

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Notice of Decision



Nottinghamshire

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

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For Decision or Information	Decision
Date received*:	08.05.19
Ref*:	2019.022

*to be inserted by Office of PCC

TITLE: Development of and funding for sexual violence and CSA support services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire in 2019-0

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Context

The PCC has a responsibility to commission services for victims of crime, and to prioritise the victims of the most serious crime. Victims and survivors of sexual violence require a range of help to cope and recover from crime, including crisis support for recent sexual assault, informational, practical and emotional support and advocacy including through the criminal justice system (known as "ISVA" services) and counselling.

To ensure that the above support is in place, in 2017 the PCC led a joint approach of the City and County and PCC to co-commission a dedicated Survivor Support Service to provide more intensive support for CSA survivors. In addition, during 2017 and 2018 the PCC co-commissioned crisis support with NHS England and led the commissioning of new ISVA services.

There is also very strong demand for counselling support. In the city there has been a co-commissioned approach led by the City Council on behalf of Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the PCC and City Council. This contract began in April 2016 and was due to expire on 31 March 2019 (see Notices of Decision reference 2016.009 and 2016.004).

In the county it has taken longer to secure partners' agreement for a similar co-commissioned approach. As the PCC's funding is insufficient to meet demand, and in order to ensure no loss of support, the PCC has continued to provide interim year on year funding to Nottinghamshire SVS Services and ISAS to provide counselling support (for 2018 please see Notice of Decision 2018.055).

During 2017 and 2018 the PCC worked with clinical commissioning groups ("CCGs") and local authority partners to drive forward a joint approach to provision of therapeutic support and counselling. As a result, the mid Nottinghamshire CCGs included a specific sexual violence support pathway in their recommissioning of mainstream mental health services (known as Improving Access to Psychological Therapies, or "IAPT"). The new IAPT contract began on 1 April 2019.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse ("IICSA") held its Nottingham hearings in October 2018. It was clear during and after the hearings that survivors did not believe that there sufficient support in place to meet their needs.

Following the IICSA hearings, in January 2019 the PCC met with senior officers from the CCGs

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and City and County Councils to agree how to work together to ensure better support for survivors of sexual violence, with a particular focus on adult survivors of child sexual abuse. There was recognition that there were different and fragmented support arrangements in place in different parts of the county (including the city) and that commissioning organisations needed to work together better to provide better support for survivors. A task and finish group was set up with the specific remit to plan for future services.

Whilst future services are planned, the PCC has agreed to continue to fund the existing counselling services for one final year. This includes the interim county arrangements and a one year extension to the co-commissioned city contract led by the City Council.

Devolution of the MoJ rape support fund

During 2018 MoJ announced its desire to work with a small number of PCCs to pilot the devolution of further rape support funding. The purpose of the pilot is to explore whether full local commissioning of sexual violence support services could improve the service offer and outcomes for victims.

The PCC's proposal was one of 5 that were successful. This has meant that MoJ awarded the PCC an additional £161,700 of funding for 2019-0, specifically to support survivors of sexual violence. MoJ had previously used £147,500 of this funding to award grants to SHE UK and to Nottinghamshire SVS Support Services. The remaining £14,200 is an uplift.

The PCC's agreement with MoJ includes objectives to:

- continue to champion survivors' needs with clinical commissioning groups, local authorities and other agencies;
- continue to work with partners to drive forward the development of functioning specialist SV/CSA therapeutic pathways which are recognised and financially supported by Nottingham/Nottinghamshire clinical commissioning groups;
- work with clinical commissioning groups to understand how many survivors of SV/CSA are using CCG commissioned mental health pathways, and survivors' outcomes;
- develop further a gender specific support offer for male SV and CSA survivors;
- develop a model for a single point of access to specialist services for SV/CSA, working with survivor groups and stakeholders to do so;
- work with partners to recommission sexual violence support services.

In order to allow time to work with partners to plan future services and to ensure no loss of support in the meantime, the PCC has agreed to continue to fund SHE and NSVSS. The funding for SHE will include the £11,762 which the PCC awarded in SHE in 2017-8 and 2018-9 through his Community Safety Fund.

The uplift in funding will be retained by the PCC to fund developments in sexual violence support.

Survivor Support Service

The Survivor Support service has been in place since July 2017 and is jointly funded by the PCC and City and County Councils. The City and County Council funding finished in March 2019. In 2018 the PCC integrated the service as a defined offer as part of the wider ISVA contract, with the PCC effectively financially underwriting the continued delivery of the service.

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In early 2019 the provider of the service, Nottinghamshire SVS Services, reported high levels of survivors requesting support, too many to be supported with the single worker funded. The provider put measures in place to help manage demand better, including supporting some survivors through the ISVA service. However, in April 2019 a waiting list had to be established for the Survivor Support Service.

The PCC requested further financial support for the Service from the City and County Councils. Each has confirmed that they will provide one more year of funding for the Survivor Support Service, and an extension to the Sexual Violence Engagement Manager post, both to run until 31 March 2020. A review of the Survivor Support Service will be conducted in 2019 to inform the need for future funding.

As the PCC had already made budget provision for the Survivor Support Service in 2018-9, the City and County Funding will backfill planned support and allow the PCC to use his existing budget to pay for a temporary one year uplift to the Service to enable additional staff time to manage the caseload more effectively and remove the need for a waiting list.

