

**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING**

**DECISION NO. 16 - 2021**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: 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. It is recommended that the PCC awards grants to organisations in Suffolk that support victims of domestic abuse to cope and recover from the impact of crimes.
3. The funding will support delivery of the current Police and Crime Plan and fulfil the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Victim Services grant requirements.
4. Funding for these grants will come from the MOJ Victim Services grant 'Domestic Abuse Uplift' for 2021/22 and from the PCC commissioning budget. Each grant has been assessed on the basis of an application to the PCC for funding and on evidence of need, in compliance with MOJ requirements.
5. A schedule of grant proposed and funding amounts, totalling £325,467, is set out at Appendix A.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves grants for domestic abuse services in Suffolk for a total of £325,467 for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

**APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The recommendation set out is agreed.

**Signature**



**Date 23.03.21**

## **DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 There were 9,677 domestic abuse (DA) crimes reported to Suffolk police in 2020, a 20% increase on the long-term average. The Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service received 29% more high risk victim referrals in 2020 than 2019. The Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (DAOS), supporting medium risk victims, also had an increase of 22% in referrals. The Home Office estimate of the cost for each victim of DA is £34,000 (Safelives, 2020) and with estimated £66bn economic and societal impact in 2017.
- 1.2 Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic partners in Suffolk (PCC, local authorities, police and health) worked to ensure that victims of domestic abuse were able to report crimes and access the support they needed safely. There are a number of voluntary and community services providing this support in Suffolk and these organisations adapted their methods during the pandemic to ensure support was available to victims, whether they were reporting abuse for the first time or seeking ongoing support.
- 1.3 These organisations provide support to victims of domestic abuse in the community, whether or not they have reported to the police. Victims are risk assessed and referred on where necessary so that appropriate safeguarding can take place. Support organisations receive both self-referrals and referrals from other parts of the system including the IDVA service, DAOS and Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care, where risk has been reduced and ongoing support or access to programmes is required.
- 1.4 Data shows increases in male, BAME and elderly referrals to domestic abuse support services in 2020 but they remain under-represented. Data from Suffolk schools indicates that there is a significant emerging population of children from Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Lithuanian families over the decade since the last census but uptake of victim support from minority communities is limited with known trust and cultural issues.
- 1.5 "[Safe to Share](#)" (HMICFRS/College of Policing/IOPC, 2020) and OPCC discussions with community organisations has also evidenced a lack of trust felt by victims who have an unsettled immigration status – these people are unlikely to be known to statutory agencies.
- 1.6 Between April and October 2020, organisations supported by PCC and MOJ Covid-19 emergency funding:
- Received 1,968 new DA referrals;
  - Supported 3,619 victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence;
  - Helped 342 victims report crimes to the police;
  - Recorded that 1,141 victims had been helped to cope and recover within the time period.
- 1.7 Against this backdrop, this decision paper recommends that the PCC approves grant awards to providers of services for victims of domestic abuse for a total of £325,467 for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

### **2. PCC GRANT AWARD PROCESS 2021/22**

- 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.

- 2.2 The PCC's commissioning budget in 2021/22 is £1.95m for both crime and disorder reduction and victim services. This includes the Ministry of Justice grant to the PCC for the delivery of services to victims of crime including child sexual abuse (CSA), additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) funding and, for 2021/22, a one year 'uplift' for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. The uplift funding is ringfenced to fund support services to help victims of DA or SV cope with the impact of crime and as far as possible recover from the harm they have experienced.
- 2.3 The PCC has long term contracts in place for the IDVA service and Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care and commissions other services for victims of crime through the award of grants. This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which allows the Police and Crime Commissioner to 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.
- 2.4 The PCC requested Expressions of Interest on 3 February 2021, through the PCC website for the provision of domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Suffolk in 2021/22. 14 organisations responded and a process ensued to consider the applications against criteria, ensuring the services are responding to local demand, will meet the needs of victims, comply with MOJ criteria and will provide value for money.
- 2.5 The PCC's Head of Commissioning has also liaised with Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and other partners through the Violence Against Women and Girls, Men and Boys (VAWGMB) Board so that partner views on priority areas could be considered, in line with MOJ guidance.
- 2.6 MOJ guidance also requests that PCCs consider funding specialist organisations who support victims with protected characteristics and provision for men and boys.
- 2.7 The proposed grants support 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.
- 2.8 The proposed grants also support the Suffolk VAWGMB action plan actions on: raising awareness of VAWG – how to report and get help; working with partners to start proactive targeted work with marginalised communities; responding to Covid-19 to ensure victims are able to access support as soon as safe to do so.

