



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 15 October 2019

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service within the Emergency Department at Bristol Royal Infirmary</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All wards		
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Sue Moss</b>	<b>Job title:</b>	<b>Public Health Specialist</b>
<b>Cabinet lead:</b>	<b>Councillor Asher Craig</b>	<b>Executive Director lead:</b>	<b>Jacqui Jensen</b>
<b>Proposal origin:</b> <i>BCC Staff</i>			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> <i>Cabinet</i>			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> This report seeks authorisation from Cabinet to: Make a direct award to Next Link to provide an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service within Bristol Royal Infirmary for the period from 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 to 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021.			
<b>Evidence Base:</b> This service was previously provided by University Hospital Bristol who gave short notice that they were unable to continue service provision as they had failed to recruit necessary staff. In order to ensure continuation of service for vulnerable individuals, the Council approached Next Link who have provided a proposal (Appendix A) as Next Link already provide a similar service in Southmead Hospital. The Council is actively engaged in a recommissioning process and understand the market in the domestic and sexual abuse services field. There are no other providers who could step in and offer this service within the timescale required. 'Hospital IDVAs have a unique role to play in the response to domestic abuse in an area. The addition of a hospital IDVA team to an area means 'hidden' victims (e.g., over 55 years old) and very vulnerable victims (e.g. pregnant) are more likely to be identified and receive effective help.' <b>A Cry for Help Safe Lives, 2016</b> Hospital-based services also support earlier identification of victims of abuse. In addition the Safe Lives report states 'The presence of a well-embedded specialist domestic abuse service has value over and above the direct services to victims that it provides; Health professionals throughout the Hospital are more likely to ask about abuse (as recommended by NICE) and confidently make a referral to the domestic abuse service.'			
<b>Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:</b> That cabinet 1. Approve authorisation to the Executive Director People in consultation with the Deputy Mayor for Communities, Equalities & Public Health to make a direct award to Next Link of a contract for the provision of an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service within the Emergency Department at Bristol Royal Infirmary for the period from 16th September 2019 to 31st July 2021 at a cost of £135,061.			
<b>Corporate Strategy alignment:</b> 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:**

This service improves outcomes for the people of Bristol because a Hospital IDVA service improves the response to domestic abuse within the city and can identify people who need help earlier

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

1. Women are more likely than men to experience domestic and sexual abuse
2. 'Hidden' victims (e.g., over 55 years old) and very vulnerable victims (e.g. pregnant) are more likely to be identified and receive effective help within a hospital setting.

**Consultation Details:** Due to the urgency in ensuring the continuation of this service, consultation has not taken place. However consultation will take place with partners, members, the public and other stakeholders about this service to be included within the wider consultation on the future provision of domestic and sexual abuse services within the city.

**Background Documents:**

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

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)

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>

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£135,061 (for 22.5 months)</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	<b>Public Health Grant</b>
<b>Capital Cost</b>	<b>£ n/a</b>	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

**1. Finance Advice:** Funding for this contract will be met from the Public Health Grant. In committing to this expenditure over the 22.5 months set out in the report all financial targets will be met in delivering a balanced budget.

**Finance Business Partner:** Neil Sinclair 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

**2. Legal Advice:**

It is recognised that the direct award to Next Link places the Council in a situation where it may breach the procurement regulations. The fact that the direct award is required to allow time for the Council to follow a fully compliant procurement process, will help mitigate the risk of challenge. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the proposed procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor, 1 October 2019

**3. Implications on IT:** We need to cognisant of any IT equipment or access required by the new service provider, otherwise minimal impact to IT Services

**IT Team Leader:** Simon Oliver, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**4. HR Advice:** The report sets out a proposal to directly award to Next Link to provide an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service within the emergency department of Bristol Royal Infirmary for the period from 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, to continue the service whilst undertaking a full review. This does not have any HR implications for Bristol City Council employees.

**HR Partner:** Lorna Laing, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Jacqui Jenson	10/09/2019
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	CLlr Asher Craig	11/09/2019
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	07/10/2019

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b> See proposal from service provider and Officer Executive decision Form for more detail	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>