

**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING**

**DECISION NUMBER: 6 - 2023**

**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 – REALLOCATION OF UNDERSPEND**

**SUMMARY:**

1. In 2022 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) awarded the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk a grant of £262,896 to provide or commission dedicated emotional and practical support services for victims of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV) to help them cope and, as far as possible recover from the effects of DA and SV.
2. This funding was fully allocated by the PCC as set out in Decision 26-2022 and in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which allow the Police and Crime Commissioner to 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.
3. A mid-year financial review indicated there was likely to be an underspend in the total grant amount due to difficulties in recruitment for new service provision. The Ministry of Justice agreed that the PCC could reallocate this underspend to existing providers on the basis of demand and on the proviso the funding was utilised within this financial year.
4. Following an assessment of delivery to date, demand and waiting lists a number of providers were contacted to discuss whether additional funding could be utilised by 31 March 2023. From this, two providers, Survivors in Transition and Lighthouse Women’s Aid, were identified for additional funding to their existing grant for the period 1 January – 31 March 2023.
5. The funding awarded will support delivery of Objective 2 in the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the PCC reallocates funding totalling £39,000 to domestic abuse and sexual violence services between 1 January and 31 March 2023 to the following organisations for the specified purpose:

1. Survivors in Transition – £15,000 for work with young people who have been victims of sexual abuse.
2. Lighthouse Women’s Aid – £24,000 contribution to employment of the women’s centre Service Manager in support of victims of domestic abuse.

**APPROVAL BY: PCC**

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



**Signature:**

**Date: 20 January 2023**

## **DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 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. The PCC's intentions are set out in Objective 2 of the Police and Crime Plan for Suffolk 2022-2025 (see Section 4).
- 1.2 Following a Ministry of Justice (MoJ) bidding process for PCCs, the MoJ confirmed a new 'general' grant of £655,369 for 2022/23. Within the grant an amount of £262,896 was provided for support services for victims of DA and SV. This funding will recur annually until 31 March 2025.
- 1.3 This decision paper recommends how some the forecast underspend of the DA/SV element of the grant in 2022/23 should be reallocated in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the grant and to support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 for Suffolk.

### **2. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE GENERAL GRANT (DA/SV SERVICES) TO SUFFOLK PCC 2022 – 2025 – REALLOCATION OF FORECAST UNDERSPEND**

- 2.1 On 16 June 2022 the MoJ confirmed to the PCC a grant award of £262,896 for the provision of DA and SV services as part of the 'general grant'. The process and outcome of awarding grant funding locally is outlined in Decision 26-2022.
- 2.2 As part of the regular monitoring of grant funding, providers were asked to report on financial expenditure and activity at the end of September 2022 and to highlight any expected underspend on their individual grants.
- 2.3 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) reported to the MoJ a forecast year end underspend of £65k on the DA/SV fund relating to one provider delivering support to children of high risk victims of domestic abuse. The reason for the forecast underspend in 2022/23 is that the service is not running at full scale with recruitment for new posts having taken longer than expected. Therefore the expenditure is lower than budgeted in this financial year.
- 2.4 The OPCC proposed to the MoJ to mitigate this by reallocating the underspend to other DA/SV providers/services who would be able use it for the specified purposes of the fund. The reallocation of the funding has been discussed and agreed with the provider to whom it was originally allocated.
- 2.5 Using data from the first six months of the financial year the services with the greatest demand and waiting lists were considered as the highest priority for reallocation of the funding. Positive responses were received from Survivors in Transition and Lighthouse Women's Aid.
- 2.6 The provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 allow 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.
- 2.7 It is therefore recommended that the PCC awards grants to the following organisations using the forecast underspend in the MoJ funding for domestic abuse and sexual violence services for the period 1 January to 31 March 2023.

1. Survivors in Transition – £15,000 for work with children and young people who have been victims of sexual abuse.
2. Lighthouse Women’s Aid – £24,000 contribution to employment of the women’s centre Service Manager in support of victims of domestic abuse.

2.8 This funding is consistent with the requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice’s grant agreement with the PCC and the PCC’s Police and Crime Plan.

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

3.1 This funding will be monitored in the same manner as the existing grants to ensure that the aims and objectives of the funding are achieved. Written reports will be provided at year-end.

3.2 Conditions of award for each organisation reflect the monitoring requirements and the requirements of the Ministry of Justice. Both organisations are in compliance with the Conditions of Award at this point and have successfully met the mid-year reporting requirements.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) grant agreement with the PCC clearly sets out that any unspent monies must be repaid to the MoJ.

4.2 The financial implications of this recommendation are to reallocate existing funding, in agreement with the MoJ, within this financial year.

4.3 This will ensure the forecast underspend on the grant is reduced and that services who most require additional funding to support victims are able to utilise the funding.

4.4 The underspend is one-off and funding would only be allocated until 31 March 2023 and not in future years.

4.5 It is proposed that the PCC supports the recommended grants which fully utilise some of the forecast underspend.

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

5.1 This funding is not recurring in subsequent years as it will be utilised for the original purpose.

5.2 Due diligence and an assessment of risk in delivery has been undertaken on service providers. This assessment has considered the values of the grants, the duration of delivery and sustainability of services.

5.3 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, each organisation is required to notify the PCC as per the grant conditions of award.

### **6. RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 It is recommended that the PCC reallocates funding totalling £39,000 to domestic abuse and sexual violence services between 1 January and 31 March 2023 to the following organisations for the specified purpose:

1. Survivors in Transition – £15,000 for work with children and young people who have been victims of sexual abuse.
2. Lighthouse Women’s Aid – £24,000 contribution to employment of the women’s centre Service Manager in support of victims of domestic abuse.

<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>NO</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: 20 January 2023**