



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 02 July 2019

TITLE	Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services		
Ward(s)	<i>All</i>		
Authors: Sue Moss Thara Raj	Job title: Senior Public Health Specialist Public Health Consultant		
Cabinet lead: Asher Craig	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen		
Proposal origin: <i>BCC Staff</i>			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>			
Purpose of Report: This report seeks authorisation from Cabinet to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the the extension of the contract for universal Specialist support for women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse which is provided by Next Link (annual value £777,494). • Approve the extensions of the current grant agreements for the specific Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse services (combined annual value £554,499): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ specialist independent support and advocacy to women and girls embedded within Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit and dedicated independent advisor role specifically for male survivors; provided by Victim Support. ○ free and confidential telephone line advice service to victims and survivors of historic and current sexual abuse and to provide onward pathways for clients to inventions; provided by Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support (SARSAS). ○ Intensive support to street sex workers including site based drop-ins and street outreach of practical, emotional support and pathways into treatment and recovery services; provided by One 25. ○ independent support and advocacy to BAME women and girls in a community setting; provide 8 bed spaces for survivors requiring accommodation based support; specialist support to BAME female survivors requiring culturally sensitive support and assistance through the criminal justice system; therapeutic interventions to survivors and families to ensure recovery from domestic related trauma; support services embedded within the Families in Focus locality teams and aligned to the think family /early help services; IRIS training and coordination of GP practices. Provided by Next Link. <p>These extensions will be for a period of 2 years from 31st August 2019 to 31 July 2021 in order to enable the continuity of critical services, whilst we undertake a full service review and commissioning exercise.</p>			
Evidence Base: Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. Domestic abuse includes emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological abuse. Abusive behaviour can occur in any relationship. It can continue even after the relationship has ended. Both men and women can be abused or abusers. Domestic abuse can seriously harm children and young people. Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse, and			

teenagers can suffer domestic abuse in their relationships. Some domestic abuse going unreported.

In Bristol the rate of domestic abuse reported to the police was 20 per 1,000 people (ONS 2018). The rate has significant variation across the city, ranging from 2.5 per 1000 in Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze to 28 per 1000 in Hartcliffe & Withywood.

The rate of sexual offences in Bristol is 3.2 per 1000 which equates to 1480 sexual offences reported to the police in Bristol which is higher than the England rate of 2.4 per 1000 (sexual offences include. pornography and prostitution.

Bristol City Council commission a range of support services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the city. These important services have been in place for a number of years and form a vital part of Bristol's infrastructure. The services have not been systematically reviewed within recent years to see if they are in line with current need and to see if they are the most effective and cost effective ways of addressing those needs in line with current NICE and Home Office recommendations. There is an opportunity to do this as the contracts have recently (since 1 Jan 2019) come into the People directorate, under public health services.

The purpose for requesting this extension of contract is to maintain these vital services while a full review and commissioning process is undertaken. This process will require:

- A review in consultation with communities to co-produce service models with and for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse in Bristol and to incorporate prevention into that approach.
- Work with neighbouring authorities to ensure that interventions marry where possible and there is an opportunity to do so with and through the partners of the Avon and Somerset Sexual Violence Board (formerly known as the Sexual Assault Referral Centre Board) and Avon and Somerset Domestic Abuse strategy group.
- Review governance structures, previously held with this Safer Bristol Partnership.
- Align with local work to address Adverse Childhood Experiences. Prevention of domestic and sexual violence is key to achieving this aim within Bristol.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet: -

1. Approve the extension of the universal Specialist support for women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse Contract and the Grant Agreements from 31st August 2019 to 31st July 2021.
2. Delegate Authority to award the extensions to the Executive Director People in consultation with Deputy Mayor (Communities).

Corporate Strategy alignment: This aligns with the corporate strategy

This aligns with the corporate strategy because it follows the principle of 'contributing to safer communities including zero-tolerance to abuse or crime based on gender, disability, race, age, religion or sexuality.'

Providing support for survivors of domestic and/ or sexual abuse will improve their 'physical and mental health and wellbeing' and this proposal also aligns with the corporate strategy's commitment to give children the best start in life by supporting survivors and hence aiming to break the cycle of violence and abuse.

City Benefits:

It is important to extend these agreements to ensure continuity of critical services to allow sufficient time to recommission and align procurement of all Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse support services.

