



Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

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

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NUMBER: 22 - 2024

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: AWARD OF GRANT – SURVIVORS IN TRANSITION

SUMMARY:

1. Decision Paper 26-2023 sets out the multi-year funding awarded to a number of organisations providing support to victims of crime in Suffolk, including specialist support for victims of sexual violence.
2. One of the key organisations providing this support in Suffolk was Suffolk Rape Crisis, who have announced they are closing their services at the end of July 2024. It has therefore been necessary to reassess the provision of support for victims of sexual violence in Suffolk, particularly to ensure those women and girls receiving support from Suffolk Rape Crisis and those on waiting lists are able to access the provision they need to cope and build resilience to move forwards with life.
3. Having discussed options with local providers and the Ministry of Justice it is recommended that the PCC awards a grant of £60,000 to Survivors in Transition for the period 1 August 2024 – 31 March 2025. This will assist Survivors in Transition to increase their capacity to accept referrals and provide support to all victims of sexual violence in Suffolk.
4. The recommended grant award supports 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 victims of sexual violence and ensure there are routes into support for those who do not wish to report to the police.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards a grant of £60,000 to Survivors in Transition for the period 1 August 2024 – 31 March 2025 for the delivery of specialist support to victims of sexual violence in Suffolk.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



Signature:

Date: 25 July 2024

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 A needs assessment undertaken by the Office of the PCC in 2022 found that there was significant demand and pressure on sexual violence support services due to increasing demand, court delays and inadequate access to mental health services.
- 1.3 Decision paper 26-2022 made recommendations to the PCC for the allocation of funding from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2025, to help address these demands and to achieve the aims and objectives of the Ministry of Justice Victim Services grant to the PCC and to support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 for Suffolk.
- 1.4 Multi-year funding to support victims of sexual violence including child sexual abuse was awarded to: Suffolk Rape Crisis; Survivors in Transition; Brave Futures; Restitute and to the ISVA service. The multi-crime service Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care also supports victims of sexual abuse.
- 1.5 Monitoring information has shown that funding supported a total of 978 victims of sexual violence in 2023/24 (1016 in 22/23) and 219 victims of child sexual abuse (315). 632 (510 in 2022/23) of the victims supported in the time period had provided feedback saying that they were better able to cope and build resilience to move forward with daily life, a key outcome for all our victim services.
- 1.6 This Decision Paper proposes that, following the recently announced closure of Suffolk Rape Crisis, the PCC awards a grant of £60,000 to Survivors in Transition for the period 1 August 2024 – 31 March 2025. This will assist Survivors in Transition to increase their capacity to accept referrals and provide support to all victims of sexual violence in Suffolk.

2. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The recommended grant award supports 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 DA and SV including ensuring there are routes into support for those who do not wish to report to the police.
- 2.2 The commissioning principles set out in the Police and Crime Plan that are met through these recommended grants 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.
- 2.3 The proposed grant also supports the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls (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.

3. PROPOSED GRANT AWARD FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

- 3.1 In May 2024, the charity Suffolk Rape Crisis gave notice that they wished to terminate the grant agreement with the PCC with effect from 31 July 2024 due to the closure of the organisation.
- 3.2 The PCC agreed to support the organisation with funding until 31 July with the condition that all monitoring requirements were complied with. Suffolk Rape Crisis implemented a close down procedure to ensure that: women and girls receiving a service were supported to complete or ongoing provision put in place; those approaching the service for support were provided with details of other services that might be able to support their needs; and of those victims on waiting lists (approximately 200 individuals) a small number have been provided with referrals to counselling support and all were provided with information on other services.
- 3.3 The Office of the PCC and the Ministry of Justice, as a significant commissioner of services for victims of sexual violence in Suffolk, began discussions about the impact of the charity's closure on victims and the capacity of other providers to support victims in the short term.
- 3.4 Survivors in Transition (SiT) has been providing support for adult survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and sexual violence in Suffolk since 2010. Existing PCC funding for SiT has been allocated towards specialist trauma support for adult survivors of CSA (individual and group programmes), male victims of sexual assault and young people's (13+) support and therapy.
- 3.5 The majority of support provided by Suffolk Rape Crisis (SRC) was for female adult victims and given the ability of Survivors in Transition to expand existing programmes at pace, it is proposed that the PCC awards a grant to SiT to increase their provision for the period 1 August 2024 – 31 March 2025. This will enable them to accept a greater number of referrals, whether formal referral from SRC during their closing down period or self-referrals thereafter.
- 3.6 The proposed funding will contribute towards employing a specialist worker to assist with the expected increase in referrals, triage and assessment. To support victims who require group work, 6 additional groups will be facilitated in the period and 206 sessions of therapy made available.
- 3.7 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. The 'Financial Regulations Norfolk and Suffolk' provide guidance on when it is appropriate to use a grant agreement instead of a public contract for services.

4. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1 The Office of the PCC will closely monitor the delivery of activity to ensure that the aims and objectives of the funding are achieved. A written report will be provided by Survivors in Transition at the end of October 2024 and at year end (April 2025).
- 4.2 It is proposed that this will be supplemented by meetings where necessary and a review with the Ministry of Justice in November 2024 to consider demand and provision in place.

- 4.3 Full monitoring requirements and a schedule of reporting dates will be set out in the conditions of award for each organisation. The conditions of award will also reflect the requirements of the Ministry of Justice.
- 4.4 Monitoring will include the following:
- Narrative update on the service, challenges and risks;
 - Financial update on actual spend against budget allocations and forecast spend for the financial year;
 - Data on referrals and engagement with the service;
 - Demographics of victims supported;
 - Outcomes for victims supported;
 - Client/victim feedback and satisfaction with the service.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Using a combination of Ministry of Justice ringfenced funding and PCC commissioning budget, the PCC grant to Suffolk Rape Crisis (Decision 26-2022) provided for £90,000 per annum to contribute to "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.
- 5.2 Suffolk Rape Crisis have utilised £30,000 of this grant in the period 1 April – 31 July 2024 through the provision of services. In agreement with the MOJ, the MOJ ringfenced funding has been utilised for the period and the PCC will provide monitoring information to the MOJ in line with the grant agreement.
- 5.3 The proposed grant award to Survivors in Transition will utilise the remaining £60,000 of the grant (from PCC funding) for the period 1 August 2024 – 31 March 2025 to contribute to:
- A 0.5 FTE specialist worker and on costs to assist with referrals, triage and assessment £19,000
 - 6 additional groups for survivors of sexual violence £21,600
 - Additional therapy sessions & supervision £19,400 (supervision £6k, 206 sessions of therapy @ £65).

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 6.1 In recommending the award of this grant funding the PCC's Head of Commissioning has taken into consideration the value of the grant, the duration of delivery and the grant recipient's history of delivery and ability to deliver on similar projects.
- 6.2 In addition, the Head of Commissioning has liaised with the Ministry of Justice as a significant commissioner of sexual violence services in Suffolk and spoken to key partners in Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and NHS England on the proposed grant funding.
- 6.3 In line with the Victim Code of Practice, victims are entitled to access support whether or not they have reported the crime to the police. Whilst there is other provision in Suffolk the additional capacity enabled by the proposed funding alleviates the risk of victims not being able to access support and build-up of waiting lists in other services to unacceptable levels.
- 6.4 There is a potential future risk in terms of capacity and range of provision from 1 April 2025. The Head of Commissioning will keep this under review and liaise with stakeholders, other commissioners and local providers.

6.5 Should there be any risk arising in delivery Survivors in Transition is required to notify the PCC.

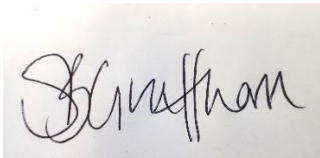
7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards a grant of £60,000 to Survivors in Transition for the period 1 August 2024 – 31 March 2025 for the delivery of specialist support to victims of sexual violence in Suffolk.

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

Acting 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 July 2024