

**ORIGINATOR:** Stephanie Stearman

**DECISION NO.** 2020/27

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION:** For Decision

**SUBMITTED TO:** Lorne Green – Police and Crime Commissioner of Norfolk (PCC)

**SUBJECT:** Ministry of Justice COVID 19- Extraordinary Fund

**SUMMARY:**

This Decision Notice seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner of Norfolk to award grants utilising the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) 'COVID-19 Extraordinary Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services'.

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 those organisations who were successful with their application. A breakdown of recommended grants and funding amounts, totalling £249,819 is set out in the attached 'Schedule of Awards'.

The funding will support providers of domestic abuse and sexual violence services with funding where they have experienced: short term income disruption; increased demand for their service; and/or incurred additional costs in sustaining their activities due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic between 24 March 2020 and up to 31 October 2020.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk approves the Grants awards using the Ministry of Justice Extraordinary Fund Covid-19 to support those organisations delivering Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services to victims within Norfolk.

**OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY:** Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk – Lorne Green

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.



**Signature**

**Date: 13 July 2020**

## DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

### 1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 Measures announced over recent months to tackle coronavirus (COVID-19) have seen people's day-to-day lives drastically altered. These changes have been essential to beat the coronavirus and protect the NHS.
- 1.2 The government acknowledged that the order to stay at home can cause anxiety for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse or sexual violence. There is never an excuse for domestic abuse/sexual violence, no matter what the circumstances are.
- 1.3 In response and to the above and to support victims of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) released a fund known as the COVID-19 Extraordinary Fund which was devolved to Police and Crime Commissioners to administer within their respective areas.
- 1.4 Each PCC area received notification of an indicative allocation of funds, using the population-based formula currently used to determine victim grant funding. The total funding is ringfenced for COVID-19 related extraordinary funding, and then ringfenced again for spend on each of the three areas of need shown in the table.

DA abuse services that are already commissioned by PCCs	£10m
SV services that are already commissioned by PCCs and those that are not currently funded by PCCs	£5m
DA services that are not currently commissioned by PCCs	£5m

- 1.5 The funding devolved to the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner was a total amount of up to £306,000. This fund was released and publicised by the

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) through a variety of digital platforms, forums, boards and groups inviting those organisations that met criteria to bid for funding under the funding streams.

- 1.6 To be eligible for the funding, organisations had to be a registered charity, a charitable incorporated organisation, or a social enterprise, including companies limited by guarantee and community interest companies. They had to provide support services which have the purpose of helping victims of crime cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced.

## **2. BACKGROUND:**

- 2.1 On 2 May 2020, the Government announced a package of £76m extra funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA), sexual violence (SV), vulnerable children and their families, as well as victims of modern slavery, during the COVID-19 emergency pandemic.
- 2.2 Of this £76m funding package, £25m will be administered by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). This is in addition to the £3m per annum (until 2022) funding we are providing to support the recruitment of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs).
- 2.3 The overarching aim is to ensure that the funding is allocated across the sector in England and Wales, reaching support organisations of all sizes and those with the greatest need. We are trying to keep the processes as simple and efficient as possible to ensure that the funding gets to the organisations that need it as quickly as possible. To achieve this, we are, where it exists, using existing funding channels and data on demand and need.
- 2.4 MoJ funding will be distributed via Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The breakdown in the allocation of this funding is shown in the table below. £5m of the funding will also be provided to organisations that are already funded through the national Rape Support Fund (RSF). The guidance document for the allocation through the RSF is <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-funding-for-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-support-services>
- 2.5 The details on how the rest of the £76m funding package is being administered and the purpose of each fund is also provided below. Support organisations may find that they need to request funding from more than one fund, depending on the type of provision they require.
- 2.6 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published guidance on 7 May 2020 on how organisations can access the £10m funding allocated for domestic abuse safe accommodation. Details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-covid-19-emergency-support-fund>

- 2.7 The Home Office published initial guidance on 19 May 2020, on how organisations could access £2m for domestic abuse. Organisations eligible for the Home Office fund would include:
- Organisations which provide a national service (i.e. covering all of England and/or Wales).
  - Organisations where the supported victims are very geographically dispersed over multiple PCC areas, and/or no one PCC area is the clear base for the majority of victims.
  - Umbrella or second tier organisations.
  - Organisations which do capacity building, or which support other organisations to support victims and survivors. This includes those supporting the police in their response to domestic abuse. It also includes those supporting local authorities or other statutory bodies.
- 2.8 National Lottery Funding is part of the wider £750m civil society support package that the Government announced on 8 April. In addition to funding being distributed by central Government Departments, part of this package includes an open fund for charities and social enterprises working with vulnerable people affected by the crisis in England. This will be provided through the National Lottery Community Fund.

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

- 3.1 The COVID-19 extraordinary funding is from 24 March to 31 October 2020 to meet the additional costs registered charities or social enterprise have incurred or will incur whilst adapting their services during the pandemic, and to cope with demand increases resulting from it, during this time period. For example, funding may be used to:
- address short term income disruption;
  - meet essential costs of sustaining current activities, such the purchasing of assets to support the move to remote and digital working, and additional staff to cover those unable to work for reasons related to the pandemic; and
  - address increased demand.
- 3.2 PCCs must undertake an assessment of need for COVID-19 related extraordinary funding in relation to both SV and DA support services in their local area. PCCs must ensure that the assessment process fulfils a number of general conditions, as well as specific SV and DA ones set out below:
- 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;
  - 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.

