



ORIGINATOR: Richard Bradley
Deputy Chief Executive , OPCC

DECISION NUMBER: D31-2017

SUBMITTED TO: Martin Surl, Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire

SUBJECT: Commissioning of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA) services for Gloucestershire

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Since early 2013 the PCC has, through the Commissioner's Fund, awarded grants to two providers of an ISVA service within the county to ensure that victims of sexual violence receive the most effective support. The two recipients are the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (GRASAC).

The element of the Commissioner's Fund used to fund this is provided through the annual grant from the Ministry of Justice who allocate c. £750,000 p.a.. This MoJ money is also used to fund Victim Support and Restorative Gloucestershire.

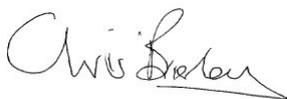
The current annual investment made to the ISVA service through the Commissioner's Fund is c. £120,000 and it is this sum which I propose to use as the basis of the new commissioning approach which will create a similar annual contract value.

To achieve value for money and to create a sustainable approach to this service I am proposing a contract period of 5 years plus 2 years, subject to performance (2018/23 plus 2). The commissioning process will be managed by myself with support from SWPPD. The new contract will be managed by the Commissioning Manager, OPCC.

Subject to approval of this approach I propose to commence the commissioning process in November 2017 with an award of contract in February 2018 and a service commencement date of 1 April 2018, preparatory work is ongoing. National changes to SARCs also commence on 1 April 2018 so this approach will correlate.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the PCC's Governance Board approves the above approach to commission ISVA services for Gloucestershire.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY:


Signature:

Date: 22 August 2017

Public Access to Information

Information in this form and associated reports is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011. Where it has been indicated that this is a decision of significant public interest, all of this form except Part Two will be made available on the website of the OPCC.

Any information that should not be automatically available on request should not be included in Part One but instead on a separate Part Two form.

Is this a decision of significant public interest?

This includes a decision with any impact on the community, expenditure in excess of £50,000, or any decision that would be of obvious interest to the media or the general public

Annual commitment of £120,000

Funded by MoJ Victims Grant

Will be of interest to the media and public as sexual violence remains of high interest as does the need to provide effective support to such victims

Is there a Part Two form?

This section should only include information that, if published:

- a) *would, in the view of the chief officer of the police, be against the interests of national security;*
- b) *might, in the view of the chief officer of police, jeopardise the safety of any person;*
- c) *might, in the view of the chief officer of police, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice;*
or
- d) *is prohibited by any enactment.*
- e) *breaches commercial sensitivity*

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)

Comments including who has approved the report if applicable

Has legal advice been sought on this submission if required?

N/A

<p>Has the Chief Finance Officer been consulted, if required?</p>	<p>Financed through annual MOJ grant which is assured until 2021. May need to be underwritten by the main budget should MoJ fail to award annual grant. MoJ have assured us that the grant will be an ongoing</p>
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	commitment. Low risk.
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered, as appropriate?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan?	YES - Support to all Victims are a key factor within the plan
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, community, staff or partner interest and how they might be managed?	Yes, a communication will be issued pending the outcome of the decision
Have all relevant implications and risks been considered?	yes

PART ONE – For publication

1. Purpose of the report

To agree the PCC's approach to commissioning ISVA services for Gloucestershire.

2. Background

The merging of a number of issues linked to ISVA services creates a timely and unique opportunity to move to a 'place based' commissioning approach whereby a new service provider will be commissioned to deliver a county wide ISVA service to all victims of sexual violence irrespective of gender or age.

'Place based' commissioning has proved to be more effective when compared to national commissioning and has been achieved through the principles of local accountability and performance management and, of equal importance, providing victims with an enhanced and effective service.

The OPCC, as a commissioning body, has only conducted one commissioning process since the introduction of PCCs in 2012, i.e. Victim Services, although we have successfully co-commissioned a number of other services with our partners including CCG and the County Council.

Since early 2013 the PCC has, through the Commissioner's Fund, awarded grants to two providers of an ISVA service within the county to ensure that victims of sexual violence receive the most effective support. The two recipients are the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (GRASAC).

The element of the Commissioner's Fund used to fund this is provided through the annual grant from the Ministry of Justice who allocate c. £750,000 p.a.. This MoJ money is also used to fund Victim Support and Restorative Gloucestershire.

An effective ISVA service provides the following:

Commissioning of ISVA services August 2017

1. Works within a multi-agency setting to provide a pro-active service to adult and children victims of sexual violence within and outside of the criminal justice system.
2. Supports the Victim to cope and recover from the crime committed against them.
3. Provides advocacy and support to Service Users in accessing further support needs and have a detailed understanding of local, regional and national services available.
4. Provides Service Users with full support through any criminal or civil justice proceedings to enable a positive outcome.
5. Provides a full diverse and accessible service, demonstrating full understanding of diversity issues and gender-sensitive service delivery.
6. Provides both support and signposting to other support services and be part of clear and established local care pathways with protocols and communications in place to ensure that victims are provided the right support, by the right agency at the right time.
7. Continues to support the service user until court outcome where the case has proceeded to court. For cases not going to court support will end by mutual agreement when victim is getting services they need from other sources or have successfully met their

As we are now clearer on the need for ISVA provision within the county we should no longer continue to grant fund but move to a commissioned approach through one provider. This view is further supported by changes to the national approach to SARCs whereby ISVA provision should not occur within their premises.

A current review of ISVA services by Lime Culture will provide sufficient evidence to create the specification required for the commissioning process, this is further supported by new information from the Home Office. A combination of these factors will enable us to provide the best possible service for our victims of sexual violence, currently c.900 p.a. which is increasing on an annual basis. The new contract will also include support for male and child victims, a service which does not currently exist.

The current annual investment made to the ISVA service through the Commissioner's Fund is c. £120,000 and it is this sum which I propose to use as the basis of the new commissioning approach which will create a similar annual contract value.

To achieve value for money and to create a sustainable approach to this service I am proposing a contract period of 5 years plus 2 years, subject to performance (2018/23 plus 2). The commissioning process will be managed by myself with support from SWPPD, the new contract will be managed by the Commissioning Manager, OPCC.

Subject to approval of this approach I propose to commence the commissioning process in November 2017 with an award of contract in February 2018 and a service commencement date of 1 April 2018, preparatory work is ongoing. National changes to SARCs also commence on 1 April 2018 so this approach will correlate.

3. Recommendation(s)

That the PCC's Governance Board approves the above approach to commission ISVA services for Gloucestershire.

4. Financial and resource implications

Financed through the annual MOJ grant but in the unlikely event of the MOJ Grant terminating this will be underwritten by the main budget (£120k p.a.).

5. Risk assessment

The likelihood of the MoJ failing to award their annual grant is a low risk as we have received verbal assurance that the grant will be maintained at the same level until 2021. To date this has been honoured however should it fail to materialise we will underwrite an annual sum of £120k to cover this eventuality and contract period.

6. Equality & Diversity impact assessment

N/A

7. Environmental impact assessment

Not required

8. Consultation

All current providers have been consulted with and are happy with this approach as it will provide sustainability and greater support to victims

9. Discussed with Communications & Engagement

Yes, a communication will be issued pending the outcome of the decision

10. Conclusion

Provision of an inclusive ISVA service to victims of sexual violence is long overdue. This proposed service will deliver the most effective support to those victims.

ORIGINATOR APPROVAL

Name: Richard Bradley

Job title: Deputy Chief Executive, OPCC

Signature: Richard Bradley

Date: 15 August 2017

CHIEF EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

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

Signature:



Date: 15 August 2017