

**ORIGINATOR:** Stephanie Stearman

**DECISION NO.** 30/2021

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION:** For Decision

**SUBMITTED TO:** Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

**SUBJECT:** National Expressions of Interest for Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA's) and Independent Domestic Abuse Advisers (IDVA's) and additional funding for ISVA's to support those with protected characteristics.

**SUMMARY:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) announced additional funding to support victims of survivors of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV), this was through the annual MoJ Victims' Fund, a National ISVA and IDVA fund through Expressions of Interest and (to be announced) a 'Critical Support Fund'.

This Decision Notice seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner of Norfolk to award grants utilising the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) National ISVA and IDVA Expressions of Interest Fund from 1<sup>st</sup> April 21 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and additional funding through the MoJ Victims' Fund for ISVA's that support those with protected characteristics.

The devolved funding to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) is set out within this Decision Notice along with how funding was awarded and to which organisations. A breakdown of recommended grants and funding amounts, totalling £345,371 for the EOI £104,200 for additional ISVA Funding set out in the attached 'Schedule of Awards'.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk approves the Grants awarded that are set out below using the Ministry of Justice National ISVA and IDVA Fund through Expressions of Interest, and additional funding for ISVA's through the MoJ Victims' Fund that support those with protected characteristics.

**OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY: PCC**

*The recommendations as outlined above are approved.*

**Signature**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Am-sonelli".

**Date 24/05/2021**

## DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

### 1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 To provide specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence services where an identified need has been evidenced due to strain on existing services or gap in provision to support older people and/or children who are experiencing domestic abuse or where there is abuse within the household and those with protected characteristics.

### 2. BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 On 1 February 2021 Ministry of Justice (MoJ) announced additional one-year funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV), and a National a National ISVA and IDVA Expressions of Interest fund.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

- 2.2 It was announced that this additional funding would be distributed via Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) as an uplift to the core victims' grant and through an EOI process for the ISVA and IDVA fund. The published national breakdown in the allocation of this funding is as follows:

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Sexual Violence             | £4.625m |
| Domestic Abuse              | £8.95m  |
| National ISVA and IDVA Fund | £16m    |

- 2.3 In order to minimise the burden on PCCs and organisations, each PCC received an allocation based on needs assessments previously provided to the MoJ for their local areas. Additional funding can be accessed through the critical support fund should a PCC area be able to demonstrate that there is a critical need in their area.
- 2.4 Unlike the extraordinary Covid-19 funding provided in 2020/21, organisations do not need to be a registered charity, a charitable incorporated organisation, or a social enterprise to be eligible for this funding. They must, however, provide support services which have the purpose of helping victims of SV or DA cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced.
- 2.5 Under MoJ guidance, if a PCC thinks that they can most appropriately meet local need by allocating their funding to a Local Authority (LA) or other local body, they are permitted to do this provided they are able to evidence how this meets local need. Reporting will still need to come through the PCC and meet MoJ grant conditions.
- 2.6 Organisations must be based in England and Wales to be eligible for this funding.

2.7 PCCs had to undertake an assessment of need in relation to both SV and DA support services in their local area. PCCs had to ensure that the assessment process fulfilled a number of general conditions, as well as specific SV and DA ones set out in within the PCC Guidance document.

The general conditions are:

- the process is open and transparent, and assessment criteria are published;
- the process is open to all relevant support organisations in the PCC area – and encourages applications from small specialist organisations that support groups with protected characteristics;
- the process is done in collaboration with LAs;
- there are named contact points in each PCC office for queries; and
- the names of all organisations that requested funding, and those that were successful, should be published on completion of the process.

2.8 PCCs had to ensure DA and SV organisations that have a proven track record of providing tailored services for particular groups such as LGBT, disabled, BAME and male victims were included when establishing local need, and ensure they are proportionately represented within funding allocations. PCCs had to engage with other local commissioners, including the Local Authority, when establishing and assessing local need.

2.9 PCCs had to undertake appropriate due diligence and fraud risk assessments in relation to organisations they fund through this allocation.

### **3 AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

3.1 The MoJ required to see EOI for services that:

- offered tailored support for under-represented survivors and those with protected characteristics;
- propose innovative advocacy models as well as for established roles such as IDVAs and ISVAs, for both adults and children;
- adopt hybrid models supporting both DA and SV victims, as well as violence against women and girls (VAWG) advocates and advisers, provided they will be supporting victims of SV and/or D

3.2 Specific roles eligible for this fund could include:

- ISVAs And ISVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)
- IDVAs And IDVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)
- Child specialist ISVAs and IDVAs

3.3 In addition, PCCs were asked to consider the following:

- Consult across public and statutory agencies, including local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), to understand the current

advocacy landscape and where additional resource is required to meet local demand.

