



Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO.

19-2020

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF GRANT AWARDS – SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SUMMARY:

1. In accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 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.
2. The PCC awarded grant extensions to victim services providers until 30 September 2020 in order to minimise disruption to services during both the PCC pre-election period and development of a new Police and Crime Plan.
3. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic the PCC elections scheduled for 7 May 2020 were postponed. A decision was taken not to publish a new Police and Crime Plan in 2020 with the consequence that plans for re-commissioning services to align with a new Police and Crime Plan have also been delayed.
4. In order to ensure that victims of sexual violence are still able to access services in Suffolk it is proposed that the PCC continues to fund the delivery of services by three specialist providers in Suffolk: Survivors in Transition; Suffolk Rape Crisis and Fresh Start New Beginnings at the same level of funding as in previous years for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year.
5. The funding will support delivery of the current Police and Crime Plan and the Ministry of Justice Victim Services Grant 2020/21.
6. A schedule of grant extensions proposed and funding amounts, totalling an additional £90,000, is set out at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the PCC award grants to three specialist providers of services for victims of sexual abuse for a total of £90,000 for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature *Tim Rammore*

Date *19th August 2020*

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the PCC to award grants to three specialist providers of services for victims of sexual abuse for a total of £90,000 for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021.

2. PCC GRANT AWARD PROCESS 2020/21

- 2.1 A key part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's role is to commission services that help reduce demand on the Constabulary and support victims of crime. The PCC's commissioning budget in 2020/21 is £1.7m for both crime and disorder reduction and victim services. This includes the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) grant to the PCC for the delivery of services to victims of crime including child sexual abuse (CSA).
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Each grant is awarded by the PCC on basis of a decision paper which contains the business case including activity to be delivered, financials, outcomes expected, and monitoring arrangements. The decision papers are published on the PCC website.
- 2.4 PCC decision 9-2020 set out a recommendation for the continuity of victim services until 30 September 2020 by way of extending current grants in order to cover the PCC pre-election period up to 7 May 2020 and in the following period when it was expected that a new Police and Crime Plan would be published.
- 2.5 With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 the scheduled PCC elections were postponed until 2021 and a decision was taken not to publish a new Police and Crime Plan in 2020, to which new commissioned services and grant awards would have been aligned. As a consequence, the arrangements for PCC funded victim services in Suffolk have been reviewed to ensure that services continue within the financial year 2020/21. This decision paper proposes that the PCC continues to grant fund services for victims of sexual violence during 2020/21.
- 2.6 The proposed grant awards to specialist providers supports the delivery of Objectives 2 and 3 in the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021, in particular:
- Commissioning services which support victims to cope and recover;
 - Ensuring that the most vulnerable victims receive appropriate high quality support from commissioned victims' services in accordance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime;
 - Raising awareness of crime that is hidden from sight, so that our most vulnerable victims have the trust and confidence to report crimes;
 - Monitoring the experience and satisfaction of victims of sexual abuse to ensure they receive appropriate high-quality support from commissioned victims' services in accordance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime;
 - Work in partnership to improve the whole system for victims (sexual abuse).
- 2.7 The grants will also meet the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Victim Services grant to the PCC for 2020/21 for the provision of services for victims of sexual violence and CSA.

PROPOSED GRANTS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE 2020-21

- 2.8 The PCC has previously awarded grants to support victims of sexual violence to three specialist organisations in Suffolk: Suffolk Rape Crisis, Survivors in Transition, Fresh Start New Beginnings.
- 2.9 Between them these organisations provide support to any victim of sexual violence, whether or not they have reported to the police. Each service receives both self-referrals and referrals from other parts of the system, for example the Sexual Assault Referral Centre or mental health services.
- 2.10 A summary of the proposed funding for services for victims of sexual violence can be found in Appendix A and detail on each of the organisations is set out below.

