

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO. 20 - 2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: GRANT AWARD – COMPASSION DOMESTIC ABUSE COORDINATOR

SUMMARY:

1. In accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) 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. Compassion applied to the PCC for funding for a Domestic Abuse (DA) Coordinator and a Lead Programme Facilitator in February 2021. It was recommended that the PCC should award a grant for the Lead Programme Facilitator position (£12,100) and would look to support 50% (£9,000) of the total (£18,000) requested funding for the DA Coordinator role if Compassion could raise the remainder from other sources.
3. Compassion have now confirmed that the match funding of £9,000 towards the DA Coordinator role is in place.
4. The funding will enable Compassion to continue to provide direct support to victims and families in Suffolk who have or are experiencing domestic violence and abuse in order that they can cope and recover from the impact of crimes.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves a grant of £9,000 to Compassion for a DA Coordinator to provide specialist support to survivors of domestic abuse.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Parry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Signature

Date 25.06.2021

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The PCC requested Expressions of Interest on 3 February 2021 for the provision of domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Suffolk in 2021/22.
- 1.4 Compassion was one of 14 organisations who responded to the Expression of Interest and a process ensued to consider the applications against criteria, ensuring the services are responding to local demand, met the needs of victims and provided value for money.
- 1.5 The Compassion application was for a Domestic Abuse (DA) Coordinator and a Lead Programme Facilitator. The Head of Commissioning recommended that the PCC should award a grant for the Lead Programme Facilitator position (£12,100) but that Compassion should seek to fund 50% (£9,000) of the requested funding (£18,000) for the DA Coordinator role from other sources. The funding for the Facilitator was approved in [PCC Decision 16-2021](#).
- 1.6 Compassion have now confirmed that match funding of £9,000 is in place for the DA Coordinator and this decision paper recommends the PCC awards a grant of £9,000 towards the DA Coordinator.
- 1.7 The funding will enable Compassion to continue to provide direct support to victims and families in Suffolk who have or are experiencing domestic violence and abuse in order that they can cope and recover from the impact of crimes. The funding supports the delivery of Objectives 2 and 3 in the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.

2. COMPASSION

- 2.1 Compassion is a community-based charity which was founded in 2001 and achieved charitable status in 2014. The charity raises awareness of domestic violence and abuse and delivers programmes and one to one support to survivors.
- 2.2 Compassion's community-based services were based in Sudbury, Great Cornard and the surrounding market towns and rural areas but during the Covid-19 pandemic delivery moved online as well as providing telephone support. Programmes and support include:
 - Freedom Programme
 - Who's in Charge? (Support for parents experiencing child to parent violence and abuse)
 - Survivors Support group

- One to One befriending and support
- Awareness raising within the local community
- Signposting and information to counselling services and family law advice.

2.3 Compassion currently has 8 volunteers, a Lead Programme Facilitator and previously employed 1 part time, self-employed Project Manager. The Project Manager left the organisation in 2020 which has increased the pressure and workload on trustees and volunteers during a time of change and increased demand for services.

DEMAND FOR COMPASSION'S SERVICES AND THE DA COORDINATOR ROLE

2.4 Information supplied by Compassion shows that demand for their services in 2020/21 far exceeded anything they had previously seen. As a comparison, in 2018/19 they were contacted by 90 women during the year and in 2019/20 they were contacted by 87 women. In 2020/21 Compassion report they supported 187 people during the year, including those on waiting lists for programmes starting in April 2021. There was also contact with a further 123 victims of domestic abuse who were signposted to other, geographically closer, or more appropriate services. The higher number of self referrals seen in 2020/21 was thought to be due to an improved social media presence.

2.5 Whilst the Lead Programme Facilitator manages programme delivery the organisation has a gap in resource and is seeking funding from the PCC to employ a Domestic Abuse (DA) Coordinator.

2.6 The proposed DA Coordinator will support all aspects of the core work of the charity, coordinate all volunteers, develop work plans, liaise with partners, attend local and county-wide meetings, share best practice both locally and nationally and secure further project-based funds to enable Compassion to build capacity to responding to the needs of service users particularly in view of digital delivery of services.

2.7 Having considered the full funding request of £18,000 in the Expression of Interest submitted in February 2021, it was suggested that Compassion should find match funding of 50% (£9,000) for the DA Coordinator position in order to diversify their funding streams and not rely solely on PCC funding for paid positions within the charity.

2.8 The proposed funding from the PCC will provide 50% (£9,000) of the total (£18,000) cost of employing a part time Domestic Abuse (DA) Coordinator for 12 months.

3. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

3.1 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 Compassion. A final report will be submitted to the PCC by 15 April 2022.

3.2 Full monitoring requirements will be set out in the conditions of award and will include:

- Narrative update on the service, challenges and risks including progress with fundraising / and alternative income streams.
- 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.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The recommendation in this decision paper requires funding of £9,000 from the PCC's Commissioning budget.
- 4.2 Compassion have confirmed that they have secured £9,000 in match funding through a combination of fund raising and agreement to use non-ringfenced reserves. This will enable them to recruit to the post whilst fund raising continues. The charity will cover any other costs in relation to the post.
- 4.3 The grant will be paid quarterly in arrears upon receipt of an invoice.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 5.1 There are no major implications or risks associated with this decision paper.
- 5.2 Due diligence was undertaken at application stage including a review of annual reports, financial statements and review of credit scores.
- 5.3 Compassion will need to pursue other opportunities to fund their work including applications to grant making bodies, local businesses and fundraising events to support the DA Coordinator post and additional programmes beyond the end of the financial year.
- 5.4 An assessment of risk in delivery has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the value 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.
- 5.5 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, the organisation is required to notify the PCC as per the conditions of grant award.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves a grant of £9,000 to Compassion for a DA Coordinator to provide specialist support to survivors of domestic abuse.

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 24.06.2021