - build the capacity and capability of potential providers of services for victims (including potential providers of restorative justice services) from the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector;
 - commission restorative justice services if capacity and capability are sufficient in relation to these services;
 - prepare for local commissioning.
- 1.5 This report sets out a proposal for the current CIDVA service provider to maintain their service during a transition period (1 October to 31 December 2014). It is intended the service would be funded a total of £25,100 from the £219,436 Victims' Services Preparatory Fund for Suffolk.

2 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Domestic violence and abuse is one of the Suffolk PCC's priority themes. The PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017 sets out objectives to provide high quality services to victims and ensure a joined up approach to prevent and respond to domestic violence and sexual abuse.
- 2.2 The PCC is committed to working with partners to tackle domestic violence and abuse and has carried out many activities to contribute to the work to address domestic violence and abuse in Suffolk. A number of grants have been awarded to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations dealing with domestic abuse and violence.
- 2.3 The PCC is keen to ensure victims can continue to access quality IDVA services between the cessation of the current service and the new service being fully operational. To ensure continuity it is therefore proposed that the PCC awards a further grant to Lighthouse Women's Aid to cover the current CIDVA staffing levels for the period 1 October – 31 December 2014.

3 LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN'S AID

- 3.1 Lighthouse Women's Aid is a charitable organisation based in Suffolk providing emotional support to women and their children experiencing domestic abuse in their personal or family relationships. They have provided a CIDVA service under a Ministry of Justice grant.

4 OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

- 4.1 The funding is to be used to provide a continuation of the current service. It will allow the following to be provided:
- One full time CIDVA (37.5 hours per week);
 - Two part time CIDVAs (30 hours per week each);
 - Associated staff costs, travel and management costs.
- 4.2 The grant award will be made on the basis that monitoring information, similar to that provided under the previous Ministry of Justice funding, will be supplied to the PCC to enable the PCC to develop an understanding of demand and other relevant characteristics.

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.
- 5.2 The award will apply for the period 1 October to 31 December 2014 only. 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.
- 5.3 This award is granted on the understanding that should Lighthouse Women's Aid apply for and be successful with an application to deliver the Countywide IDVA service from 1 October, the funds awarded for the full service will be reduced by a corresponding amount.
- 5.4 This grant may not be used for any activities other than those set out within this decision paper or as approved in writing by the PCC.
- 5.5 Lighthouse Women's Aid must be able to demonstrate that the grant is being managed in an efficient and effective manner, and that they are actively seeking to minimise bureaucracy and streamline processes in order to deliver the best possible outcomes.
- 5.6 Lighthouse Women's Aid may be required to report formally on progress including financial monitoring and outcomes to the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel. An end of year report on the grant and outcomes should be submitted to the PCC on or before 30 January 2015.
- 5.7 The PCC shall be notified as soon as reasonably practicable if an underspend is forecast and any underspend must be returned to the PCC.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.

- 5.11 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 £25,100 for the period 1 October to 31 December 2014.
- 6.2 The funding will be allocated from the Victims Services Preparatory Funding.

7 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 7.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from the consideration of this paper. Any employment liability rests with Lighthouse Women's Aid.
- 7.2 Of note is that the IDVA service in many other counties is often funded jointly by statutory agencies. The PCC therefore intends to engage with partners in the future to explore this option.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that:
- 8.1.1 The PCC approves a grant of £25,100 to Lighthouse Women's Aid.
- 8.1.2 The grant is funded from the Victims' Services Preparatory Fund.

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

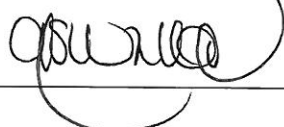
In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

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

13/8/2014.

