

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO. 17 - 2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: 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. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grants to organisations in Suffolk that support victims of sexual violence 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 funding for Child Sexual Abuse, the MOJ Sexual Violence Uplift for 2021/22 and from the PCC's 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 grants proposed and funding amounts, totalling £230,000, is set out at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves grants for sexual violence services in Suffolk for a total of £230,000 for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Parry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Signature

Date 07.04.21

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Suffolk Constabulary received 1,839 reports of serious sexual offences in 2020, a reduction of 1.1% on the long-term average. There were 1,203 Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) crimes (recorded by keyword). It is likely that the lockdowns associated with the Covid-19 pandemic are a factor in the reduction in offences. When comparing volumes of all sexual offences in Suffolk with its most similar groups (MSG), Suffolk has the 3rd highest number of sexual offences per 1,000 population between November 2019 and October 2020, with a rate of 3.0 crimes.
- 1.2 Nationally it is estimated that only 20% of women who have been raped report to police, only 3% of reported cases see a suspect charged and 58% of trials are acquittals (Centre for Women's Justice, 2020). Delays in decision making and progressing cases to court can have a severe impact on the victim's mental health and ability to cope and recover, increasing the likelihood of victim disengagement and cracked cases.
- 1.3 Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic partners in Suffolk (PCC, local authorities, police and health) worked to ensure that victims of sexual violence were able to report crimes and access the support they needed safely. Despite the number of reported crimes being relatively stable, Suffolk's Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) supported 34% more referrals in 2020. As well as the ISVA service, a small number of voluntary and community services provide support to victims of sexual violence in Suffolk. These organisations adapted their methods during the pandemic to ensure support was available, whether the victim was reporting sexual violence or abuse for the first time or seeking ongoing support and whether or not they had reported to the police.
- 1.4 Support organisations receive both self-referrals and referrals from other parts of the system including the ISVA service and Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care, where ongoing support, counselling or therapy is required. Delays in the criminal justice system, compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic, means that these organisations report that they are supporting more victims, with more complex needs, for a longer length of time.
- 1.5 Between April and October 2020, organisations supported by PCC and MOJ Covid-19 emergency funding:
 - Received 370 new sexual violence and 268 new CSA referrals;
 - Supported 601 victims of sexual violence and 218 victims of CSA;
 - Helped 135 victims of sexual violence report crimes to the police;
 - Recorded that 93 people they were working with had been helped to cope and recover within the time period.
- 1.6 Data from providers shows clear under-representation of some groups with a low number of male (6.6%), LGBT+ (6.6%) and BAME (3.4%) people accessing services. Indeed, the number of male referrals to sexual violence support services appears to have dropped in 2020 although the reasons for this are unclear. The proportion of victims supported who reported they had a disability was 33%.
- 1.7 Against this backdrop, this decision paper recommends that the PCC approves grant awards to providers of services for victims of sexual violence for a total of £230,000 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 Independent Domestic Violence Advisor 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 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.
- 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 SEXUAL VIOLENCE 2021-22

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

Provider - Service	Recommended grant
Fresh Start - New Beginnings	£60,000
Restitute	£20,000
Suffolk Rape Crisis	£75,000
Survivors in Transition	£75,000

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

3.3 These grants will ensure that all victims of sexual violence in Suffolk are able to access services to help them cope and recover from the crime. These services support women, men, children and young people who have been victims of crime and their families.

3.4 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 of support.

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 £230,000 for the grants to be awarded.

5.2 It is proposed that the PCC fully utilises the Ministry of Justice CSA grant of £61,478 and 'SV Uplift' funding of £43,032 to fund the recommended grants. This will be supplemented with £125,490 from the PCC commissioning budget for 2021/22.

