

Decision ID:

PCCDJ

000679

2023

Decision Title

Funding for an all-age Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service to support adults, children and young people who are victims of rape, sexual assault or sexual abuse on the Isle of Wight

Executive summary

Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones is committed to standing up for victims at both a local and national level through her role as victim lead for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. This involves working with both the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to ensure the voice of the victim is heard and that their needs are at the heart of the national debate and policy on policing and criminal justice. When a crime is committed it is essential that victims receive the right support at the right time, irrespective of when the offence happened or when they feel ready to address the trauma they have experienced. In her Police and Crime Plan, 'More Police Safer Streets', the Police and Crime Commissioner outlined her commitment to improve outcomes for victims including ensuring they have the support services they need.

The Commissioner currently funds in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, the Integrated Domestic Abuse and Sexual Crime service on the Isle of Wight which started on the 1st October 2018 and is due to end on the 30th September 2023. The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service is currently part of this contracted provision and has received a total of 611 referrals up to end of Q3 2022-23, with 499 adults and 112 children and young people.

The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service is critical in providing specialist tailored emotional and practical support to victims and survivors of sexual violence. The Service works with individuals who have experienced rape, sexual abuse or assault, irrespective of whether they have reported to the police or not. The nature of the support that is provided varies from case-to-case and will depend upon the needs of the individual and particular circumstances. There are a number of significant benefits delivered through this service which include the provision of advocacy, impartial advice, information and support whether they have reported to the police or not. If reporting to the police support will be provided from initial reporting, through the criminal justice process and beyond. An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor may also provide

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information on other services that may be required, such as health and social care, housing or benefits.

The Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service encourages a partnership approach to supporting victims of sexual violence, working with criminal justice partners and other commissioned support services funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide support.

This Decision Notice seeks an allocation of up to **£474,130** for the period October 2023 to March 2029 for a single all-age Independent Sexual Violence Service on the Isle of Wight. This contract would be for a period of up to 5½ years on a 2½+3 year basis, providing opportunity for review within the period. This is subject to funding being forthcoming from the Ministry of Justice.

Recommendation(s)

The Police and Crime Commissioner approves the procurement process and funding of up to **£474,130** over a period of up to 5½ years 2½+3 year basis, for an all-age Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service for the Isle of Wight from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2029 using funding streams available:

- October 2023-March 2029 an allocation of up to **£192,500** from the annual Ministry of Justice Victim's Core Grant Fund budget which forms part of the overall Commissioning budget
- October 2023-March 2029 an allocation of up to **£192,500** from the Commissioning budget that was previously allocated via the Safer Communities Fund
- October 2023-March 2025 allocation of up to **£89,130** from the MOJ IDVA/ISVA uplift funding

All funding after March 2025 is subject to the annual Ministry of Justice grant funding forthcoming.

The 2½+3 year basis will provide opportunity for review within the contract period and would align with the current Hampshire ISVA Service contract period, which ends on 31st March 2029, ensuring equitable provision across the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

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The funding will be subject to a full open competitive tender. The procurement process will be compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as amended by the Public Procurement (Amendment etc. (ED Exit) Regulations 2020.

The funding subject to reviews satisfying the Police and Crime Commissioner's Team that service delivery expectations are met and the service has continued strategic relevance.

Statement on publication

This Decision Record and supporting Decision Request documentation is suitable for publication.

Police and Crime Commissioner approval

I hereby **approve** the recommendation above.

Signature:



Name:

Donna Jones

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire

Date:

15-March-2023

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Decision title:

Funding for an all-age Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service to support adults, children and young people who are victims of rape, sexual assault or sexual abuse on the Isle of Wight

Requester details:

Requester: Emma Robertson

Role title: Commissioning and Contracts Manager

1 Strategic context

The Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones is committed to standing up for victims at both a local and national level through her role as victim lead for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. This involves working with both the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to ensure the voice of the victim is heard and that their needs are at the heart of the national debate and policy on policing and criminal justice. When a crime is committed it is essential that victims receive the right support at the right time, irrespective of when the offence happened or when they feel ready to address the trauma they have experienced. In her Police and Crime Plan, 'More Police Safer Streets', the Police and Crime Commissioner outlines her commitment to improve outcomes for victims including ensuring they have the support services they need.

