



*Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest*

**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING**

**DECISION NUMBER: 11 - 2022**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: GRANT AWARDS – SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE 2022/23**

**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 domestic abuse and sexual violence to cope and recover from the impact of crimes.
3. The grants awarded will support delivery of Objective 2 in the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025.
4. Funding for these grants will come 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.
5. A schedule of grants proposed and funding amounts, totalling £389,000, is set out at Appendix A.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. The PCC approves grants for domestic abuse and sexual violence support services in Suffolk for a total of £389,000 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

**APPROVAL BY: PCC**

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

**Signature:**



**Date: 14.04.2022**

## DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There were 9,207 domestic abuse (DA) crimes reported to Suffolk police in the 12 months to end January 2022, a 3.5% increase on the long-term average. Suffolk Constabulary say this equates to 5,247 victims, 27% of whom are repeat victims. DA constitutes 18% of all crimes in Suffolk. 2,143 rape and serious sexual assaults and 1,294 child sexual abuse (CSA) crimes were reported to Suffolk Constabulary in the same period. 30% of CSA cases were classified as non-recent. However national and local data suggests that around 80% of women who are victims of sexual assault do not report the crimes to the police.
- 1.2 To support victims to cope and recover from the impact of crimes, to increase safety and reduce the likelihood of repeat victimisation, the PCC has commissioned a number of specialist services since 2014 alongside partners:
- The Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service supports high risk victims of DA. The service received 1,940 referrals (including repeat referrals) in 2021.
  - The County Council commissioned Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (DAOS) provides support for medium risk victims of DA and received 830 referrals in 2021/22.
  - Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care (NSVC) service provided support to 322 victims of DA (standard risk), 155 victims of sexual violence (SV) and 14 victims of CSA in 2020/21.
  - The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service provides practical and emotional support to victims of SV up to and during court cases as required. The service received 366 new referrals in 2020/21 and supported 632 victims.
- Referrals to these services are predominantly from Suffolk Constabulary following the report of a crime.
- 1.3 In addition to the above, the PCC has also continued to support victims of DA and SV through grants to community-based organisations. Importantly, these organisations provide help to victims whether or not they have reported the crime to the police and whether abuse is being reported for the first time or for ongoing support. Supporting these community-based organisations to provide services fulfils the right in the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime for victims to access support services at any time.
- 1.4 Community-based support organisations receive both self-referrals and referrals from the police, health services, local authorities and from the IDVA and ISVA services, DAOS and NSVC. Victims can access ongoing support to meet their needs and undertake programmes to help them cope and recover.
- 1.5 Between April and October 2021, organisations funded by the PCC supported 3,972 victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and child sexual abuse in Suffolk, a 10% increase on the same period in 2020 (3,619). At the point the data was collected 1,214 of the victims supported in the time period had provided feedback reporting that they were better able to recover and cope with aspects of everyday life.
- 1.6 Uptake of victim support services from minority communities is still limited with known trust and cultural issues in reporting crimes or seeking support. In 2021, 12% of victims of DA supported by PCC funded services were from black and minority ethnic communities and 8% of victims of CSA. However the proportion of victims identifying as BAME supported by sexual violence services was just 3%, lower than BAME representation in the population of Suffolk (4.8%).

- 1.7 The PCC has been in receipt of an increased level of funding ‘uplift’ for domestic abuse and sexual violence services from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) during the Covid-19 pandemic. This funding has now ceased and the MOJ funding for Victim Services has returned to pre-pandemic levels. For 2022/23 the MOJ have allocated a core Victim Services grant of £877,722 to the PCC to support victims. This funding will be used on the NSVC service (supporting all victims of crime including standard risk DA cases) and the IDVA service (supporting high risk DA cases).
- 1.8 The PCC has recently been informed that the MOJ has an additional £15.7m of ringfenced funding for PCC areas, for domestic abuse and sexual violence community-based services in 2022/23. This funding will be allocated following a bidding process, open for 6 weeks with awards confirmed thereafter.
- 1.9 In order to ensure that services for victims are able to access the support they need without interruption to services, this decision paper recommends that the PCC approves grant awards to providers of services for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence for a total of £389,000 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

## **2. PCC GRANT AWARD PROCESS**

- 2.1 A key part of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (PCC) 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 2022/23 is £2.058m 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 (£878k) and additional ISVA and IDVA funding for 2022/23 only (£321k).
- 2.3 The PCC has long term contracts in place for the IDVA service and Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care (NSVC) and awards grants for other specialist services supporting victims of crime. This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which allows the PCC 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 On 8 February 2022, the PCC requested applications through the PCC website for the provision of domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Suffolk in 2022/23. 14 organisations responded and a process ensued to consider the applications against published criteria.
- 2.5 Funding requested through the application process far outstripped the available resources the PCC has in his commissioning budget.
- 2.6 The recommended grant funding is based on available resource and prioritising specialist services who best met the published criteria, showed value for money and provided a strong evidence base.
- 2.7 The process encouraged applications from small specialist organisations that support groups with protected characteristics and asked all applicants whether their service specifically supported victims with protected characteristics. The recommended grants ensure there is countywide support for victims with protected characteristics including provision for men and boys. We are still aware of gaps in provision and will work with partners through the Suffolk

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy to address these and seek to make use of additional funding should this become available from the Ministry of Justice.

