

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO. 23 - 2020

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF GRANT AWARDS – SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC ABUSE**

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 domestic violence and abuse are still able to access services in Suffolk it is proposed that the PCC continues to fund the delivery by the following providers in Suffolk at the same level of funding as in previous years for the remainder of the 2020/21 financial year: Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre, Lighthouse Women's Aid, Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Services.
5. The funding will support delivery of the current Police and Crime Plan.
6. A schedule of grant extensions proposed and funding amounts, totalling an additional £70,000, 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 domestic abuse for a total of £70,000 for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature



Date 19.10.20

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the PCC to award grants to three local providers of services for victims of domestic abuse for a total of £70,000 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 domestic abuse 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;
 - Raising awareness of crime that is hidden from sight, so that our most vulnerable victims have the trust and confidence to report crimes;
 - 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;
 - Monitoring the experience and satisfaction of victims of domestic 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 with other commissioners to understand services available, identify duplication and gaps and commission services in the most efficient and effective manner in order to improve the whole system for victims.

PROPOSED GRANTS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE 2020-21

- 2.7 The PCC has previously awarded grants to support victims of domestic violence and abuse to Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre, Lighthouse Women's Aid, Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Services.
- 2.8 These organisations provide support to victims of domestic abuse in the community, whether or not they have reported to the police. These services risk assess and refer on where victims are assessed as at high risk so that appropriate safeguarding can take place. They receive both self-referrals and referrals from other parts of the system including the PCC commissioned IDVA service where risk has been reduced and ongoing support or access to programmes is required.
- 2.9 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.

BURY ST EDMUNDS WOMEN'S AID CENTRE

- 2.10 Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre Ltd manages a Women's Refuge in West Suffolk and a Domestic Abuse Outreach Centre "No.24". The charity provides a variety of support to all people who have been affected by domestic abuse so that victims can feel empowered and able to take steps to ensure that they live happy and safe lives.
- 2.11 The PCC has supported the running on No. 24 since 2017. The Centre and its staff provide a safe space where those affected by domestic abuse can access: outreach services; specialist support; one to one; group and peer support sessions; empowerment programmes and a community space for support and advice.
- 2.12 The service supports female and male victims predominantly in West Suffolk through outreach, crisis support and programmes such as Freedom programme and Stronger Families as well as providing links to legal, housing and financial advice. During 2019/20 the service provided support for 359 female and 3 male victims of DA, 431 helpline calls were received and there were 61 Freedom programme attendees.
- 2.13 Of those clients whose cases were closed during the year 231 reported improvements across a range of indicators including feeling better informed and empowered, feeling safer (54) and better able to cope with aspects of every day life.
- 2.14 During the Covid-19 pandemic BSE Women's Aid have extended their outreach team and helpline cover to meet increased demand. They are working proactively to deliver services through telephone and video support and the Centre opened safely in Q2 2020.
- 2.15 BSE Women's Aid have successfully secured funding from the Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding for DA and SV services which has supported additional costs related to the pandemic until October 2020. They have also been successful in securing other short term grant funding to increase their outreach provision.
- 2.16 The recommended additional funding of £30,000 from the PCC will contribute to the running costs of the Domestic Abuse Outreach Centre "No.24." including a Support Worker salary until 31 March 2021.

LIGHTHOUSE WOMEN'S AID

- 2.17 Lighthouse Women's Aid is a Suffolk based charity which has been providing support to victims of domestic abuse for over 40 years through refuge and a Women's Centre which supports women and children.

- 2.18 The organisation seeks to support victims of abuse whether they are fleeing an abusive relationship, accessing advice and support or attending a programme to feel safer and stronger.
- 2.19 The service supports female victims predominantly in the Ipswich area with advice, crisis intervention, programmes and access to legal, housing and financial advice. During 2019/20 the service had 618 new referrals (mainly self-referrals); over 1000 children received the Expect Respect programme and a further 1475 received a bespoke Expect Respect presentation through Crucial Crew. 358 people from businesses and agencies received training in domestic abuse awareness and how to apply it in the workplace.
- 2.20 During the Covid-19 pandemic LWA workers supported clients remotely through phone appointments and online programmes. The Centre is now open for appointments and some face to face programmes are in place for small groups in Covid-safe spaces.
- 2.21 LWA have successfully secured funding from the Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding for DA and SV services which has supported core and back office costs usually funded through fundraising. They have also been successful in securing other short term grant funding to support increased technology costs.
- 2.22 The recommended additional funding of £30,000 from the PCC will fund two Crisis Support Workers, Training Coordinator and Administrator until 31 March 2021.

WAVENEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE FORUM

- 2.23 Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum (WDVAF) is a charity providing a holistic service to families affected by domestic abuse. The active forum comprises 128 members and, alongside this, WDVAF has developed a wide variety of support services.
- 2.24 The organisation seeks to improve the lives of those impacted by domestic violence and abuse by raising awareness, providing advice and guidance, support programmes and through working in partnership with statutory, charitable and other organisations.
- 2.25 The PCC has provided funding to the WDVAF since January 2014 to support the Forum's part time co-ordinator who is responsible for the co-ordination of service delivery, awareness raising, managing staff and volunteers and provides an initial point of contact for clients and forum members.
- 2.26 Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum provided direct support to 378 women in 2019-20, including 55 'walk-in' clients. Forum membership at the end of the year was 137 with benefits such as training, access to resources and networking provided.
- 2.27 Walk in access to services was suspended during the Covid-19 lockdown but telephone support has continued and staff are now able to work safely from the centre.
- 2.28 WDVAF successfully applied for a small amount of funding from the Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding for DA and SV services for additional costs related to the pandemic until October 2020. They have also been successful in securing other short term grant funding.
- 2.29 The additional recommended funding of £10,000 from the PCC will support the continued employment of the WDVAF co-ordinator until 31 March 2021.

3. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

- 3.1 Monitoring of grants is undertaken on a quarterly basis through written reports and supplementary meetings where necessary. 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.
 - Number of volunteer hours delivered.
 - Client satisfaction with the service.
 - Number of formal complaints made about the service and any lessons learned.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Funding of £70,000 had already been allocated from the budget to continue victim services until the end of September 2020 (Decision 9-2020). The recommendation in this decision paper proposes extending this funding by £70,000 until 31 March 2020 through the PCC's commissioning budget.
- 4.2 Emergency, short term, funding to support additional costs arising from the Covid-19 pandemic has been provided by the Ministry of Justice and is 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 domestic abuse for a total of £70,000 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: 16.10.20

APPENDIX A**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED DOMESTIC ABUSE GRANTS -2020/21**

Provider/Service	Summary of service	Award Value October 2020 – March 2021
Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre	Support for the Women's Centre in Ipswich through a contribution to funding to the Centre's Crisis worker, advice and support worker and training co-ordinator.	£ 30,000
Lighthouse Women's Aid	Support for the Women's Centre in Bury St Edmunds through a contribution in funding to the running costs of the centre and Support Worker.	£ 30,000
Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum	Funding for the Co-ordinator and contribution to core costs supporting victims of domestic abuse.	£ 10,000