

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO. 15 - 2020

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 EXTRAORDINARY FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE
AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES IN SUFFOLK**

SUMMARY:

1. This report seeks approval from the PCC to award a number of grants utilising 'Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services'. This funding has been made available by the Ministry of Justice for distribution by the PCC.
2. The application and award process administered by the OPCC is set out in this report along with a schedule of recommended grants and funding amounts, totalling £208,411 (Appendix A).
3. The funding will support providers of domestic abuse and sexual violence services with funding where they have experienced: short term income disruption; increased demand for their service; and/or incurred additional costs in sustaining their activities due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic between 24 March 2020 and up to 31 October 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves grant awards using 'Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services' to the value of £208,411.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.



Signature

Date 07.07.2020

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report sets out the background to the Covid-19 Extraordinary funding announced by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). It provides a summary of the application process and assessment undertaken in order to secure funding for organisations in Suffolk who provide Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support services and seeks approval for new grant awards to 13 organisations for a total of £208,411.

2. COVID-19 EXTRAORDINARY FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

Funding purpose

2.1 On 2 May 2020 the Government announced a package of £76m extra funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, vulnerable children and their families during the Covid-19 pandemic. A total of £20m was to be administered by the Ministry of Justice through Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales.

2.2 The MOJ published Police and Crime Commissioner allocation Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions on 19 May 2020 and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk received notification the same day that the maximum allocation for Suffolk would be £258,000.

2.3 The MOJ state that the Covid-19 Extraordinary funding is to meet the additional costs registered charities or social enterprises have incurred or will incur whilst adapting services during the pandemic and to cope with demand increases resulting from it during the time period from 24 March to 31 October 2020. Organisations that could evidence they provide tailored support to victims of DA and/or SV and their families were eligible for this funding. For example funding could be used to:

- Address short term income disruption
- Meet essential costs of sustaining current activities
- Address increased demand

Application process

2.4 The PCC has funded domestic abuse and sexual violence services for victims in Suffolk since 2013 and is well placed to assess local need and identify where the greatest need is so that funding could be allocated as requested by the MOJ.

2.5 The OPCC Suffolk attended an online workshop with the MOJ on 20 May to discuss the funding, expected process and guidance.

2.6 The MOJ guidance clearly stated that PCCs were not expected to undertake a full competitive bid process. The funding arrangements were considered by 7F procurement who provided advice to the OPCC that it was pragmatic to take forward the process without recourse to the full 7F procurement process. Factors in this decision were: i) the MOJ funding was emergency funding and timescales meant a full procurement process was not pragmatic ii) a documented process was in place and iii) the arrangements could be deemed as 'lite touch'.

2.7 In accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Police and Crime Commissioner can provide or arrange for the provision of services that are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by offences. In arranging for the provision of these services, grants may be made and

may be subject to any conditions (including conditions as to repayment) that the PCC thinks appropriate.

- 2.8 On the basis of the above it was decided that an open process be administered utilising the PCC's website, applications would be received and assessed by the Head of Commissioning and Governance and the Head of Policy and Performance and successful applicants would receive funding in the form of a PCC grant award.
- 2.9 [Guidance](#) for prospective applicants was published on the PCC's website on 21 May.
- 2.10 In order to comply with the MOJ guidance to ensure all local providers of DA and SV services, whether or not they were already commissioned by the PCC, were able to apply for funding, local press and radio coverage of the fund was secured and the opportunity to apply was widely circulated through social media, partners and through the Suffolk Violence and Abuse Partnership which has a reach to over 300 organisations in Suffolk. The Victims Commissioner and Domestic Abuse Commissioner were also informed of the application process. All DA and SV providers already commissioned by the PCC were also made aware of the opportunity to apply for funding.
- 2.11 Following additional guidance from the MOJ the PCC's web page was updated on 29 May notifying prospective applicants that the deadline had been extended. A reissued press release was released on 2 June with further local media coverage.

Assessment process

- 2.12 The OPCC received 14 applications for funding by the deadline of 17.00 on 5 June.
- 2.13 A number of clarification questions were sent to applicants where further information was required to undertake the assessment of need. A correspondence has been kept.
- 2.14 The PCC's Head of Commissioning and Governance and the Head of Policy and Performance undertook a needs assessment of all the applications on 8 June 2020. The assessment was based on the eligibility of the organisation and criteria set out in the published MOJ guidance and additional evidence requested on whether the organisation had experienced any increase in demand for their service or anticipated this within the time period.
- 2.15 The assessment also considered findings from a due diligence review of organisations based on a number of sources including: organisation annual accounts, charity commission report, companies house reports, credit assessments, Cabinet Office Spotlight tool.
- 2.16 Of 14 applications received, one was not deemed to be eligible for funding. The final recommendations were sent to the Ministry of Justice on 10 June for determination of the funding to be allocated to Suffolk.