Independent Sexual Violence Adviser service accreditation

In November 2018 Lime Culture, the national specialist SV training consultancy, published new ISVA quality standards. The quality standards aim to ensure that all ISVA and CHISVA (children's ISVA) services are of the highest quality, providing effective, professional and independent support to vulnerable people including through the criminal justice system. The standards are independently assessed and there is a fee of £3,500 to achieve accreditation.

As the quality standards were not published when the PCC awarded contracts to Notts SVS Service and Imara to deliver the ISVA and CHISVA services, they were not costed in the providers' bids. NSVSS has advised that it can meet the cost of the independent accreditation. The CHISVA service is considerably smaller and there is no room within the budget to pay for the accreditation.

The PCC is therefore requested to pay the £3,500 cost of CHISVA quality standard accreditation for Imara.

Request for funding

1. The PCC is requested to approve the following funding for 2019-0 only to ensure no loss of support whilst discussions with CCG and local authority partners continue and the MoJ rape support objectives are delivered:

- 1.1 Funding of up to £117,510 to Notts SVS Services to continue to provide counselling as follows:

- £22,464 from Victims' Services Grant for the provision of counselling in the county;
- £39,402 from Child Sexual Abuse Grant for the provision of counselling for survivors of child sexual abuse in the city and county;
- £55,64 for the provision of counselling support for survivors of child sexual abuse who were failed by a person in authority, this to be funded by £18,490 from Child Sexual Abuse Grant and £37,160 from Victims' Services Grant;

- 1.2 Funding of up to £91,898 from Victims Services Grant to ISAS to continue to provide

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counselling support in the county, this to be funded by £58,374 from Victims Services Grant and £33,524 from MoJ Childhood Sexual Abuse Grant ("CSA grant").

- 1.3 Funding of up to £58,765 from Victims Services Grant to contribute towards the extension of the City Council's co-commissioned contract with Notts SVS Services to deliver counselling support.
- 1.4 Funding of up to £84,000 from MoJ devolved rape support funding to Notts SVS Services to continue to provide counselling and helpline support. A contract will be issued to Notts SVS Services for quarters 1-2, and extended to March 2020 if the work with CCGs is not complete by the summer.
- 1.5 Funding of up to £75,262, of which £63,500 is MoJ devolved rape support funding and £11,764 is Victims Services Grant, to SHE UK to continue to provide counselling and peer support. A contract will be issued to SHE UK for quarters 1-2, and extended to March 2020 if the work with CCGs is not complete by the summer.
2. The PCC is requested to approve £26,667 additional funding, to be funded by Victims Services Grant, to pay for an uplift to the Survivor Support Service.
3. The PCC is requested to approve the payment of £3,500 for the cost of the accreditation of the CHISVA service.

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)

Extension of counselling support

The PCC is driving forward the development of more cohesive and comprehensive support services for sexual violence survivors. This is progressing but will take time to develop during 2019. It is unclear as yet exactly what future support should look like, and a truly co-commissioned approach to ensuring joined up services are in place may mean that the shape of services changes. When a new model is agreed with survivors and stakeholders, and a co-commissioning strategy is agreed with partners, a tender to deliver the new contract will be published.

In the meantime, there continues to be very high and growing demand for counselling support, with the biggest provider receiving almost twice as many new referrals as cases that could be closed and a waiting list of up to a year in some cases.

Given this context, it would not be sensible to recommission counselling support. The best way to ensure stability of provision in the short term is to extend existing arrangements for a final year. This applies to services previously funded by the PCC and by MoJ – now devolved to the PCC.

Uplift to the Survivor Support Service

The Survivor Support Service costs £40k pa, which pays for single full time worker. The usual case load for an ISVA is up to 60 cases. However, survivors supported through the Survivor Support Service have multiple and complex needs and require much more intensive support. A safe caseload is around 25 cases per worker. There currently over 50 survivors being supported by the service. As this is too many for one worker, some cases are being supported by the ISVA Manager and other ISVAs. This is having a negative impact on the ISVA service.

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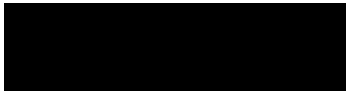
Survivors continue to be referred into the service, however, there is no longer capacity to support them safely. A waiting list has been started. It is unclear how long survivors will have to wait for support as those in the service tend to stay in it for a long period.

The funding recently agreed by the City and County Council for 2019-0 for the Survivor Support Service had already been underwritten by the PCC and was therefore in budget. Given that the funding is available, and the high level of need and vulnerability of survivors requiring support from the Service, it is recommended that the PCC use the funding already in his budget to pay for an uplift during 2019-0.

A review will be conducted in the summer of 2019 to inform future provision, including budget requests to the City and Council Councils.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (please include if it is capital or revenue or both. What the split is and the totals being requested. Is this a virement/ something already budgeted for or something that requires additional funding. Are there any savings that can be offered up/or achieved)

Revenue funding is requested. The amounts requested are within budget. The demand for sexual violence support has risen and continued investment is required.

Signature: 
Chief Finance Officer

Date: 13th May 2019

Is any of the supporting information classified as non public or confidential information**?	Yes		No	✓
If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**				

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OFFICER APPROVAL

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:



Date:

16/5/19.

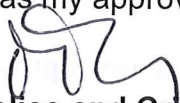
Chief Executive

DECLARATION:

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

17/5/19

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** See guidance on non public information