The Commissioner currently funds in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, the Integrated Domestic Abuse and Sexual Crime Service contract on the Isle of Wight which started on the 1st October 2018 and is due to end on the 30th September 2023. The Commissioner funds the Isle of Wight Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service as part of this contracted provision, with additional year-on-year grants from the Safer Community Fund and Ministry of Justice Domestic Abuse/Sexual Violence (DASV) Uplift fund.

The ISVA Service is critical in providing specialist tailored emotional and practical support to victims and survivors of sexual violence. The Service

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works with individuals who have experienced rape, sexual abuse or assault, irrespective of whether they have reported to the police or not. The nature of the support that is provided varies from case-to-case and will depend upon the needs of the individual and particular circumstances. There are a number of significant benefits delivered through this service which include the provision of advocacy, impartial advice, information and support whether they have reported to the police or not. If reporting to the police support will be provided from initial reporting, through the criminal justice process and beyond. An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor may also provide information on other services that may be required, such as health and social care, housing or benefits.

The Commissioner currently funds in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, the Integrated Domestic Abuse and Sexual Crime service on the Isle of Wight which started on the 1st October 2018 and is due to end on the 30th September 2023. The ISVA Service is currently part of this contracted provision and has received a total of 611 referrals from October 2028 to the end of Q3 2022-23, with 499 adults and 112 children and young people.

For 2021-22 and 2022-23 (up to Q3), the Isle of Wight saw 1043 sexual offences reported to the police, of which 337 were rape. Over the same period the ISVA Service for the Isle of Wight received 297 referrals.

	Sexual Offences Reported to the Police		
	2021-22 (Q1-Q4)	2022-23 (Q1-Q3)	Total
IOW Sexual Offences (inc Rape)	541	502	1043
IOW Rape	178	159	337
Total	719	661	1380

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Referrals into Integrated Isle of Wight ISVA Service						
	2018-19 (Q3-Q4)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (Q1-Q3)	Total
Adult	46	112	119	126	96	499
CYP	0	0	37	37	38	112
Total	46	112	156	163	134	611

This Decision Request seeks funding allocation of up to **£474,130** for a single all-age ISVA Service for the Isle of Wight for a 5½ year period from October 2023 to March 2029, ensuring timeline alignment with the Hampshire ISVA Service. The funding for this will align funding allocated from the Ministry of Justice Victim Grant funding, Safer Communities Fund and Ministry of Justice DASV Uplift Fund and provide an allocation as follows:

2023-24	£64,710 (October 2023-March 2024)
2024-25	£129,420
2025-26	£70,000
2026-27	£70,000
2027-28	£70,000
2028-29	£70,000
Total	£474,130

Allocated as follows:

- October 2023-March 2029 an allocation of up to **£192,500** from the annual Ministry of Justice Victim's Core Grant Fund budget which forms part of the overall Commissioning budget
- October 2023-March 2029 an allocation of up to **£192,500** from the Commissioning budget that was previously allocated via the Safer Communities Fund
- October 2023-March 2025 allocation of up to **£89,130** from the Ministry of Justice IDVA/ISVA uplift funding

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ISVA services are not a statutory requirement but fall under the Government Strategy 'Call to End Violence Against Women and Children', which included a number of expectations that the Government wished to achieve. Increased reporting, prosecution and convictions of violent crimes against women and children, local commissioning and service provision partnerships working to a National Statement of Expectation. The ISVA role was commissioned by the Home Office Violent Crime Unit in 2005 and was placed within the Government Strategy "Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016–2020". Evidence obtained nationally for Baroness Stern's Review in 2010 suggested that this role is rated extremely highly by people using an ISVA service and is very supportive when they are involved in legal processes. The strategy is clear that "experiences of abuse have serious psychological, emotional and physical consequences and may contribute to multiple disadvantages or a chaotic lifestyle involving substance misuse, homelessness, offending behaviour, gang involvement, prostitution or mental health problems". Many people do not seek help for years, living with the scars that affect their relationships, parenting, mental health, physical health and ability to attain and retain work. When people receive the support they require, at the point they need it, they are more likely to be able to cope and take positive steps to recovery. ISVA services should commence at the point of disclosure or report to the Police so are crucial to promoting positive outcomes for individuals and society in general.