- 5.3 The CSA grant and SV 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 sexual violence services in Suffolk for a total of £230,000 for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

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: 06.04.21

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED SEXUAL VIOLENCE GRANTS -2021/22

Provider/Service	Summary of service	Recommended grant
Fresh Start- New Beginnings	<p>Fresh StartNew Beginnings provide a therapeutic treatment service for child victims of sexual abuse to address the short and longer term symptoms of trauma. The service received 165 referrals in Suffolk in the year to 31 March 2020 with a surge in referrals after the first national lockdown. Services were adapted during the pandemic to provide safe and effective remote delivery.</p> <p>The new grant will contribute to trauma treatment for 64 children, young people and their families, helping to address the current waiting list. Treatment prevents or decreases the incidence of the difficulties sexually abused children experience and increases wellbeing at the point in time as well as enabling them to lead successful adult lives in time.</p> <p>MOJ CSA funding and extraordinary Covid-19 funding in 2020 supported 25 children and young people during the first 6 months of the grant period. At the end of December 2020, 41 children had been assessed and started therapy, 45 children and families in Suffolk were waiting assessment and 26 waiting treatment after assessment. The total number of open cases at the end of December in Suffolk was 151.</p>	£60,000
Restitute	<p>Restitute, works with parents, families, carers and siblings (3rd party victims) who are living with trauma due to the sexual violence or CSA crime their family member has survived. The service provides practical and emotional support (including counselling where necessary), supporting clients through child protection processes and ensuring there is a reduction in harm and risk for all members of the family. Working with other organisations, the intention is to support a change to a more holistic, trauma-informed and compassionate environment. At the start of February 2021, 35 families were being supported by the service.</p> <p>The recommended funding will contribute to staffing and costs of the core family support services for approx. 8 families. Funding is being sought elsewhere for therapeutic services with the intention to support 25 families in total during 2021/22.</p> <p>Extraordinary Covid-19 funding in 2020 supported 25 victims in the first 6 months of the grant period including 19 new referrals. 20 people were reported as better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life, reporting improved quality of life, reduced score in depression, anxiety and impact of trauma.</p>	£20,000

Suffolk Rape Crisis	<p>Suffolk Rape Crisis provides safe, specialist, non-judgemental support to women and girls who have experienced rape, sexual abuse, or any other form of sexual violence whether recent or historic. In 2019/20 SRC directly supported 493 women and girls in Suffolk and took 730 helpline calls. The charity has expanded its services from telephone helpline and counselling to outbound support calls, online services and an outreach service which provides needs-led emotional and practical support to women and girls across the county meeting women when and where they need it.</p> <p>The proposed funding will contribute to the costs of "Outreach@SRC" covering one to one practical and emotional support, online courses and groups and when allowed face to face groups with women and girls who have been subject to sexual violence. Funding will contribute to staff salaries for three members directly delivering the outreach work, administration, management and office overheads.</p> <p>PCC and extraordinary Covid-19 funding in 2020 supported SRC with 77 new referrals during the first 6 months of the grant period and with the provision of support to 477 victims during the period. At the end of December 2020 513 women and girls were being supported by the organisation. Service users report consistently high levels of satisfaction with the service and outcomes including better informed and better able to cope as a result of the support they received.</p>	£75,000
Survivors in Transition	<p>Survivors in Transition (SiT) have been providing support for adult survivors of Child Sexual Abuse and sexual violence in Suffolk since 2010. During the Covid-19 pandemic, 1:1 and group programmes were adapted to be delivered remotely. A dedicated service (TOPE) for young people was introduced in 2020. TOPE is a self referral support service for young people aged 13+ who are or have experienced any form of abuse including physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The service aims to provide a more child centred response to young people who have not reported or disclosed their abuse.</p> <p>The proposed funding will be allocated to specialist trauma support for adult survivors of CSA and male victims of sexual assault (£60k). The funding will provide for 50 individuals to receive 15 therapy sessions and for 6 group programmes. A further £15k will be used for support and advice sessions for 10 young people (average 24 sessions).</p> <p>SiT received 348 new referrals from 1 March – 31 December 2020 and an average of 170 received support each quarter. Service users report consistently high levels of satisfaction with the service and outcomes. Between April and September 2020, with services delivered using PCC and MOJ funding, 20 survivors of CSA and 4 male victims of sexual violence reported that they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life.</p>	£75,000