

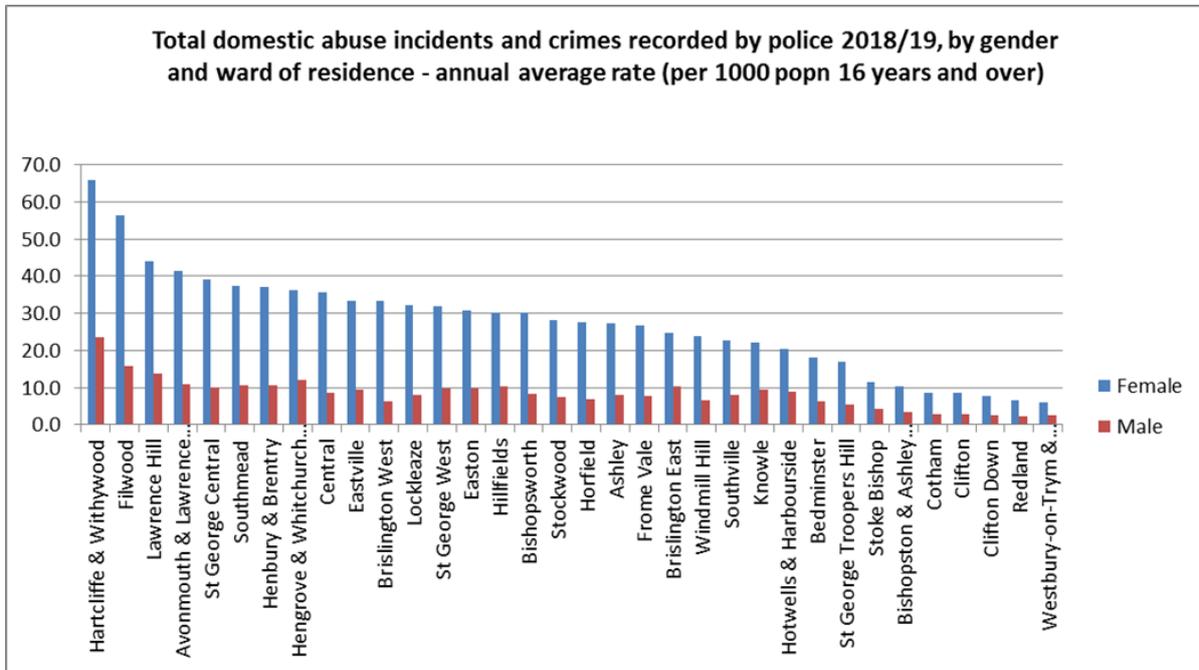
**PURPOSE:** Key decision**MEETING:** Cabinet**DATE:** 04 February 2020

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| <b>TITLE</b>  | <b>Re-Procurement of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services Contracts</b> |  |
| <b>Ward(s)</b>  | All  |  |
| <b>Author:</b>  | Thara Raj<br>Sue Moss  | <b>Job title:</b> Consultant in Public Health – Safer City<br>Senior Public Health Specialist – Safer City |
| <b>Cabinet lead:</b>  | Cllr Asher Craig   | <b>Executive Director lead:</b> Jacqui Jensen  |
| <b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff   |  |  |
| <b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member<br><b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet   |  |  |
| <p><b>Purpose of Report:</b><br/>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 contracts for these services end on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021.</p> <p>Specialist Domestic and Sexual abuse services therefore need to be procured with new contracts due to be in place from August 1st 2021</p> <p>The contract term will be 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026 with the option to extend for a further 2 years until 31<sup>st</sup> 2028 within a maximum annual cost of £1.36m per annum.</p> <p>This report seeks authorisation from Cabinet for authority to be delegated to the Executive Director for People in consultation with Cabinet Member for Public Health to take all steps necessary to procure and award the contract(s) necessary for the implementation of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services, in-line with the procurement routes and maximum budget envelopes outlined in this report,</p>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Evidence Base:</b><br/><b>Domestic abuse</b><br/>Men, women and children can be victims of domestic abuse and in 2013 the government defined it as: <i>'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional'</i>. Prior to 2013 the definition of domestic abuse did not include young people aged 16 to 17 and coercive control – a pattern of controlling behaviour.</p> <p>Each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at high and imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse (Safe Lives, 2015).</p> <p><b>Sexual Abuse/Violence</b> -The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines sexual violence as: <i>any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work"</i>.</p> <p>Only around 15% of those who experience sexual violence report to the police (<i>An Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales, 2013</i>)</p> |  |  |