### 3. PROPOSED GRANTS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE 2021-22

3.1 It is recommended that the following grants be awarded by the PCC.

<b>Provider - Service</b>	<b>Recommended grant</b>
Anglia Care Trust - Money Advice Service	£33,367
Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre – Outreach Centre	£72,500
Compassion – Lead Programme Facilitator	£12,100
Home-Start Mid and West Suffolk – supporting families through domestic abuse	£10,000
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services – Suffolk Project Safety Net (no recourse to public funds)	£51,000
Lighthouse Women's Aid – Women's Centre	£72,500
One Voice 4 Travellers - Support for Gypsy, Romany and Travellers in Suffolk experiencing domestic abuse	£3,900
Phoebe - Domestic Violence Support for BAME and migrant women	£40,000
Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum – Co-ordinator and services to support victims to cope and recover	£30,100

3.2 More detail on the services for victims of domestic abuse, demand and previous outcomes can be found in Appendix A.

3.3 These grants will ensure that all victims of domestic abuse in Suffolk are able to access services to help them cope and recover from the crime. These services support women, men, and their families and include providers who specialise in supporting minority communities.

3.4 The proposed grants also ensure there is geographical spread across Suffolk including funding for centres in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft where victims can access a range of support services. Building on the work started during the Covid-19 pandemic, the funding also supports online programmes, telephone and virtual help for those who prefer this method or cannot access support centres.

### 4. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

4.1 Monitoring of grants will be undertaken at six months and year end through written reports. These reports will be supplemented by quarterly meetings between the OPCC and service provider. Final reports will be submitted to the PCC by 15 April 2022.

4.2 Full monitoring requirements will be set out in the conditions of award for each organisation and will include the requirement to comply with MOJ criteria and monitoring requirements (awaited).

4.3 Monitoring will include the following:

- Narrative update on the service, challenges and risks.
- Financial update on spend against budget allocations.
- Data on referrals and engagement with the service.
- Demographics of service users.
- Outcomes for victims
- Client feedback and satisfaction with the service.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The recommendation in this decision paper requires funding of £325,467 for the grants to be awarded.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the PCC fully utilises the Ministry of Justice 'DA Uplift' funding of £99,805 to fund the recommended grants. This will be supplemented with £225,662 from the PCC commissioning budget for 2021/22.
- 5.3 The DA Uplift for 2021/22 is part of the MOJ Victim Services grant to the PCC. This grant is separately accounted for to ensure transparency and to enable reporting to the MOJ.
- 5.4 Grants to providers will be paid quarterly in arrears. Any underspend on the MOJ grant will need to be reported and returned to the MOJ.

## **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 6.1 There are no major implications or risks associated with this decision paper.
- 6.2 Due diligence has been undertaken on the proposed providers of services including a review of annual reports, financial statements and review of credit scores.
- 6.3 An assessment of risk in delivery has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the values of the grants, the duration of delivery and plans for continuity of service to victims during the Covid-19 pandemic and any future 'lockdown' conditions.
- 6.4 For those organisations who have been in receipt of PCC or Covid-19 emergency funding in 2020/21 the end of year reporting is due in April 2021. The conditions of award for grants in 2021/22 will reflect that this monitoring information must be satisfactory for new funding to be allocated.
- 6.5 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, each organisation is required to notify the PCC as per the conditions of award.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves grants for domestic abuse services in Suffolk for a total of £325,467 for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
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:** 22.03.21

## APPENDIX A

### SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED DOMESTIC ABUSE GRANTS -2021/22

Provider/Service	Summary of service	Recommended grant
Anglia Care Trust - Money Advice Service	<p>The grant will provide continuation funding to maintain the specialist Money Advice service for victims of DA and extend the post to a full-time role. The majority of DA victims require money advice or financial capability support and access the service through the Domestic Abuse Outreach Service or referral from other agencies/DA support organisations across Suffolk. It is estimated that demand will increase by 20% in 2021. Per annum, ACT help victims to manage circa £750k of debt in addition to maximising income to the value of £100k. Monthly referrals have risen from 15-17 prior to the covid-19 pandemic to 25 per month by December 2020.</p> <p>Covid-19 funding in 2020 enabled 113 victims to be referred for money advice over six months and of the 84 who wanted support in that period, 63 achieved financial recovery to be better positioned to cope with the remainder progressing towards positive outcomes.</p>	£33,367
Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre – Outreach Centre	<p>The grant will provide funding towards the Outreach Centre in Bury St Edmunds including staff and property costs. The Centre provides a base for all outreach work, group and individual therapy work and counselling for victims of domestic abuse in West Suffolk and usually supports over 200 victims of DA each year plus a greater number by phone and virtually. Outreach staffing was extended during the Covid-19 pandemic to meet demand and provide phone and online support to those in need. The Centre brings in external organisations to support victims with housing, legal and therapeutic needs and supports survivors to ensure their continued safety and recovery to break the cycle of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Covid-19 funding enabled 103 victims to be supported in the six months to October 2020 with 72 reporting within that time that they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life. The organisation was able to offer support to a small number of male victims as well as women and children.</p>	£72,500
Compassion - Lead Programme Facilitator	<p>Compassion usually support approx. 90 women and their families per year but have seen a rising number of referrals in recent months.</p> <p>Funding will support the continued employment of the part time Lead Programme Facilitator to run support groups, one to one support and programmes for victims of domestic abuse in the Babergh area of Suffolk. There is now an online offering from Compassion developing in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Work is supported by a team of volunteers.</p>	£12,100

