

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO. 8 - 2022

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: CRITICAL SUPPORT FUND - ADDITIONAL FUNDING

SUMMARY:

1. 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 could not be met through existing victim support service allocations. PCC Decision 28-2021 refers to the successful application by the Suffolk PCC to the fund.
2. The Ministry of Justice requested further applications for funding in December 2021 reflecting that a number of victim services nationally were reporting increased demand and that the pandemic was still having an impact on the services provided. The Suffolk PCC submitted a request based on input from local service providers and subsequently received a further £17,797 of grant funding through the Critical Support Fund.
3. The Ministry of Justice funding will be used to support the critical needs of two organisations in Suffolk in delivering DA and SV services to victims.
4. The PCC is recommended to award a grants to Lighthouse Women's Aid for £7,000 and to Phoebe for £10,797 utilising the funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the PCC approves grant awards to Lighthouse Women's Aid and Phoebe utilising the Ministry of Justice Critical Support funding for the period 1 January 2022 until 31 March 2022.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature:



Date 10.2.2022

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 On 14 December an additional opportunity to bid for funding from the Critical Support Fund was communicated to PCCs in response to the deteriorating Covid-19 situation at that time and in response to providers evidence of growing demand for services.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The second round of funding was specifically prioritised for those services at risk of closing imminently and following that, supporting those services which were at increased risk of delivery failure as a result of either increased demand and/or disruption due to the impact of the pandemic, for example through staff sickness.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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 Providers of victim services in Suffolk were invited by the PCC in December 2021 to apply for additional funding based on the Critical Support Fund criteria. Two 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 £19,000.
- 2.3 The MOJ confirmed on 20 January 2022 that due to the large number of applications received, the funding available was over-subscribed and as such, it was necessary to prioritise the areas with the greatest need whilst ensuring available funding could be spread in a fair and transparent manner. The proposed funding for Suffolk was £17,797.
- 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 assessment.

Provider	Funding Requested (£)	Proposed Grant (£)	Funding Aim	MOJ criteria
Lighthouse Women's Aid	£7,000	£7,000	Community Worker working with children and crisis work victims of DA to address considerable increase in demand for services.	Community Based DA Support Service Responding to increase in demand Staffing costs which cannot be met by current funding stream
PHOEBE	£12,000	£10,797	Additional online support and home visits to DA victims from the Black, Asian and migrant community through an additional outreach worker and increased technological availability for workers and victims. Emergency practical support to victims in crisis.	Community Based DA Support Service Cost of changes to delivery and the increase in demand due to pandemic Support for particular groups (BAME) victims Staffing costs which cannot be met by current funding stream
:	£19,000	£17,797		

- 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 28 January 2022. 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 14 April 2022 and 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 £17,797 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 Lighthouse Women's Aid and Phoebe utilising the Ministry of Justice Critical Support funding for the period 1 January 2022 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?	No
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

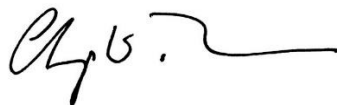
In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

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: 10.2.2022