### Domestic Abuse in Bristol

- An estimated 17,000 people aged between 16 and 59 are likely to experience Domestic Violence and Abuse in the last year: Most will be female (>11,000)
- It is estimated that more than 60,000 of adults have experienced DVA since age of 16: more than 50,000 DVA partner abuse
- In 2018/19 there was a total of 10,021 recorded domestic abuse crime and incidents (Police data)
- When we consider the police reports by ward there is a significant variation in reported incidents across the City. (See Figure 1 below)

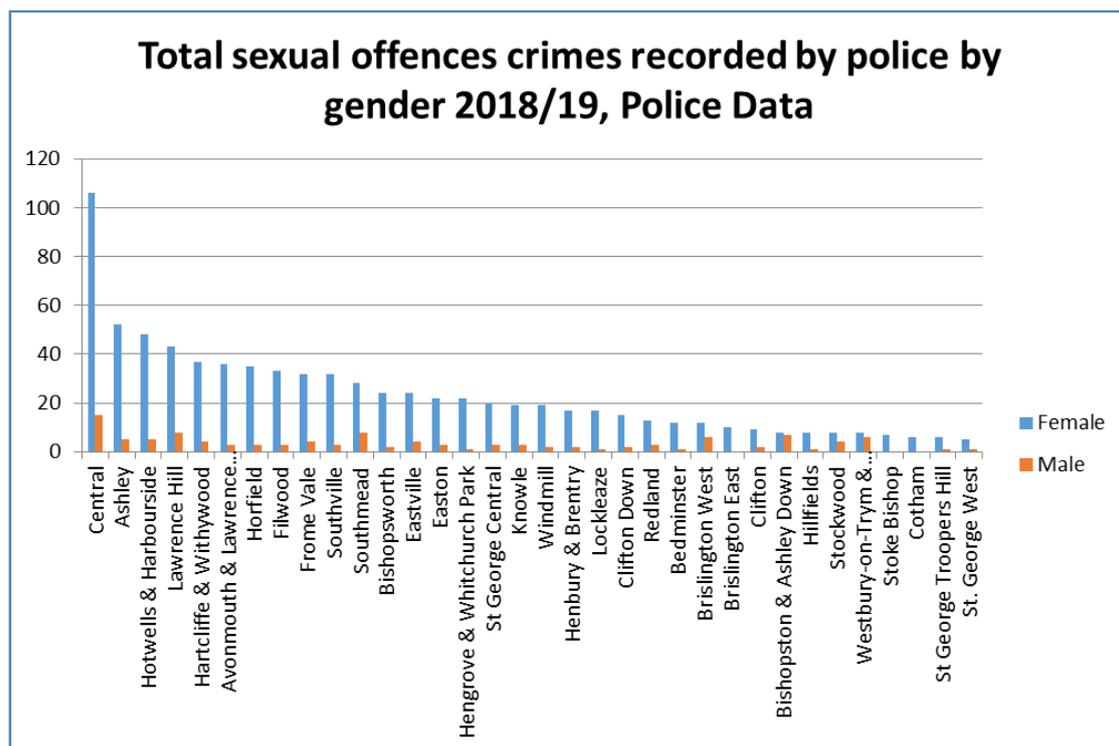
Figure 1



### Sexual Abuse in Bristol

- It is estimated that up to 6200 could have experienced sexual assault in last year; approx. 4000 women.
- In 2018/19 there were a total of 1025 sexual offences recorded in Bristol: This is a rate of 2.2 per 1000 for the city (Police data)
- The majority of recorded police offences happened in the central ward of Bristol (Police data)
- Estimates highlight that approximately only 1 in 5 offences are reported to police
- The chart (Figure 2) below displays the number of crimes per ward, with recorded crime for this offence being highest in Central Ward

Figure 2



(ii) The recommendations of a recent needs assessment and engagement work included:

- The importance of exploring opportunities for prevention at every level including work with schools and communities.
- The development of a strategy that is owned by all departments and agencies.
- The importance of Early Intervention work to prevent crisis situations arising.
- The need to continually strengthen partnership working and the benefits of co-location of services was highlighted.
- That a clearer pathway for survivors of Domestic Violence and Abuse needs to be developed as part of the recommissioning process.
- Specialist provision for equalities groups including people with learning disabilities, Gypsy, Roma and travellers, should be taken in account
- Recognition of the high level of need for advice, counselling and therapeutic support for survivors of sexual abuse of all ages.

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the procurement of the contracts for domestic and sexual violence services from 1st August 2021 to 31st July 2026, with an option to extend for a further 2 years (up to 31st July 2028), at a cost of £1.36m per annum.
2. Authorise the Executive Director for People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health to take all steps necessary to procure and award the contract(s).