	Covid-19 funding enabled 32 victims to be supported in the six months to October 2020 all of whom reported within that time that they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life.	
Home-Start Mid and West Suffolk – supporting families through domestic abuse	<p>Funding will contribute to the costs of one staff member and volunteers (expenses) providing emotional and practical support to families in Mid and West Suffolk who have experienced domestic abuse. Working with families who need immediate support the organisation is more regularly coming across cases of domestic abuse and will provide both immediate support and a non-statutory route in to other services where appropriate. Services are provided in the more rural mid and west Suffolk.</p> <p>The charity says that referrals are increasing and that Covid-19 funding in 2020/21 enabled Home-Start to work with at least 17 families where DA was a factor in every day life.</p>	£10,000
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services – Suffolk Project Safety Net	<p>Funding will enable 2 bilingual DA workers in Suffolk to continue to provide practical and emotional support to victims of DA with no recourse to public funds and where English isn't their first language. Holistic information, advice and support is provided to victims to increase their safety and access services along with help to find accommodation, immigration advice and financial stability. Evaluation to date has found positive outcomes for 95% of those engaged with the service.</p> <p>Covid-19 funding in 2020 enabled 87 victims to be supported within a six month period, 33 of whom reported within the period that they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of every day life.</p> <p>The project will extend its reach in Suffolk to engage and raise awareness with people from diverse communities who may be less likely to engage with mainstream or statutory services as well as those whose immigration status leads to actual or a perception of limited access/barriers to support.</p>	£51,000
Lighthouse Women's Aid – Women's Centre	<p>LWA provide support for women, young people and children affected by domestic abuse, predominantly in the Ipswich area of Suffolk. Advice, guidance and programmes are delivered from the Centre, and during the Covid-19 pandemic by telephone, online or face to face in a Covid-19 secure way when possible. A new community worker has been appointed to focus on awareness raising and engaging with older victims of abuse, a recognised gap.</p> <p>The funding will support the following roles at LWA to deliver the core services from the Centre as well as contributing to premises and overheads: Crisis Worker; Advice &amp; Support Worker; Training Co-ordinator; Community Worker and Administrator</p> <p>Covid-19 funding in 2020 enabled 500 victims to be supported within a six month period, many of who received short term advice and crisis intervention. Of those attending online programmes during this period (31), 27 said they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life.</p>	£72,500
One Voice 4 Travellers - Support for Gypsy, Romany and Travellers	One Voice 4 Travellers works with the Gypsy, Romany and Traveller community in Suffolk on a one to one basis or in small groups using a range of activities and methods that account for those with reduced literacy.	£3,900



Suffolk experiencing domestic abuse	<p>During the Covid-19 pandemic the charity experienced an increase in requests for support.</p> <p>Covid-19 funding in 2020 enabled 32 victims to be supported within a six month period 30 of whom said they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life.</p> <p>Activities supporting victims of DA is undertaken by volunteers and therefore this funding will be used to provide materials, supervision, expenses (mileage) and towards office overheads.</p>	
Phoebe - Domestic Violence Support for BAME and migrant women	<p>PHOEBE supports women and children from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic, and migrant communities in Suffolk. For victims of DA they help find safe temporary accommodation, completing visa applications, facilitate support groups, providing counselling and casework, and legal advice. Supporting women to access education and employment opportunities, and improve their English enables victims to become more independent and more able to leave abusive relationships.</p> <p>Funding will support the employment of a full time Women's Worker to support the Portuguese speaking African population in Suffolk and also contribute to the general Domestic Abuse Advocate role.</p> <p>Covid-19 funding in 2020 enabled 80 victims to be supported within a six month period 75 of whom said within that period they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life. Over 70% of those supported were from black or minority ethnic communities.</p>	£40,000
Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum – Co-ordinator and services to support victims to cope and recover	<p>Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum 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 and awareness raising activity.</p> <p>The grant will provide funding for the part time WDVAF Co-ordinator and Delivery Service Assistant, contribute to the core costs of supporting victims of domestic abuse and provide new technology to build capacity and capability in response to the increase in demand for services in the Waveney area of Suffolk.</p> <p>Covid-19 funding in 2020 enabled 184 victims of domestic abuse (including male victims) to be supported within a six month period, all of whom reported they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life.</p>	£30,100