Recommended Funding based on OPCC assessment	Recommended funding (13 of 14 applications)	Max MOJ funding
Total amount of funding required for Domestic Abuse services that are already commissioned by PCCs	£112,505	£129,000
Total amount of funding required for Domestic Abuse services that are not currently commissioned by PCCs	£48,187	£64,500

Total amount of funding required for Sexual Violence services that are already commissioned by PCCs and those that are not currently funded by PCCs	£47,718	£64,500
TOTAL	£208,411	£258,000

2.17 A grant agreement from the Ministry of Justice was received on 23 June (later than the published timetable), allowing for the recommendations in this report to be made to the PCC.

2.18 A full list of recommended grants can be found in Appendix A and the successful grant recipients will be published on the PCC's website.

3. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

3.1 Organisations will be provided with conditions of award which will reflect the MOJ requirements and include monitoring arrangements. Recipients of funding will be required to provide data to enable the OPCC to report the MOJ by 30 November 2020.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The funding for these grants is provided by the COVID-19 Extraordinary Ministry of Justice Funding for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Support Services. The Ministry of Justice has awarded this to the Suffolk PCC through a grant agreement for onward distribution.

4.2 This funding is in the form of a one-off grant to support extraordinary requirements arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. There are no further obligations on the part of the MOJ or PCC to fund organisations for the impact of Covid-19 after 31 October 2020.

4.3 The OPCC will need to inform the Ministry of Justice by 31 August of any forecast underspend.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

5.1 There are no major implications or risks associated with this decision paper.

5.2 In addition to the assessment of eligibility and criteria, an assessment of risk was undertaken as part of the award process to look at organisation status alongside the values of the grants, the duration of delivery and ability of each provider to deliver.

5.3 The MOJ have also provided information with the grant agreement to cross check bids and ensure there is no duplication of ask across different 'Covid-19' funding streams. The OPCC has completed this cross check and confirmed to the MOJ that funding offered will not result in duplicate funding.

5.4 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, each organisation is required to notify the PCC as per the conditions of award.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves grant awards using 'Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services' to the value of £208,411.

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
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 PCC.

Signature:



Date 07.07.2020

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDED GRANTS

Provider/Service	Funding area	Summary of service	Award Value
ONE VOICE 4 TRAVELLERS	Domestic Abuse	Funding will support the continuing work with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women in Suffolk who are experiencing domestic abuse to understand their options and services available to them. There is some evidence of increased demand for the service and the organisation is experiencing increased costs in operating their service during Covid-19.	£3,827.33
PHOEBE	Domestic Abuse	Funding will support the specialist work that the service provides to BAME women and children in Suffolk who have experienced domestic abuse. The organisation is experiencing additional costs required for technology and has lost income due to the inability to fundraise during Covid-19.	£35,422.00
LEEWAY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SERVICES	Domestic Abuse	Funding is to support additional equipment and hours for the Suffolk IDVA service, staff for the multi-lingual DA service for minority communities in Suffolk and the advice and support line. The organisation is experiencing increasing demand for its services and has lost income due to the inability to fundraise during Covid-19.	£39,277.22
ORWELL HOUSING ASSOCIATION	Domestic Abuse	The funding provides for additional resource and technology to support online delivery of the Freedom programme.	£8,938.00
ALUMAH CIO	Domestic Abuse	The funding provides for additional resource and technology to support online delivery of the Freedom programme and Creative group along with telephone support to victims of domestic abuse.	£12,133.76
LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN'S AID	Domestic Abuse	The organisation has lost income due to the inability to fundraise during Covid-19. Funding is to support existing posts that would usually be covered by this fundraising.	£18,089.00
BURY ST EDMUNDS WOMEN'S AID CENTRE LIMITED	Domestic Abuse	The organisation is experiencing increasing demand for its services and has lost income due to the inability to fundraise during Covid-19. Funding is for additional technology and to increase the capacity of the outreach team to address anticipated increase in demand.	£13,025.00

ANGLIA CARE TRUST	Domestic Abuse	Funding will support additional capacity for the domestic abuse money advice service in Suffolk (Freedom from financial abuse) to address anticipated increase in demand and the additional technology costs the organisation has incurred during Covid-19.	£18,683.00
WAVENEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE FORUM	Domestic Abuse	Funding will pay for some of the additional hours worked by the Forum Coordinator to meet increased demand for their support services, additional administration hours and other operating costs.	£2,459.14
SUFFOLK RAPE CRISIS	Sexual Violence	The organisation has lost income due to the inability to fundraise during Covid-19. Funding is for additional technology to facilitate the change in working practices due to Covid-19, additional counselling capacity to deal with the increase in demand for services and funding for posts where income has been lost.	£28,032.00
FRESH START NEW BEGINNINGS	Sexual Violence	The organisation has lost income due to the inability to fundraise during Covid-19. Funding will support additional counselling hours to deal with the increase in demand for services and safe working practices.	£14,436.25
RESTITUTE	Sexual Violence	The organisation has lost income during Covid-19. Funding will support provision of a number of counselling sessions and telephone support for survivors of sexual violence who also have caring responsibilities.	£5,250.00
COMPASSION	Domestic Abuse	The organisation has lost income due to the inability to fundraise during Covid-19. The funding provides for additional resource to support online delivery of the Freedom programme and for support that addresses the increase in demand.	£8,837.85