- 2.8 A small number of providers who applied for funding have not been successful and most of the grants recommended in this decision paper are at a lower value than requested, returning on the whole to “pre-pandemic” levels of funding.

**POLICE AND CRIME PLAN**

- 2.9 The proposed grants support the delivery of Objective 2 in the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025, in particular to ensure that there is quality service provision to support all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence including ensuring there are routes into support for those who do not wish to report to the police.

- 2.10 The commissioning principles set out in the Police and Crime Plan that are met through this grant include:

- ensuring a balance of generic and specialist services (based on need);
- that all victims of crime should have the opportunity to access practical and emotional support to help them cope and recover from the crime;
- all victims should be able to access support whether or not they wish to report to the police.

We have also used the grant process to gain valuable information on the long-term funding requirements of services in order to inform our commissioning strategy. This is to fulfil the ambition in the Police and Crime Plan consider where longer-term funding might support sustainability.

- 2.11 The proposed grants also support the new Suffolk VAWG strategy objective “Supporting Victims” which sets out the following intention: We will endeavour to meet the needs of all our communities across the spectrum of protected characteristics and help break the cycle of abuse.

- 2.12 The PCC’s Head of Commissioning has liaised with Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and NHS England on the intention to award grants and will ensure wide awareness of the grant awards so that, in partnership, we can improve the response for victims of crime.

**3. PROPOSED GRANTS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

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

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Recommended grant</b>
Anglia Care Trust	Countywide Money Advice Service for victims of domestic abuse	£25,000
Bury St Edmunds Women’s Aid	Centre and Outreach Service providing advice, guidance and support including programmes for victims of DA (Bury St Eds / West)	£40,000
Compassion	Providing advice, guidance and support including online programmes for victims of DA (Babergh / wider)	£14,000
Fresh Start New Beginnings	Countywide therapeutic support for young victims of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)	£60,000
Lighthouse Women’s Aid	Crisis work, advice, guidance and support including programmes for victims of DA (Ipswich and wider)	£60,000

Phoebe	Outreach support to women from BME and migrant backgrounds who are survivors of DA (Ipswich / Countywide)	£30,000
Restitute	Practical and emotional support for families whose children have survived abuse (parents, families of abused)	£15,000
Suffolk Rape Crisis	Countywide outreach service providing practical and emotional support to women and girls (14+) who have experienced any form of sexual violence	£60,000
Survivors in Transition	Specialist trauma support to adult survivors of CSA, specialist trauma therapy for male victims of sexual assault and young people's (13+) support and therapy	£60,000
Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum	Providing advice, guidance and support including programmes for victims of DA (Lowestoft / East Suffolk)	£25,000

3.2 More information on these services for victims of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV) can be found in Appendix A.

3.3 These grants will ensure that all victims of DA and SV 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 outreach and 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 14 April 2023.

4.2 Full monitoring requirements will be set out in the conditions of award for each organisation.

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 £389,000 for the grants to be awarded.

- 5.2 As noted in section 1, the PCC is not in receipt of any 'uplift' funding from the Ministry of Justice to support these grants but is aware of an upcoming opportunity to bid for funding.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the PCC uses the PCC commissioning budget for 2022/23 to support the recommended grants and will seek to use any new Ministry of Justice for need that he was unable to meet through this grant process.
- 5.4 Grants to providers will be paid quarterly in arrears.

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

- 6.1 Funding requested through the application process far outstripped the available resources the PCC has in his commissioning budget, indicating that there is greater need for DA and SV services in Suffolk than the PCC alone can support. The PCC will continue to work with Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) partners to develop opportunities for victim services and take advantage of any forthcoming funding from national sources.
- 6.2 An assessment of risk in delivery has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the values of the grants, the duration of delivery and sustainability of services. Due diligence has been undertaken on the proposed providers of services including a review of annual reports, financial statements.
- 6.3 For those organisations who have been in receipt of PCC funding in 2021/22 the end of year reporting is due in April 2022. The conditions of award for grants in 2022/23 will reflect that this monitoring information must be satisfactory for new funding to be allocated.
- 6.4 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. RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves grants for domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Suffolk for a total of £389,000 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

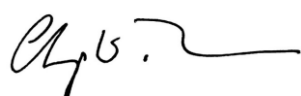
<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>YES</b>
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>YES</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	<b>YES</b>
Have human resource implications been considered?	<b>YES</b>
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	<b>YES</b>
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	<b>YES</b>
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	<b>YES</b>
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	<b>YES</b>