#### 4. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:

4.1 To meet the strategic aim/objective of the COVID-19 Extraordinary fund, funding will support Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence delivery as follows:

- **DA specific funding**, the primary purpose of the organisation's service must be to provide support to female and/or male victims who have experienced DA at any point in their life. This includes adults and children.
- Funding can be used to support those agencies who have either:
  - (a) an existing Grant/Contract with the OPCCN
  - (b) does not have an existing Grant/Contract with the OPCCN
- **SV specific funding**, the primary purpose of the organisation's service must be to provide support to female and/or male victims who have experienced rape or sexual abuse at any point in their life. This includes adults and children. The funding can be used to support existing clients as well as new referrals.

#### 5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, OUTCOMES AND MONITORING:

5.1 Eligible spend is from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Any spend that organisations commit to beyond the 31 October 2020 must be met through their own funds.

5.2 The Allocation of funding agreed by the Ministry of Justice to the OPCCN is £249,819.

5.3 Twelve applications to the Extraordinary COVID-19 Fund were received in total. It is recommended that the PCC approves the distribution of £249,819 using the COVID-19 Extraordinary funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services to the following ten organisations.

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Pandora Project	£83,341
Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services	£31,057
Daisy Programme	£18,268
Spurgeons	£3,689
One to One Project	£17,425
The Magdalene Group	£40,468
Hope into Action	£2,002
Norfolk Community Law Service	£17,048
The Change Project	£27,583
Orwell Housing	£8,938

- 5.4 It is recommended that the PCC approves the above Grant Awards using the COVID-19 Extraordinary funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services to the Value of £249,819.
- 5.5 The funding is in the form of a one-off grant to support the extraordinary requirements arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. There are no further obligations on the part of the MoJ or PCC.
- 5.6 The OPCCN will need to inform the MoJ by 31<sup>st</sup> August of any underspend that they are forecasting.
- 5.7 Organisations will be provided with a Grant Agreement with the terms and conditions of the award that also reflect the MoJ's requirement and own monitoring arrangements. Recipients will be required to provide data and information to enable the OPCCN to report outcomes to the MoJ by the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## 6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

- 6.1 There are no major implications or risks associated with the decision paper.
- 6.2 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
- 6.3 The OPCCN assessed the eligibility of applicants and their applications and the appropriate due diligence checks have been completed.
- 6.4 All organisations awarded funding will need to comply with the 'Check List' that was published when the Extraordinary Grant was released:
- <https://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk/news/organisations-urged-to-bid-for-vital-funding-to-help-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence-victims/>
- 6.5 The MoJ have also provided information with the Grant Agreement to cross check bids and ensure there is no duplication of ask across different COVID-19 funding streams. The OPCCN has completed this cross check and confirmed to the MoJ that funding offered will not result in duplicate funding.
- 6.6 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.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
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>

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

**Chief Executive Officer – Mark Stokes**

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: 13 July 2020**

**Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) - Jill Penn**

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: 13 July 2020**

**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.*



## SCHEDULE OF GRANTS

Name of charity/organisation	Is the charity/organisation currently funded by the PCC?  Yes/No	Service/Programme/Product Funded
Pandora Project (specialist Domestic Abuse Service - North and West Norfolk)	Yes	Mobile Unit to carry out domestic abuse service in rural districts of North and West Norfolk. Increased working with those victims from the LGBTQ+ community. PPE Equipment ICT Equipment Personal Hygiene/Toiletries/Self Care/Food packs
Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services - Provide County High Risk IDVA Service	Yes	ICT Equipment to for mobile and agile working for staff Laptops for the High-Risk Domestic Abuse Service Laptops for Domestic Abuse Workers in Refuge Smart phones for High Risk Independent Abuse Violence Advisors PPE Equipment
Spurgeons - Norwich Connect Domestic Abuse Service	Yes	Increased Hours of Community IDVA from Part time to Full time ICT Equipment
Daisy Programme - Breckland Domestic Abuse Service	Yes	Increased Hours of existing Staff to support additional demand ICT Equipment, for staff and including tablets for victims 1 x PTE worker (30 hours per week) to facilitate and manage additional demand WhatsApp Groups and Live Chat
One to One – Counselling Service for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Victims in West Norfolk	No	ICT Equipment for staff and agile working Additional Staffing to support extra demand Website Development Zoom Platform and volunteer costs Adaptation of Office and Cleaning for staff and also to support clients in safe working environment
The Magdalene Project – Supporting sex workers and those who have experienced or are victims of Sexual exploitation in Norwich	No	Additional Office Space – short term to allow for safe and socially distanced working environment for staff ICT – adaptation of equipment Increased functionality of digital/media platforms Deep cleaning of Office Additional Staff Cost of 1 x .8FTE to support clients
Orwell Housing – Provide Domestic Abuse Refuge + Domestic Abuse Workers in South Norfolk	No	Additional Staff to support 50 women online and run a virtual Freedom Programme Booklets for Freedom Programme ICT Equipment for victims within the Refuge
Hope into Action - Norwich	No	Broadband Facility Additional Staffing for support of victims of Domestic Abuse
Norfolk Community Law Service – provide Legal Support for Victims County Service	No	ICT equipment for agile/mobile working Additional Staffing to support victims of Domestic Abuse through Family Court Process and provide legal options and solutions
The Change Project – Providing support across Norfolk to victims of domestic abuse through a Perpetrator Programme County Service	No	Addresses short term disruption to meet essential costs of sustaining current activities for supporting victims of perpetrators. Full integrated service working with both victims and perpetrators