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

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:**

The services will 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 ensure 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 will 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:**

A workshop hosted by Locality was held in September 2019 that brought together key stakeholders at the start of the reprocurement journey and elected members were part of that event.

During October and November 2019 early engagement events have been held in Hartcliffe, Filwood, Southmead and Barton Hill, views were sought from those living and working in communities with the highest rates of reporting of domestic and sexual abuse. An evening event was also held in the centre of Bristol. Over 40 people attended these events and common themes are being identified.

An online survey has also been undertaken to give further opportunities for people to give their views on what Bristol City Council's future provision should be for those affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

The following questions have been used:

1. What would you do if you, a friend or relative needed support around domestic or sexual abuse?
2. How can we make sure that everyone gets help when they need it?
3. What sort of help do you think is needed? And what would be the one thing that we must provide?

The procurement of Domestic and Sexual Abuse services was discussed at People Scrutiny on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

The formal consultation stage will begin in May 2020. We expect to have an online survey and to hold some consultation events - we will be holding these events at venues across the City in order to engage those who may find it difficult to come to a venue in Central Bristol. We also plan to go out to meetings of Equalities groups.

It is important to highlight that the Domestic and Sexual Violence services commissioned and funded by NHS England/Improvement, the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner and BNSSG (Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group) are not being recommissioned at this stage. Therefore, services out of scope include: the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Independent Sexual Violence Advisers and much of the Sexual Violence therapeutic provision. NHS England/Improvement, the OPCC and BNSSG are all part of the Bristol Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services commissioning board. This procurement will be undertaken in alignment with these other services and commissioners of these wider services have been included in this procurement process.

**Background Documents:**

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

- Home Office (2013) 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](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)
- STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ABUSE SERVICES -Lifelong care for victims and survivors: 2018 – 2023 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/strategic-direction-sexual-assault-and-abuse-services.pdf>
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|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Revenue Cost</b>                             | <b>£1,360,000 per annum (currently in scope)</b> | <b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>                           | General Fund Community Safety and Public Health Grant |
| <b>Capital Cost</b>                             | <b>£</b>   | <b>Source of Capital Funding</b>                           | <i>e.g. grant/prudential borrowing etc.</i>           |
| <b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    |  | <b>Ongoing cost</b> <input checked="" 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:** The report is seeking approval to commence arrangements to re-procure services to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the city. The service is currently funded from General Fund Community Health Budget for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, DVA (includes Violence and Abuse against Women and Girls, VAAG).

The gross budget is £1.496m (2019/20) including provision of £1.36m for the DVA services set out in the recommendations above. This assumes that current spend (based on spend to November 2019) remains within forecast and that the successful bid/s will be within the current costs plus inflation.

The service is reliant on funding support from Public Health, AEF and Troubled Families (TF) grants together with Substance Misuse (SM) contributions totalling £0.471m. While there is a high degree of certainty around the future of TF, AEF and SM funding going forward the authority is waiting on the outcome of government review of the Public Health ring fenced grant. Though the review has been deferred the future of Public Health Grant remains unclear beyond 2020/21. Spending plans for 2021/222 will need to ensure that the Community Health DVA commitment of £0.217m from Public Health is included.

**Finance Business Partner:** Denise Hunt, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

**2. Legal Advice:** The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Leader, 6 December 2019

**3. Implications on IT:** No direct impact anticipated on IT Services, however the opportunity to develop/renew data sharing agreements should probably be undertaken with Information Assurance colleagues.

**IT Team Leader:** Simon Oliver, Director Digital Transformation, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**4. HR Advice:** The procurement of specialist domestic and sexual abuse service will be implemented in August 2021 when existing contracts will end. The current service is wholly provided by external organisations, namely Next Link, One 25, Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support (SARSAS) and Victim Support. No direct HR implications are anticipated as the current and new provision will not involve BCC staff. The procurement process is advised to consider TUPE implications between existing and new providers.

**HR Partner:** Celia Williams, HR Business Partner, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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| <b>EDM Sign-off</b>                                | Jacqui Jensen    | 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 |
| <b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>                     | Cllr Asher Craig | 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 |
| <b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b> | Mayor's Office   | 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020  |

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| <b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>  | <b>NO</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><br>Included in the paper   | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b><br><i>EqIA to follow pending finalisation</i>   | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b><br><i>Will be finalised with the Commissioning Strategy at Formal Consultation Stage</i> | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b><br>Included within the paper.   | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b><br>Included within the paper.   | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>   | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Appendix J – HR advice</b><br>Included within the paper.  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Appendix K – ICT</b><br>Included within the paper.  | <b>NO</b> |