

ORIGINATOR: Stephanie Stearman

DECISION NO. 2020/28

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision

SUBMITTED TO: Lorne Green – Police and Crime Commissioner of Norfolk (PCC)

SUBJECT: Emergency Funding for Organisations supporting Victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in response to COVID-19.

SUMMARY:

This Decision Notice seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner of Norfolk to award grants utilising up to £100,000 from the OPCCN Community Safety Budget and up to £142,000 from the OPCCN Commissioning Budget to support organisations who have been impacted by the 'COVID-19 pandemic.

Set out below within this Decision Notice is a breakdown of recommended grants and funding amounts, this can be reviewed within the 'Schedule of Awards'.

The funding will support providers of domestic abuse and sexual violence services with funding where they have experienced: short term income disruption; increased demand for their service; and/or incurred additional costs in sustaining their activities due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic between 24 March 2020 and up to 31st March 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk approves the Grants awards using Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) Community Safety and Commissioning Funding to support those organisations delivering Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services to victims within Norfolk, who have been affected by COVID-19.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY: Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk – Lorne Green

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Lorne Green', written in a cursive style.

Signature

Date 16 July 2020

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 Measures announced over recent months to tackle coronavirus (COVID-19) have seen people's day-to-day lives drastically altered. These changes have been essential to beat the coronavirus and protect the NHS.
- 1.2 The government acknowledged that the order to stay at home can cause anxiety for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse or sexual violence. There is never an excuse for domestic abuse/sexual violence, no matter what the circumstances are.
- 1.3 In response to the above and to support victims of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence the PCC has set aside 'emergency' funding from the OPCCN Community Safety and Commissioning budgets to support with immediate effect those organisations impacted by COVID-19 who are directly supporting victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.
- 1.4 In addition to this funding, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have also released a fund known as the COVID-19 Extraordinary Fund which was devolved to Police and Crime Commissioners to administer within their respective areas to further support these organisations supporting Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. This fund is known as the Ministry of Justice Extraordinary COVID-19 fund and reported within a separate Decision Notice.
- 1.5 The OPCCN Community Safety and Commissioning 'emergency' funding in response to COVID-19 and has been made available from 24 March 2020 to 31 March 2021 to meet either additional costs or to increase capacity to ensure delivery of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence services are able to respond to victims who have been further impacted to COVID-19.

2. BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 The Coronavirus (COVID-19) measures announced by the UK Government since March 2020 to tackle the coronavirus (COVID-19) have seen people's day to day lives change dramatically. These steps are essential to beat the coronavirus and protect the NHS.
- 2.2 The government has acknowledged that these essential measures can cause anxiety for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence and that there is no excuse for this type of abuse whatever the circumstance.
- 2.3 Due to these unprecedented circumstances the PCC has agreed to extend provision of services that support victims of Domestic Abuse and/or Sexual Violence with 'emergency' funding from the OPCCN Community Safety and Commissioning Funding from March 2020 to 31st March 2021.
- 2.4 This funding will be used to provide additional support to those organisations delivering services to victims by, extending staff roles, increase of ICT

capacity/use of mobile delivery platforms to enable their staff to work remotely with victims during this period.

- 2.5 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has been working directly with frontline services to ensure they have an evidence base of need and have the voice of the victim at the very heart of developing this additional support. A data dashboard has been developed for this purpose.
- 2.6 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has also been working closely with partner agencies through the County's Domestic Abuse Delivery Group, whose membership includes; Norfolk Constabulary, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Chair), Adult Social Services, Children's Services, County Community Safety Partnership, Public Health, District Councils, Early Help Hubs, NHS, and Housing Providers.
- 2.7 The County's Domestic Abuse Delivery Group feeds directly into the strategic body known as the Norfolk Resilience Forum and has been working across sectors (statutory, private, third/charity) to ensure a countywide approach to support victims of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence is developed and maintained.

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 3.1 The OPCCN Community Safety and Commissioning 'emergency' funding in response to COVID-19 has been made available from 24 March 2020 to 31 March 2021 to meet either additional costs or to increase capacity to ensure delivery of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence services are able to respond to victims who have been further impacted to COVID-19. This additional funding support will be used to:
 - meet essential costs of sustaining current activities, such the purchasing of assets to support the move to remote and digital working, and
 - address increased and more complex demand for their services
- 3.2 Not to provide funding – this would leave victims/survivors in service without the appropriate support that they would require during pre and post 'lockdown' and put at risk victims/survivors who now wish to seek support during the COVID-19 pandemic. This option was rejected.

4. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:

- 4.1 Delivery of services which support standard, medium and high-risk clients including children/young people and adults are delivered in accordance with the following national and local plans/strategies and practices:
 - Police and Crime Commissioners Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020
 - The National Practice for Victims of Crime (brought in 16th November 2015 by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (Victim's Code of Practice) Order 2015/1817

- The Victim's Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime.
- Home Office – Violence against Women and Girls Strategy

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, OUTCOMES AND MONITORING:

- 5.1 Eligible spend is from 23rd March 2020 to the 31st March 2021. Any spend that organisations commit to beyond the 31st March 2021 must be met through their own funds.
- 5.2 Allocation of funding to those organisations supporting victims of Domestic Abuse and/or Sexual Violence services is
- 5.3 A breakdown of allocated funding to date is as below.

ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Pandora Project	£37,820
Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services	£128,394
Daisy Programme	£40,000
County Media Raising Awareness Marketing Campaign and Live Webchat	£10,252
Sanctuary Scheme	£25,000
TOTAL	£241,466

- 5.4 It is recommended that the PCC approves the above Grant Awards using the OPCCN Community Safety and Commissioning 'emergency' funding for COVID-19 to support organisation above delivering Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services in the county.
- 5.5 The funding is in the form of a one-off grant to the organisations above with balance of funding ringfenced to accommodate possible additional services.
- 5.6 The OPCCN will need to inform the MoJ by 31st August of any underspend that they are forecasting.
- 5.7 Organisations will be provided with a Grant Agreement with the terms and conditions of the award. Recipients will be required to provide data and information to enable the OPCCN to report outcomes through normal channels such as the annual Police and Crime Report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

- 6.1 There are no major implications or risks associated with the decision paper.

- 6.2 In line with usual government grants, PCCs must ensure that organisations **do not** use the funding for any of the following activities:
- campaigning activities (this fund is to support the delivery of direct services for vulnerable people);
 - religious activities outside of projects benefiting the wider community and not containing religious content;
 - political or lobbying activities;
 - loan repayments; or
 - activities that make profit for private gain
- 6.3 The OPCCN assessed the eligibility of applicants and the appropriate due diligence checks have been completed.
- 6.4 All organisations awarded funding will need to comply with the Grant Agreement Terms and Conditions.
- 6.6 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, each organisation is required to notify the OPCCN as per the conditions of the award.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
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 interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive Officer – Mark Stokes

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



Signature:

Date: 16 July 2020

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) - Jill Penn

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
OR
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
OR
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
AND
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date: 16 July 2020

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*

SCHEDULE OF GRANTS

Name of charity/organisation/project	Service/Programme/Product Funded
Pandora Project (specialist Domestic Abuse Service - North and West Norfolk)	<p>ICT Equipment – Mobile phones for staff working from home Website upgrade to allow for Webchat</p> <p>Increased Staffing hours from 1 Part Time Equivalent to 1 Full Time Equivalent Domestic Abuse Worker in the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District</p> <p>1 Full Time Equivalent Domestic Abuse Worker in the North Norfolk District</p>
Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services - Provide County High Risk IDVA Service	<p>Emergency Refuge Accommodation for two months</p> <p>20 Emergency Mobile Phones for High Risk Domestic Abuse Victims</p> <p>2 x Full Time Equivalent Domestic Abuse Workers in the Great Yarmouth District</p> <p>1 x Full Time Equivalent Domestic Abuse Worker in the Broadland District</p> <p>1 x Full time Equivalent Advice, Support and WebChat worker (Norfolk)</p> <p>Upgrade of Existing Website to accommodate Live WebChat</p>
Daisy Programme	1 Full Time Equivalent Domestic Abuse Worker in the Breckland District
County Media Raising Awareness Marketing Campaign and Live Webchat	<p>Domestic Abuse Radio Advert Campaign (County)</p> <p>Domestic Abuse 'awareness stickers' for all Pharmacies in Norfolk</p> <p>Live Webchat through Puggle for Domestic Abuse Victims</p>
Sanctuary Scheme	Target hardening premises for High Risk Victims of Domestic Abuse