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: 31.03.2022**



**APPENDIX A**

**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED DOMESTIC ABUSE (DA) AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (SV) GRANTS 2022/23**

<b>Provider/Service</b>	<b>Summary of service</b>	<b>Recommended grant</b>
Anglia Care Trust	<p>The grant will provide continuation funding to maintain the specialist Money Advice Service for victims of domestic abuse supporting a full-time role in the service. 1 in 5 victims of domestic abuse experience some form of financial hardship or abuse. The service is accessed through the Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (DAOS), 24/7 Suffolk DA helpline or referral from other agencies/DA support organisations across Suffolk.</p> <p>In the last financial year Anglia Care Trust (ACT) supported 126 victims of domestic abuse with financial advice and expect to increase this by 20% in 2022/23 to 150 clients benefitting. Financial hardship is expected to increase with the removal of the Universal Credit uplift and cost of living increases.</p>	£25,000
Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid	<p>The grant will provide funding towards the Centre in Bury St Edmunds through a contribution to staff and property costs. The Centre provides space for small group and recreational therapy as well as counselling rooms.</p> <p>Bury St Edmunds Women's Aid supported 75 people from the centre from April – December 2021 and expect to support 140 people in 2022/23 in addition to those provided with support through their helpline. 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. The organisation has offered support to a small number of male victims as well as women and children.</p>	£40,000

Compassion	<p>Compassion supports approx. 100 women and their families in the Babergh area of Suffolk per year with advice, guidance and programmes in addition to providing information and signposting to those making enquiries.</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. Work to reintroduce face to face programmes is expected.</p>	£14,000
Fresh Start New Beginnings	<p>Fresh Start New Beginnings provide a therapeutic treatment service for child victims of sexual abuse to address the short and longer term symptoms of trauma. The service receives around 200 referrals in Suffolk each year and provides one to one and group sessions and parents groups. There is significant demand for services.</p> <p>The grant will contribute to trauma treatment for 60 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>	£60,000
Lighthouse Women's Aid	<p>Lighthouse Women's Aid provide support for over 1,000 women, young people and children a year affected by domestic abuse, predominantly in the Ipswich area of Suffolk. Advice, guidance and programmes are delivered from the Centre, by telephone, online or face to face.</p> <p>The funding will support the following roles to deliver the core services from the Centre as well as contributing to premises and overheads: Crisis Worker; Advice &amp; Support Worker; Project Worker (facilitating programmes).</p>	£60,000

Phoebe	<p>Phoebe supports women and children from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic, and migrant communities in Suffolk. For victims of domestic abuse, they provide holistic support, helping to find safe temporary accommodation, completing visa applications, facilitating 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>Phoebe received 88 new referrals from April – October 2021. They expect to support 300 women and their children in 2022/23. The proposed funding will specifically support two VAWG outreach workers within the wider team, training, administration and some overheads.</p>	£30,000
Restitute	<p>Restitute supports 3<sup>rd</sup> party victims of crime – the parents, carers and siblings of those who have survived sexual abuse, sexual violence or other serious violence including domestic abuse.</p> <p>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. The charity has grown quickly and at the start of March 2022, 63 families were being supported by the service.</p> <p>The recommended funding will contribute to dedicated support worker costs for core family support services.</p>	£15,000
Suffolk Rape Crisis	<p>Suffolk Rape Crisis (SRC) 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. Core services include the outreach service, counselling and the helpline.</p> <p>The proposed funding will contribute a proportion of the costs of "Outreach@SRC" covering one to one practical and emotional support, online courses and groups and 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. In 2020/2021</p>	£60,000

	<p>SRC supported 80 women and girls through the Outreach service and 21 on empowerment courses. If they are able to fully fund the service in 2022/23 they expect to reach 100-150 women and girls.</p> <p>Service users report consistently high levels of satisfaction with the service and outcomes including being better informed and better able to cope as a result of the support they received.</p>	
Survivors in Transition	<p>Survivors in Transition (SiT) have been providing support for adult survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and sexual violence in Suffolk since 2010. The proposed funding will be allocated to specialist trauma support for adult survivors of CSA (individuals and group programmes), male victims of sexual assault and young people's (13+) support and therapy.</p> <p>SiT received 681 referrals in 2021 (an increase of 40% on the previous year). Service users report consistently high levels of satisfaction with the service and outcomes.</p>	£60,000
Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum	<p>Providing advice, guidance and support including programmes for victims of domestic abuse in the Lowestoft / East Suffolk area.</p> <p>Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum (WDVAF) 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 charity manager and the Advice and Guidance worker and contribute to the core costs of supporting victims of domestic abuse. Year to date 2021/22 the organisation has supported 181 victims of DA and dealt with over 700 enquiries. They expect to support 300 victims in 2022/23.</p>	£25,000