

**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING**

**DECISION NO. 28 - 2021**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: CRITICAL SUPPORT FUND – SUFFOLK ALLOCATION**

**SUMMARY:**

1. The Ministry of Justice has confirmed grant funding of £38,298 to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk following a successful application to the Critical Support Fund.
2. The Critical Support Fund (for domestic abuse (DA) or sexual violence (SV) services) was announced by the Ministry of Justice in June 2021 to meet exceptional or additional need that cannot be met through existing allocations.
3. The Ministry of Justice funding will be used to support the critical needs of four organisations in Suffolk in delivering DA and SV services to victims.
4. The PCC is recommended to award grants to the following organisations utilising the funding: Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid, Lighthouse Women's Aid, Suffolk Rape Crisis and Survivors in Transition.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the PCC approves grant awards to: Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid, Lighthouse Women's Aid, Suffolk Rape Crisis and Survivors in Transition utilising the Ministry of Justice Critical Support funding for the period 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022.

**APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

The recommendation set out is agreed.



**Signature**

**Date 5 October 2021**

## **DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION**

### **1. THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE CRITICAL SUPPORT FUND**

- 1.1 In June 2021 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) notified PCCs of the Critical Support Fund, to be distributed to PCCs through a bidding process. The total fund available was £1.5m for community-based DA and SV support for the financial year until March 2022.
- 1.2 The funding is for DA and SV organisations focused on community-based support excluding ISVA and IDVA services. Funding must be used to meet increased demand and not for development or transformational purposes. This can include, core staffing costs that cannot be met by any other current funding stream and known future funding streams, additional staff costs, service costs, and digital equipment to support better home-working and remote services.
- 1.3 The Ministry of Justice set out guidance that bids would be assessed on:
- Local assessment of need and how it cannot be met through existing funding streams;
  - The impact of this funding i.e. how this will meet unmet need and help to support an increased number of DA and SV victims; and
  - Assurance that this funding can be spent within the grant period.
- 1.4 The specified outcomes to be met by the funding are:
- Reduced waiting times for DA and SV victims, meaning they are able to access the support they need, when they need it, within their local area;
  - Reduced caseloads to safe and manageable levels; and
  - Service providers are better equipped to meet increased demand for DA and SV services, and to provide a high-quality service to victims.

### **2. SUFFOLK CRITICAL SUPPORT FUND ALLOCATIONS**

- 2.1 Local providers were invited by the PCC to apply for inclusion in the Suffolk application based on assessment of data against the criteria. This included data on recent trends and forecast demand for services as well as numbers and length of waiting lists. Four of the service providers approached requested funding through this process.
- 2.2 The application for Critical Support funding submitted to the MOJ by the Suffolk PCC was for a total of £69,815.
- 2.3 The MOJ confirmed on 30 July 2021 that the fund had been significantly over-subscribed and as such the minimum funding amounts being requested had been considered as well as geographic coverage in each area to ensure funding could be spread in a fair and transparent manner. The proposed funding for Suffolk was £38,298.
- 2.4 The following table sets out the funding requested by the PCC on behalf of the providers in Suffolk and the amount awarded following the Ministry of Justice assessment.

Name of organisation	Service	Funding Requested (£)	Proposed Award (£)	Funding Aim (with reduced funding)
Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid Centre	Freedom Programme	3,187	2,390	To offer three additional Freedom Programmes for victims of DA at least one of which will be on line in the evening to reach those working or not available during the day. Courses to be run at full capacity to reduce the waiting list that has built up.
	Outreach	4,023	3,017	Face to face, telephone and online outreach support to victims of DA. Funding will support additional hours for outreach work to prioritise the people who are waiting for a service and reduce waiting times for this service, based on risk.
Lighthouse Women's Aid	Domestic Abuse support services	7,500	5,625	Face to face, telephone advice and group work for victims of DA. Funding will help cover the shortfall in staffing costs where we are seeing an increase in demand for support and advice. This will also help to develop community support to reach out to cohorts who may not ordinarily be able to access our Women's Centre.
Suffolk Rape Crisis	Outreach	18,750	0	Face to face outreach providing 1 to1 emotional and practical support to women and girls aged 14+ who are victims of sexual violence. <i>Funding request not successful.</i>
	Counselling	25,500	19,125	Counselling for women and girls aged 14+ who are victims of sexual violence. The reduced level of funding on offer would provide 708 counselling sessions.
	Helpline	3,700	2,775	Telephone service for women and girls aged 14+. The reduced level of funding will support expanded opening hours of support calls, training for volunteers, volunteer travelling costs.
Survivors in Transition	Topo	7,155	5,366	Face to face focus groups with young people and resulting support service for 18 young people who are victims of sexual abuse.
Column totals:		69,815	38,298	

2.5 The provisions in the [Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) allow 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.

2.6 The Ministry of Justice confirmed the funding in a grant addendum on 24 September 2021. It is recommended that the PCC awards a grant to each successful organisation, setting out the conditions of award that will apply.

### **3. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES**

- 3.1 Written reports will be required from providers by 15 October 2021 and 15 April 2022. The requirement for the OPCC and service providers to hold supplementary quarterly meeting forms part of existing PCC grant agreements; progress in using the Critical Support funding will be part of these meetings during 2020/21.
- 3.2 These reports will be supplemented by quarterly meetings between the OPCC and service providers to assess progress. Progress in using the funding will be part of the quarterly monitoring meetings with providers during 2020/21.
- 3.3 Monitoring reports 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.
    - Survivors have been supported to cope and recover.
    - Reduced waiting times for DA and SV victims, meaning they are able to access the support they need, when they need it, within their local area;
    - Reduced caseloads to safe and manageable levels; and
    - Service providers are better equipped to meet increased demand for DA and SV services, and to provide a high-quality service to victims.
    - Client feedback and satisfaction with the service.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The recommendation in this decision paper utilises £38,298 of new funding awarded to the PCC from the Ministry of Justice Critical Support Fund.

### **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 5.1 This funding is time limited and the Ministry of Justice funding must be utilised by 31 March 2022 for the specified purpose.
- 5.2 An assessment of risk in delivery has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the values of funding to each organisation, the duration of delivery and history of previous delivery.
- 5.3 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, each organisation is required to notify the PCC.

### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves grant awards to: Suffolk Rape Crisis, Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid, Lighthouse Women's Aid and Survivors in Transition utilising the Ministry of Justice Critical Support funding for the period 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
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 September 2021**