The services specifically have an impact on people from certain equality groups:

- Women are more likely than men to experience domestic and sexual abuse and women make up the majority of users of Domestic and Sexual violence support services, however we also need to review the offer for men, transgender and non-binary individuals and whether this is fit for purpose;
- Nationally women with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year (16%), compared with those without a long-term illness or disability (Public Health England, 2015). Women with disabilities are currently accessing these services.
- The services work with a significant number of individuals from BAME communities, it is believed that domestic abuse and sexual abuse is under reported in many of these communities and we would like to investigate this further.

Consultation Details:

It is not planned to consult on this proposal at this stage as this would potentially alarm the most vulnerable individuals and increase further anxiety within the services themselves who are already under considerable pressure.

However continuation of funding until 31 July 2021 will allow for coproduction and consultation with partners, members, the public and other stakeholders on future provision of domestic and sexual abuse services within the city. We intend to adopt a social values framework for commissioning these services and an extended timeframe will allow for this.

Background Documents:

The Safer Bristol team transferred to Public Health in 2018, and following an overview of all our the commissioned services, we would like to pool all of the all of the commissioned Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse services together so we can review, redesign and recommission them.

The background papers that have been used in the development of these recommendations are:

- Home Office –Strategy to end violence against women and girls 2016-2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020>
- NICE Guideline PH 50 Domestic Violence and Abuse: Multi Agency working
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph50>
- NICE Quality Standard 116 <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs116/chapter/Introduction>
- Sexual Violence Support Services – Voscur carried out a sexual violence needs assessment for Avon and Somerset
https://www.voscur.org/system/files/Needs%20Assessment_0.pdf
- Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS) is an evidence based programme of training and support in primary health-care practices to increase identification of women experiencing domestic violence and their referral to specialist advocacy services. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22730555> & <http://www.irisdomesticviolence.org.uk/iris/>
- IDVAs in Hospital Emergency Departments-[http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Cry for Health full report.pdf](http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Cry%20for%20Health%20full%20report.pdf)

Revenue Cost	£2,663,996 for 2 years	Source of Revenue Funding	<i>General fund, Public Health Grant and</i>
Capital Cost	£ N/A	Source of Capital Funding	<i>e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.</i>
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: This report is proposing to commit £1.332m in grants and contracts for Domestic Violence Substance Abuse Services. This is consistent with spending levels incurred in the previous two years for these services. Funding is available as indicated above.

Public Heath Grant is experiencing reductions nationally. These proposals do not contribute towards these reductions but only £0.217m (16%) of the costs are to come from the Public Health Grant.

The grants, totalling £0.554m, and contracts with Next Link of £0.777m are for 2 full years from August 2019. The report indicates that arrangements will be made before the next procurement cycle to turn the grants into contracts for services. This will include scope to contributing to Public Health Grant reductions.

Finance Business Partner: David Tully – 10th May 2019.

2. Legal Advice: Extending the existing contract with Next Link is expressly provided for in the current contract, subject to agreement with the provider.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews, Team Leader, Legal Service 10.5.19		
3. Implications on IT: There are no identifiable IT implications in this report. Ian Gale, 3 rd May 2019		
IT Team Leader: Ian Gale, 3 rd May 2019		
4. HR Advice: I can see no HR implications from the reports attached.		
HR Partner: Maddy Tyler, HR Consultancy Manager (People), 13 th May 2019		
<p>5. Reputational narrative: If this contract is not approved there is a reputational risk to the Council because vulnerable victims and their children affected by domestic violence and abuse would no longer be provided with specialist support. Without the provision of specialist support the safety and well-being of vulnerable people would be substantially reduced and the risks to women and their children would be considerably increased.</p> <p>For citizens there would be concern that there is no safe house provision for those fleeing domestic abuse in Bristol and no support for the children who need extra support to re-engage in schools and communities. For service users there is the risk of becoming homeless if safe house provision was to close.</p> <p>This proposal supports Bristol City Council's Corporate Strategy of empowering and caring by supporting victims of domestic abuse and thus preventing potential homelessness. It also contributes to the Council's strategic aim to improve physical and mental wellbeing, which a positive PR consideration.</p>		
PR officer: Kathleen Manson, Senior Public Relations Officer – 9 May 2019		
EDM Sign-off	Jacqui Jensen	15 th May 2019
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	23 rd May 2019
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor Rees	3 rd June 2019

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal See CPG papers for more detail	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal (to follow)	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO