

ORIGINATOR: Stephanie Stearman

DECISION NO. 31 /2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision

SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

SUBJECT: Ministry of Justice Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services 2021/22 – 1 Year (uplift)

SUMMARY:

On the 1st 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) 'uplift' during 2021/22 for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services' and additional funding from the Commissioning 'Core' budget.

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 £197,208 set out in 'Section 6 Financial Implications'.

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 uplift funding within the Victims' Fund to support specialist organisations delivering Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence services to victims.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

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

Signature

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>

- 2.1 It was announced that this additional funding will 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 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

- 2.2 In order to minimise the burden on PCCs and organisations, each PCC will receive 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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 grant conditions.
- 2.5 Each PCC area will receive notification of the allocation of funds as set out above. The total funding will be ringfenced for spend on SV or DA services only.

- 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 must ensure that the assessment process fulfils a number of general conditions, as well as specific SV and DA ones set out in within the PCC Guidance document paragraphs 17-23. 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 must 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 are included when establishing local need, and ensure they are proportionately represented within funding allocations. PCCs must engage with other local commissioners, including the Local Authority, when establishing and assessing local need.
- 2.9 PCCs will need to undertake appropriate due diligence and fraud risk assessments in relation to organisations they fund through this allocation.

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 3.1 To be eligible for **DA specific funding**, the organisation must provide and be able to demonstrate tailored support to female and/or male victims who have experienced DA 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.

DA support services could include, but are not limited to:

- IDVAs;
 - CHIDVAs;
 - Family court support;
 - Face to face or remote counselling for individuals and / or their families;
 - or
 - Support for particular groups such as BAME/ Disabled/ LGBT/male victims.
- 3.2 Funding for support for victims of DA in safe accommodation is subject to a separate funding process run by Ministry of Housing, Communities and

Local Government (MHCLG). MoJ funding must not be used to provide accommodation or the support services within it.

- 3.3 PCCs already fund DA support services, either directly or through the Local Authority, and will have a good understanding of need and service provision in their areas. However, it is recognised that funding may be limited in some areas and, for this reason, when assessing how DA funds should be distributed, PCCs must open up their process to all DA support services in their area, whether or not they currently fund them.

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 is from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. Any spend that organisations commit to beyond the 31st March 2022 must be met through their own funds.

- 6.2 The Allocation of funding agreed by way of an uplift was confirmed by the Ministry of Justice to the OPCCN £171,412.

- 6.3 In addition to the above the PCC has agreed to extend funding by a further £25,796 from the Commissioning Budget.
- 6.4 From this allocation the following projects were reviewed by the PCC and signed off.

ORGANISATION	SERVICE PROVISION	AMOUNT
Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services	3 CYP Workers (one in each of the following Districts: Broadland, Great Yarmouth and Norwich)	£87,000
Daisy Programme	1 x CYP Worker Breckland	£29,000
Orwell Housing	1 x CYP Worker – South Norfolk	£29,000
Fresh Start New Beginnings	Specialists support for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse age 2yrs-18yrs or for those with mental or physical disabilities up to 25 yrs.	£52,208
Total Funding Award		£197,208
Balance Breakdown		
Ministry of Justice		£171,412
OPCCN Commissioning Budget		£ 25,796

- 6.5 The funding is in the form of a one-off grant. There are no further obligations on the part of the MoJ or PCC.
- 6.6 The OPCCN will need to inform the MoJ of any underspend that they are forecasting.
- 6.7 Organisations will be provided with a Grant Agreement or Memo of Understanding or if in receipt of an existing Grant/Contract a Grant Variation. This will also reflect the MoJ's requirements and own monitoring arrangements. Recipients will be required to provide data and information to enable the OPCCN to report outcomes to the MoJ twice during the financial year 2021/22.

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.

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
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes
<p data-bbox="188 1424 772 1458">Is this report a Confidential Decision?</p> <div data-bbox="1050 1440 1171 1509" style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; width: 76px; height: 31px; vertical-align: middle;"></div> <div data-bbox="1246 1440 1367 1509" style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; width: 76px; height: 31px; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center; margin-left: 20px;">NO</div> <p data-bbox="188 1534 1417 1568">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the PCC Decision Making Policy</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.*