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REQUEST FOR DECISION – PCCML/ 000407/2018

Title of decision: Domestic Abuse Support Service for Victims (Hampshire only) and Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Service (Hampshire and Southampton)

Executive Summary

The Police and Crime Commissioner collaborated with Hampshire County Council to commission the 'Integrated Domestic Abuse Service Hampshire' (IDASH) from April 2015 to March 2019.

The Police and Crime Commissioner also collaborated with Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council to commission the Domestic Abuse Prevention Partnership (DAPP). This contract focussed on domestic abuse perpetrators from November 2015 to March 2018, and then through a separate contract from April 2018 until March 2019.

Both contracts end 31st March 2019, and any new contract would need to start 1st April 2019.

This decision notice recommends that the Police and Crime Commissioner continues to collaborate with Hampshire County Council to commission a domestic abuse support service for victims, and with Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council to commission a service focusing on domestic abuse perpetrators from April 2019 to March 2024 with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

Please note that the Police and Crime Commissioner also supports domestic abuse victims in Southampton, Portsmouth and on the Isle of Wight. This detail is provided on separate decision notices.

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Recommendations:

Domestic Abuse Victim Services

2.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner contributes up to £294,500 per annum towards a domestic abuse support service for victims from April 2019 until March 2024 with the option to extend for a further 2 years. Hampshire County Council are the lead Commissioner for this contract, and this recommendation is subject to them also contributing up to £1,483,900.00 per annum.

2.1.1 This decision notice is subject to annual Ministry of Justice funding being forthcoming. The funding can be contained within the forecast budget allocation and meets the priorities of the Police & Crime Plan.

2.1.2 Any percentage reduction in the amount offered by Hampshire County Council over the life of the contract may also be reduced by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Perpetrator Services

2.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner contributes up to £70,000 per annum towards a domestic abuse perpetrators service from April 2019 until March 2024 with the option to extend for a further two years, subject to Southampton City Council contributing up to £40,000 per annum for this same time period and Hampshire County Council, as the lead Commissioner for this contract, contributing up to £100,000 per annum.

2.2.1 The decision notice has financial implications of up to £70,000 per annum. The funding is subject to Safer Communities Funding being forthcoming and can be contained within the forecast budget allocation and fits within the overall Police & Crime Plan Priorities.

2.2.2 Any percentage reduction in the amount offered by Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council over the life of the contract may also be reduced by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Domestic Abuse Victims and Perpetrators Services

2.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner delegates authority to the Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships to determine the most appropriate contract model, taking into account the consultation responses from stakeholders. Whichever model is selected, the Commissioner's contribution will be protected at up to £294,500 pa to support victims of domestic abuse and up to £70,000 pa towards perpetrators.

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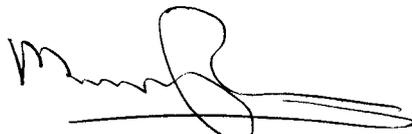
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2.3.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner authorises the Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships to agree the terms of, and sign, any consequential agreements and contracts.

Police and Crime Commissioner

I hereby approve/~~reject~~ the recommendation above.

Signature


(Michael Lane)

Date 23/5/2018

Comments on the decision taken:

This is a key part of countering violence and abuse, particularly for Domestic Abuse, which will keep people SAFER across Hampshire & Southampton. Separate arrangements will sit alongside the agreement to support Parliament & 10W. 

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Report of : Alan Hagger Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships

Date : 3rd April 2018

Subject : Domestic Abuse Support Service for Victims (Hampshire only) and
Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Service (Hampshire and Southampton)

Contact: Karen Dawes, Commissioning and Contracts Manager
Karen.dawes@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

1. Summary:

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Please note that the Police and Crime Commissioner also supports domestic abuse victims in Southampton, Portsmouth and on the Isle of Wight. This detail is provided on separate decision notices.

2. Recommendations:

Domestic Abuse Victim Services

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2.3.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner authorises the Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships to agree the terms of, and sign, any consequential agreements and contracts.

3. Strategic context:

Champion Community Needs

This service supports victims of domestic abuse whether or not there is police involvement. This includes support from an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), refuge accommodation, community outreach support and group and one to one support.

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IDVAs work with victims who are at high risk of harm. They offer more intensive support and aim to reduce risk of harm. Community outreach workers offer support to victims in a safe and convenient place. Outreach workers help victims and their children to stay safe in their own homes and communities. It is not always possible for victims to stay safe in their own home, and they may have to leave their home along with their children and move into a refuge. Refuge accommodation supports particularly vulnerable victims of domestic abuse, or those who are at serious risk of harm from the perpetrator. Group work and 1-1 support helps victims to cope and build resilience and protective behaviours.

Strengthen Partnerships

The perpetrator's service is a collaboration between the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council which encourages a partnership approach to keeping people safe. This includes information sharing, participating in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences 'MARACs', devising safety plans and taking a holistic approach to help support those with complex needs. The contract will also upskill staff to recognise domestic abuse and challenge abusive behaviour. The final contract model is being determined through consultation with stakeholders. Victims and Perpetrators services will be aligned either through separate contracts or an integrated victim and perpetrator contract with separate geographical lot areas.

Reduce Offending

IDVAs support those who choose to report to the police through the criminal justice system (IDVA'S can also support those who choose not to report to police). Support from an IDVA increases the likelihood of the victim attending court and giving evidence, which helps secure convictions and bring the perpetrator to justice. The contract encourages information sharing between victims and perpetrators which improves understanding of risk and enables more effective management of offenders. This includes co-location to identify perpetrators of domestic abuse building a richer picture of those causing harm. Appropriate measures can then be put in place to manage perpetrators and reduce offending. The current perpetrator's service in Hampshire and Southampton is being evaluated by Southampton University, and the Portsmouth domestic abuse perpetrator's service is being evaluated by Portsmouth University. Commissioners continue to scan outcomes of any academic evaluations regarding domestic abuse perpetrators services to help inform commissioning decisions.

Effective and Efficient Operational Policing

Improved information sharing enables frontline officers to better protect those at risk of harm and empower them to deal more effectively with those causing harm.

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The Police and Crime Commissioner's representative, Southampton City Council and Hampshire County Council will meet regularly with service providers and the police to monitor performance. Challenging targets will be agreed including outputs and outcomes to measure effectiveness of the service.

4. Options Appraisal

It is an option to stop supporting domestic abuse services through contracts and return to annual grants but this is not recommended. Continuing to support domestic abuse services through contracts is the preferred option because:

- Contracts span a number of years as opposed to 12 month grants. This longer term security attracts good quality, committed staff.
- Grants are more suited to short term projects or pilots. Domestic Abuse Services such as refuge or IDVA provision should be offered through fair, open, transparent competition.
- Local Authorities also contribute considerable amounts of funding into domestic abuse services and they are moving towards contracts. Collaborating with Local Authorities gives greater opportunities, economies of scale, added value and strengthens partnerships.
- For significant services such as domestic abuse, contracts are more appropriate as they are legally binding.
- The longevity of contracts allows more time for evaluation.

5. Financial and Resourcing Implications:

Subject to annual Ministry of Justice Funding being forthcoming, the domestic abuse victim's contribution of £294,500 has been allocated within the Commissioning Budget for the next five years. If Ministry of Justice Funding is not forthcoming, consideration should be given to stopping other grant funded projects in order to fulfil the term of the contract.

Subject to the availability of the Safer Communities Fund, the domestic abuse perpetrator's allocation of £70,000 has been identified within the Commissioning Budget for the next five years.

Hampshire County Council provide the procurement for the victims and perpetrators elements of this contract. In the event of considering extending the contract by a further two years, a new decision notice would be presented.

6. Communications and Engagement Implications

Any publicity should make clear that funding has been made available by the Commissioner. Press releases should be jointly agreed between the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Local Authorities. Publicity should make clear that this is a joint venture between all organisations. The Commissioning and Contracts

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Manager will work closely with the Communications Team to identify opportunities to further promote this service.

7. Legal Implications

Under S.143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Commissioner may provide or arrange for the provision of services to secure or contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction, or which help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and antisocial behaviour.

8. Risks and Mitigation

The process that has been adopted has been transparent and there is no direct link to the Risk Register. Victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse may be vulnerable with complex needs. Measures are put in place to ensure suitability of staff working with those being supported. Break clauses will be included for either party to have the ability to terminate the contract giving 6 months-notice without reason.

9. Strategic Policing Requirement

Not applicable

10. Equalities

Successful applicants will contribute towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination, the advancement of equality of opportunity for everyone, including those having a protected characteristic and the fostering of good relations between all. Focus groups have been conducted with members of the BAMER community and also with service users. These focus groups have provided rich data which will help ensure the service is better able to target support, particularly to those with the protected characteristics.

Some victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse have the protected characteristics. In addition to these contracts, the Local Authorities were awarded funding from the DCLG to improve access to domestic abuse services around protected characteristics.

11. Publication status

This report is suitable for publication.

Persons consulted:

Name	Tick as appropriate
Chief Executive	X
Chief Finance Officer	X
Estate Strategy and Delivery Director	X
Head of Communications and Engagement	X
Head of Strategic Commissioning	X
Head of Performance and Delivery	X
Executive Advisor	X

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Legal Advisor	X
<i>[insert others as appropriate]</i>	

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