The Strategic Police Requirement (February 2023) has seen Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) added as a national threat and under connectivity with partners there is reference to collaborating with ISVAs to support the safety of victims and also to collaborate on communication plans to engage with victims of rape and sexual offences.

The upcoming Victims Bill due in Spring 2023, contains a commitment to enhancing the roles of ISVAs and providing statutory guidance on the roles of ISVAs, with minimum standards and best practice including information on their role, function and training. The Bill also places a duty on ISVAs to have due regard to this guidance.

In September 2011, the ISVA Service in Hampshire commenced with money obtained by Winchester Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service (RASAC) from the Home Office and was match funded by Hampshire County Council from April 2012 to March 2017. The service

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was delivered in Portsmouth for 10 years funded by Portsmouth City Council. In 2016, the Police and Crime Commissioner allocated grant funding to support the ISVA Service and followed this by providing funding in partnership with Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council to support a three-year contract from April 2017 to March 2020, later extended to March 2022. In Southampton, the Commissioner provided grant funding followed by a jointly funded domestic abuse and sexual crime contract which included ISVA provision and ended in March 2022. In 2022, the Police and Crime Commissioner in partnership with Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Councils commissioned the single Hampshire-wide all-age ISVA Service with a contract running from April 2022-March 2029. This Decision Request seeks funding for the Isle of Wight ISVA Service to provide support for those individuals who have experienced rape, sexual abuse or assault for October 2023 to March 2029, which will align the timelines with the Hampshire ISVA Service.

An all-age Isle of Wight ISVA Service aligns with the Police and Crime Commissioner's strategic approach to commissioning and partnerships with regards to sexual violence. The new service will provide support to victims who have experienced rape, sexual abuse or assault, irrespective of whether they have reported to the Police or not. Sexual violence including rape, abuse and assault are one of the Police and Crime Commissioners six priorities as set out in her Police and Crime Plan '*More Police, Safer Streets*', setting the strategic direction and priorities for policing.

The Commissioner has committed to ensuring the right support is in place to support victims, including children and young people who are victims of child abuse and exploitation. The ISVA Service will provide support to these victims and work with communities, including within schools to ensure awareness of the support available.

2 Options Appraisal

There are two ways in which the Commissioner supports services: year-on-year grants with grant agreements, and procurement leading to contracts. Grants are, generally, more flexible, short term, and for less money than contracts. They are less rigorous in terms of specification and are therefore more appropriate for smaller voluntary organisations

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providing local services. Contracts are appropriate for core services which the Commissioner wants to ensure are available, often to safeguard the people most vulnerable to crime. Contracts require a rigorous and open procurement process with a clear specification.

This award would enable an allocation of up to **£474,130** for a 5½ year provision of a single all-age ISVA Service for the Isle of Wight. This allocation would be for a period of up to 5½ years on a 2½+3 basis, which provides opportunity for review within the contract period. This would align with the current Hampshire ISVA Service contract period, which ends in 31st March 2029, ensuring equitable provision across the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

A 5½ year contract on a 2½+3 basis will appeal to specialist service providers and ensure retention of accredited practitioners who may have concerns over short fixed term contracts. This will give stability to ISVA provision for adults, children and young people who have been victims of sexual violence. It also takes into account that an ISVA may support a victim for a number of years as sexual crime cases often take some years to progress through the criminal justice system and the role of the ISVA is to support a victim through the criminal justice process and beyond.

There is no statutory duty for the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund an ISVA service. If this decision request is not supported, we need to rely on other commissioned support services, the voluntary sector or other public sector organisations applying for funding opportunities as they may arise to try and provide appropriate support services.

To do nothing would result in the loss of the ISVA support on the Isle of Wight for adults, children and young people, which would mean victims of sexual violence would not receive the immediate emotional and practical support they need and would not be supported and guided through the criminal justice process.

3 Timescales

This decision cannot be deferred until a later date if ISVA support is to be available across the Isle of Wight from October 2023. The integrated Domestic Abuse/Sexual Crime contract which includes the current ISVA

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service has been extended to 30th September 2023 and cannot be extended any further.

A delay in the decision would have a negative impact to victims and survivors of sexual violence as there would be no ISVA provision from October 2023 for the residents of the Isle of Wight. A funding decision would ensure the contract is awarded to the successful organisation and provide reassurance to the service provider, its staff and volunteers, ensuring retention of an ISVA team to provide support, providing continuity of support for the victims and survivors currently accessing the service.

