

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NUMBER: C18 - 2023

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: SUFFOLK INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISOR SERVICE

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. The current contract arrangements for the Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service expires on 30 September 2023. The contract is for a service to safeguard, through effective safety planning and early intervention, victims of domestic abuse who are assessed as high risk and to ultimately reduce that risk.
3. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has undertaken a tendering process to secure provision of a service from 1 October 2023. The incumbent supplier was the only organisation to submit a bid for this tender.
4. Following the conclusion of this tendering process, the score of 81.6% has been awarded to Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services. Upon reviewing their response, the panel evaluating the bid had scored appropriately and the response was sufficient to progress to awarding the contract to Leeway.
5. The value of the contract for the initial term of three years is £2,070,000 and for the entire term, should the option to extend for a further 2 years be taken, is £3,450,000.
6. The funding awarded will support delivery of Objective 2 in the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that, subject to a voluntary 10 day standstill period, the PCC enters into a contract with Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Service for the Suffolk IDVA Service for three years commencing 1 October 2023 and expiring 1 October 2026, with an option to extend the contract for 2 x 12 month periods ending 1 October 2028.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



Signature:

Date: 15 June 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 support victims of crime.
- 1.2 In 2014, the PCC invested in research in the perceptions of victims of domestic abuse. The research by University Campus Suffolk and an HMIC Inspection into the Constabulary response to domestic abuse, highlighted that Suffolk needed to improve the services available to victims of domestic abuse and that the county's IDVA capacity was woeful compared to other force areas.
- 1.3 Therefore, in October 2014, the PCC commissioned an IDVA service for Suffolk, which commenced operation in February 2015. The service was recommissioned in 2018 and will conclude on 30 September 2023. The service is fully funded by the PCC utilising his commissioning budget and victim services funding from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).
- 1.4 The PCC has reiterated his commitment to ensuring there is quality service provision for victims of domestic abuse in his Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025.
- 1.5 The PCC has therefore tendered for new provision to be funded through the Ministry of Justice Victim Services grant to the PCC.

2. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY AND TENDER PROCESS

- 2.1 Given the value of the service over the contract period, and potential cost and efficiency savings it was agreed to competitively tender for the service with support from 7Force Procurement.
- 2.2 There were no comparable framework agreements from which to either select a suitable supplier from which to run a tendering process.
- 2.3 As part of the procurement strategy a supplier engagement event was held with two suppliers attending.
- 2.4 Using the Artemis e-tendering process the Suffolk IDVA service was advertised on an open basis, with four suppliers in total expressing an interest. Of those interested, three withdrew their interest and only one fully compliant bid was submitted, by Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services.
- 2.5 The contract award criteria was set at 55% quality, 35% Price and 10% social value which reflects the importance of the successful provider being able to deliver a high quality service as set out in the statement of requirements.
- 2.6 The tender evaluation process was undertaken by three stakeholders on behalf of the PCC:
 - Liz Hollingworth, Head of Commissioning and Governance OPCC
 - Kerry Cutler, D/Superintendent, Crime, Safeguarding and Incident Management, Suffolk Constabulary
 - Richard Baldwin, Head of Community Safety, Suffolk County Council

- 2.7 Applications were scored and then moderated, taking into account the responses to clarification questions.
- 2.8 Evaluation resulted in the score of 81.6% being awarded to Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services. Full scoring is set out in the Contact Award Approval (Reg 84) Report.
- 2.9 The tender evaluation panel unanimously recommend that the contract is awarded to the Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services as they submitted the most economically advantageous tender and are able to meet the contract requirements.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The successful tenderer provided detailed financial information in the format prescribed in the tender documentation which enabled a comprehensive financial appraisal to be undertaken.
- 3.2 The five year cost for the service provided by Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services is £3,450,000 which is within the budget envelope provided by the PCC.
- 3.3 The recommended budget line is the PCC's commissioning budget utilising the Ministry of Justice grant to the PCC for Victim Services. The MoJ grant is confirmed until 31 March 2025. In the unlikely circumstances that funding for victims services is not provided after this time the PCC will need to fund the service from his own commissioning budget for the remainder of the contract period.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 4.1 As the incumbent provider there are no apparent risks or issues in implementing the new contract.

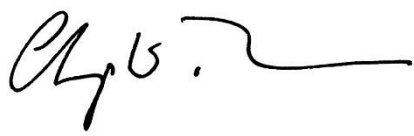
5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that, subject to a voluntary 10 day standstill period, the PCC enters into a contract with Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services for the Suffolk IDVA for three years commencing 1 October 2023 and expiring 1 October 2026, with an option to extend the contract for 2 x 12 month periods ending 1 October 2028.

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: 9 June 2023