SUFFOLK RAPE CRISIS

- 2.11 Suffolk Rape Crisis (SRC) is a specialist charitable organisation for women and girls (aged 14 and over) who have experienced sexual violence and/or abuse at any time in their lives.
- 2.12 The organisation provides counselling (25 weeks of 1:1 needs led counselling currently online or by phone), helpline (confidential emotional and practical support to women and girls 2 evenings a week) and outreach services (independent and person-centred emotional and practical support) to women across Suffolk.
- 2.13 During 2019/20, supported by PCC funding, the service received 303 new referrals for counselling (an increase from 256 the previous year) and supported a total of 528 women with counselling.
- 2.14 Of those women finishing their counselling support during the year (66) 94% rated the service as excellent and the remainder as good. For outcome measures showing 'distance travelled' 84% of women return scores that indicated positive change in indicators relating to: self-esteem; general wellbeing; relationships and how they are coping.
- 2.15 SRC have a secure online counselling facility increasing the accessibility of the service which has been particularly useful during the Covid-19 pandemic. The service also secured new premises in Bury St Edmunds with wheelchair accessible space and began outreach support work in February 2020 which had supported 21 women by the end of the financial year.
- 2.16 SRC report that during the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a significant rise in the demand and complexity of support their clients require. Waiting lists for counselling have increased as some clients choose to pause or wait for face to face support and SRC have expressed concern that there will be an increased need for services in future, including a potential 50% increase in counselling provision from October 2020.
- 2.17 Suffolk Rape Crisis is in receipt of three year direct funding from the Ministry of Justice Rape Support Fund to carry out their work and has actively developed a number of income streams to support the expansion of the organisation's work in recent years. They have also successfully applied for funding from the Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding for DA and SV services which will support additional costs related to the pandemic until October 2020.
- 2.18 The recommended additional funding of £30,000 from the PCC will contribute to the running costs of the direct support work that SRC provide including the counselling service, outreach and ongoing helpline support until 31 March 2021.

SURVIVORS IN TRANSITION

- 2.19 Survivors in Transition (SiT) is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation who have been providing support for adult survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and sexual violence in Suffolk since 2010.
- 2.20 The organisation works using a dynamic model of short term interventions that address the unresolved effects of sexual abuse experienced in childhood. Individuals are able to access a range of different interventions determined by their particular experiences and their need at a particular time.
- 2.21 Overall there were 113 referrals to the service and 163 people received various interventions. SiT have reported that with funding received from the PCC in 2019-20 they were able to support 49 adult survivors of child sexual abuse and 11 cases of male acute sexual assault.
- 2.22 Responses from clients show consistently high outcomes:
- 86% report improved health and wellbeing;
 - 90% say they are better able to cope with aspects of everyday life;
 - 90% report increased feelings of safety;
 - 92% say they are better informed and empowered to act.
- 2.23 Separately, SiT report that 90% of service users rated the service as excellent and 10% good.
- 2.24 SiT were able to contact all their existing clients the week before the Covid-19 lockdown to agree arrangements. The majority of clients opted in to remote 'online' support. Cases have increased in complexity and there appears to be an increase in referrals as lockdown has eased.
- 2.25 SiT is in receipt of three year direct funding from the Ministry of Justice Rape Support Fund to carry out their work and has developed a number of other income streams to support the expansion of the organisation's work in recent years.
- 2.26 The recommended additional funding of £30,000 from the PCC will contribute to counselling and therapy for adult survivors of CSA, support and therapy for adult male victims of sexual assault, support and advice sessions and a contribution to overheads until 31 March 2021.

FRESH START NEW BEGINNINGS

- 2.27 Fresh Start-new beginnings is a charity working across Suffolk and Norfolk to provide therapeutic treatment services to children and young people who have reported being sexually abused.
- 2.28 The organisation works with children and young people, and their families, providing the therapeutic services they need to allow them to overcome the trauma of the abuse and improve their health and wellbeing.
- 2.29 The organisation receives around 200 referrals a year across Norfolk and Suffolk. Funding from the PCC in 2019-20 funded specialist support for 32 child victims of sexual violence and abuse, 12 of whom were under 12 years of age, to receive a home assessment, individual treatment plan, 15 sessions and reviews. Assessment shows that all were better able to recover and cope with aspects of every day life. Where treatment was completed by the end of the year individual assessments were completed across a range of indicators.

- 2.30 Some support services were suspended during the Covid-19 lockdown but trauma treatment was suspended as it was not safe to provide this remotely. Data provided by Fresh Start New Beginnings shows that waiting list have increased to the end of June 2020 but new cases continue to be received. Plans are now in place for safe face to face meetings with young people alongside telephone and online services.
- 2.31 Fresh Start New Beginnings have also successfully applied for funding from the Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding for DA and SV services which will support additional costs related to the pandemic until October 2020.
- 2.32 The additional recommended funding of £30,000 from the PCC will contribute to the counselling and therapy costs for young people and a contribution to overheads until 31 March 2021.

3. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

- 3.1 Each grant award has associated monitoring conditions, including data requirements for reporting to the MOJ. Monitoring of grants is undertaken on a quarterly basis through written reports and, in accordance with MOJ quality requirements, meetings with providers will be held quarterly. A final report will be submitted to the PCC by 16 April 2021.
- 3.2 The PCC requires information to be reported quarterly on the following
- Narrative update on the service, challenges and risks.
 - Financial update on spend against budget allocations.
 - Number of victims referred to the service and through which route i.e. agency referral (provide breakdown by agency) and self-referral.
 - Number of individual victims who received a service (across all service functions).
 - Number of victims who had reported to the police (at the point of engagement with the service) and number supported to report.
 - Proportion of clients/victims who have presented previously (i.e. repeat users).
 - Number of victims referred on / out of services (by organisation/service).
 - Geographical breakdown of support provided.
 - Number of victims on waiting lists.
 - Counselling hours delivered.
 - Number of volunteer hours delivered.
 - Client satisfaction with the service.
 - Number of formal complaints made about the service and any lessons learned.
- 3.3 In line with the requirement of the Ministry of Justice on the PCC the services will also be required to report on the following indicators at the end of quarter two and quarter four (end of year report).
- Number of Victims referred by crime type (both new and existing)
 - Number of Victims receiving support by crime type (both new and existing)
 - Average (over the reporting period) number of victims on waiting lists
 - Average (over the reporting period) waiting time for victims on waiting lists
 - Number of victims who are eligible where the support service has been unable to contact the victim
 - Number of victims who are eligible and then decide to disengage (including from either initial support offer or whilst receiving on-going support)

- Number of victims who engaged with support services who required additional needs e.g. financial help, housing etc.
- Number of victims who engaged with support services who presented with mental health needs
- Number of victims who engaged with support who reported the crime to the police
- Protected characteristics of victims who engaged with support by crime type including gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity and disability.
- Measure of progress against the following outcome: Better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life;

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Funding of £90,000 had already been allocated from the budget to continues victim services until the end of September 2020 (Decision 9-2020). The recommendation in this decision paper proposes extending this funding by £90,000 until 31 March 2020.
- 4.2 The Ministry of Justice have provided a grant agreement to the value of £886,709 for Victim Services in 2020/21 including a ring fenced amount of £61,478 for victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse. This funding will be utilised to support the recommendation grants.
- 4.3 Emergency, short term, funding to support additional costs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic has been provided by the Ministry of Justice and will be administered by the OPCC separately.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 5.1 There are no major implications or risks associated with this decision paper.
- 5.2 An assessment of risk in delivery of the service has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the values of the grants, the duration of delivery and ability of each provider to deliver including for the sustainability of the service to victims during the Covid-19 pandemic and during any 'lockdown' conditions.
- 5.3 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 award grants to three specialist providers of services for victims of sexual abuse for a total of £90,000 for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021.

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

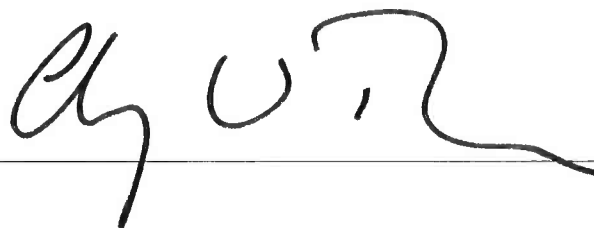
In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

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 18 August 2020

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED SEXUAL VIOLENCE GRANTS -2020/21

Provider/Service	Summary of service	Award Value October 2020 – March 2021
Suffolk Crisis Rape	Supporting the helpline, outreach and counselling service for girls and women who are victims of sexual violence.	£ 30,000
Survivors Transition in	Funding for a CSA support worker, Trauma Therapy and general support and advice services for adult survivors of child sexual abuse and services for male victims of sexual violence.	£ 30,000
Fresh Start New Beginnings	Contribution towards running costs of the organisation and specialist support is provided for child victims of sexual violence and abuse.	£ 30,000