4 Financial and resourcing implications

This proposal has financial implications of up to **£474,130** to be distributed over 5½ financial years. Subject to annual funding being forthcoming from the Ministry of Justice, funding will be allocated as follows;

- Allocation up to **£192,500** for the 5½ year period October 2023-March 2029 to be allocated from the annual Ministry of Justice Victim’s Core Grant Fund budget which forms part of the overall Commissioning budget
- Allocation up to **£192,500** for the 5½ period October 2023-March 2029 from the commissioning budget that was previously allocated via the Safer Communities Fund
- Allocation up to **£89,130** for the 1½ period October 2023-March 2025 to be allocated from the Ministry of Justice IDVA/ISVA uplift funding

Total cost	£474,130
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Timeframe funding required for	October 2023 to March 2029
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Table 1 - Funding allocation in each financial year

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Capital	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Revenue	£64,710	£129,420	£70,000	£70,000	£70,000	£70,000

Table 2 - Funding source - Capital and Revenue

	Capital <small>(insert 'Yes' if applicable)</small>	Revenue <small>(insert 'Yes' if applicable)</small>
Transformation reserve		
Commissioner's reserve		
Commissioning budget		Yes
Approved capital programme		
General fund		
Other <i>(please provide details)</i>		

5 Communications and engagement implications

Publicity should make clear funding has been made available by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Commissioning and Contracts Manager will liaise with the Communications Team to identify opportunities to promote this service.

6 Legal implications

Under S.143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the police and Crime 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.

Due to the amount of funding involved and the length of the contract proposed, this service is subject to a full open competitive tender process. The procurement process will be compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as amended by the Public Procurement (Amendment etc. (ED Exit) Regulations 2020. As the service specification for the new contract is similar to the current Independent Sexual Violence Advisor

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Service current provision, there may be a TUPE consideration for the staff employed by the existing service providers.

The contract should include a clause that continued funding of the service will be subject to annual Ministry of Justice funding being forthcoming. The Police and Crime Commissioner should not be contractually liable should that funding cease.

7 Risks and mitigation

If this Decision Request is not approved, this may result in the closure of the Isle of Wight Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service in September 2023, which would mean victims of sexual abuse, assault and rape would not receive the support they need. There could be a risk of reputational damage around not supporting vulnerable victims of sexual violence and funds would have to be returned to the Ministry of Justice, which would be particularly difficult at such a challenging time for victim support services.

This decision goes some way to reducing the risk of local services being unable to continue to deliver support to the most vulnerable members of our society, and the risk of increased demand on policing should services be unable to continue their valuable work in our communities.

8 Strategic policing requirement

Although it is unlikely this decision will have direct implications on current national strategic policing requirements, the ISVA Service provision receives referrals from Hampshire Constabulary to provide support, enabling the Police to focus on frontline duties. Investment in services to support victims of crime will contribute towards reducing the demand on policing across the Isle of Wight.

9 Equalities

This provision supports vulnerable children, young people and adults, many of whom have protected characteristics. The support will contribute towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; the advancement of equality of opportunity between

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persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and the fostering of good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. It will also ensure that individuals will be able to access support; regardless of whether a report has been made to, the Police.

10 Data Protection implications

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will not hold personal information of people accessing the support provided by this funding. The providers will be required to adhere to the GDPR regulations. Regular performance monitoring reports submitted to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will only contain anonymised data.

11 Publication status

This Decision Request is suitable for publication

12 Personnel consulted

The following personnel were consulted on the Decision Request.

Table 3 - Personnel consulted

Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner	OPCC	Yes
Chief Executive	OPCC	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
OPCC/Hampshire Constabulary liaison	OPCC / HC	Yes
Head of Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships	OPCC	Yes
Head of Business	OPCC	Yes
Head of Estate	OPCC	Yes

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Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Accountant	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
Deputy Monitoring Officer	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
Head of Strategic Procurement	HCC	Yes
Commissioning and Grants Business Manager	OPCC	Yes
Data Protection Officer	OPCC	Yes
<i>[others as appropriate]</i>		Yes

OPCC - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

HCC - Hampshire County Council

HC - Hampshire Constabulary

13 Appendices

None

14 Background papers

None