- Engage across specialist DA and SV organisations in their areas, including; organisations that the PCC does not have an existing funding relationship with, organisations supporting victims with protected characteristics and 'by and for' organisations.
- Consult the BAME Commissioning Guidance framework and evidence the needs of minoritized and underrepresented survivors in their EOIs.
- Where more than one advocate is being proposed, clearly describe the role of each advocate, and the specific demands the role will address.

### 3.4 Outcomes

ISVAs, IDVAs and other advocates for both adults and CYP will ensure that the rights and interests of survivors are always upheld - in accordance to the [Victims Code of Practice](#).

It is expected all advocates to be working towards the following outcomes;

- Survivors have access to support that is individually tailored to their level of risk and support needs
- Survivors who want support to navigate the criminal justice system, and have been impacted by disruption in the criminal justice system, has an advocate to support them throughout all stages of their journey
- Survivors have someone to advocate on their behalf, to ensure their views and needs are heard and upheld, such as within the criminal justice process, the MARAC process, or in engagement with a range of other statutory and voluntary agencies.

Guidance on the key elements of the ISVA and IDVA roles can be found here:

- The role of an ISVA is detailed in the [Home Office document 'Essential Elements of the ISVA Role'](#)
- The role of an IDVA is provided by [Safelives](#)
- The role of a CYP advocate has not been specifically defined as this still a developing area of support provision. However, guidelines on safeguarding are detailed in ['Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018'](#)

## 4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

4.1 None

## 5 STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:

5.1 The primary statutory legislation that drives the commissioning of domestic abuse services across the Local Authority and Police force are:

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Crime and Disorder Act 1988
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Children's Act 1989 and 2004
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

- Equality Act 2010
- Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime
- Any future amendments or additions to existing legislation during the life of the contract

5.2 In addition to the above primary statutory legislation the following strategic aims and objectives are supported:

- Police and Crime Commissioners responsibility under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime
- Police and Crime Plan
- Home Office strategy to end violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- Norfolk's County Community Safety Partnership – Priority domestic abuse and sexual violence

## 6 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 Eligible spend covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Any spend organisations commit to beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 must be met through their own funds.

6.2 The allocation of funding was confirmed by the Ministry of Justice to the OPCCN as follows:

| FUND                       | 2021/22  | 2022/23  | TOTAL    |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| National ISVA and IDVA EOI | £173,258 | £172,114 | £345,371 |

| ORGANISATION                                | SERVICE PROVISION  | AMOUNT   |
|---|--|----------|
| Daisy Programme – Breckland                 | 1 x CYP IDVA   | £75,515  |
| Daisy Programme - Breckland                 | 1 x Adult IDVA with specialisms for supporting the elderly and those with mental/physical disabilities               | £77,180  |
| Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services | 1 x Adult IDVA with specialisms for supporting the elderly and those with mental/physical disabilities/Complex Needs | £86,500  |
| Pandora Project                             | 2 x CYP IDVA's – (1 North Norfolk + 1 West Norfolk)  | £106,176 |
| TOTAL                                       |  | £345,371 |

| SERVICE PROVISION  | 2021/22* | 2022/23** | TOTAL    |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|
| 2.5 FTE ISVAs at Harbour Centre SARC to support those with protected characteristics /men and boys | £104,200 | £104,200  | £208,400 |
| Existing*<br>Additional Funding**  |          |           |          |

## 7 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

- 7.1 There are no major implications or risks associated with the decision paper.
- 7.2 In line with usual government grants, PCCs must ensure that organisations **do not** use the funding for any of the following activities:
- campaigning activities (this fund is to support the delivery of direct services for vulnerable people);
  - religious activities outside of projects benefiting the wider community and not containing religious content;
  - political or lobbying activities;
  - loan repayments; or
  - activities that make profit for private gain
- 7.3 All organisations awarded funding will need to comply with the OPCCN Governance 'Check List' that will be provided with offers of Grants if this has not been completed in advance.
- 7.4 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, each organisation is required to notify the OPCCN as per the conditions of the award.

| <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>                        |
| In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?   | <b>Yes</b>                        |
| <p data-bbox="188 1413 772 1447"><b>Is this report a Confidential Decision?</b></p> <div data-bbox="1050 1429 1171 1496" style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 30px; margin-right: 20px;"></div> <div data-bbox="1246 1429 1367 1496" style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 30px; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;">NO</div> <p data-bbox="188 1525 1417 1559">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the <a href="#">PCC Decision Making Policy</a></p> |                                   |

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER** (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

**Chief Executive**

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



**Signature:**

**Date 24/05/2021**

**Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)**

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,  
OR
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,  
OR
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves  
AND
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.



**Signature:**

**Date: 24/05/2021**

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION:** *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*