

OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORFOLK

Author: Dr Gavin Thompson

DECISION NO. 2016/25

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision

SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

SUBJECT: Grant funding for support for victims of child sexual abuse

SUMMARY: Over the last two years, both nationally and in Norfolk, there has been a rise in the number of both historic and current child sexual abuse victims seeking support to help them cope with and recover from their experiences. This in part has been the result of the widespread publicity surrounding high profile historic sexual abuse cases and the national Child Abuse Inquiry now being chaired by Professor Eileen Munroe.

Overall the provision of support for child sexual abuse victims, both historic and current, is becoming increasingly strained and unable to meet demand. In addition, funding for some existing providers is either coming to an end, or is insufficient. To address this, a long term multi-agency commissioning response and strategy is required to address growing need and this can be brokered by the PCC for Norfolk supported by the OPCCN. However, whilst this strategy is being devised, it will be necessary to provide short term interim funding to Victim Support to continue to support clients in service and Fresh Start new beginnings to increase capacity to support children on the waiting list for support.

The OPCCN is therefore intending to:

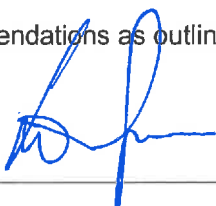
- provide a grant of £20k to Fresh Start New Beginnings to provide support for child sexual abuse victims, for the period 1 August 2016 to the 31 March 2017
- provide a grant of £30k to Victim Support to continue to support historic child sexual abuse victims on the waiting list for counselling from the Sue Lambert Trust, for the period 7 September 2016 to the 31 March 2017.
- conduct, in partnership with the statutory and voluntary sector, a review of child sexual abuse support services in Norfolk and develop and implement a new strategy from the 1 April 2017.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve funding of £20k to Fresh Start new Beginnings and £30k for Victim Support as set out above.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY: PCC/CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
(Delete as appropriate)

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature



Date

25/09/16

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To ensure that historic victims of child sexual abuse currently receiving support from Victim Support, continue to be supported until long term provision can be put in place.
- 1.2 To ensure there is an effective referral pathway from the Sexual Assault Referral Centre to organisations that can support children and young people to cope and recover from their experiences.
- 1.3 To develop a long term commissioning strategy for child sexual abuse support services in Norfolk to enable demand to be met and victims to be supported in an appropriate timeframe.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A core role of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk is to provide support services for victims of crime. Funding for services for victims of child sexual abuse, both historic and current, is provided by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice respectively, with an expectation that these will be commissioned locally to meet need and demand.
- 2.2 The main provider of support for victims of historic child sexual abuse in Norfolk is the Sue Lambert Trust, which operates from urban centres across the county and receives funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN). In 2014/15, Fresh Start New Beginnings were also funded by the OPCCN to support children and young people who had been subjected to abuse. However, Fresh Start New Beginnings is no longer funded by the OPCCN to provide support to children and young people in Norfolk. Nevertheless, there is need in the county and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre has and continues to refer people to the organisation for support. The outcome is that there is now a waiting list of 20 young victims that require but are not receiving support.
- 2.3 Over the last two years, both nationally and in Norfolk, there has been a rise in the number of both historic and current child sexual abuse victims seeking support to help them cope with and recover from their experiences. This in part has been the result of the widespread publicity surrounding high profile historic sexual abuse cases and the national Child Abuse Inquiry now being chaired by Professor Eileen Munroe.

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Overall the provision of support for child sexual abuse victims, both historic and current, is becoming increasingly strained and unable to meet demand. In addition, funding for some existing providers is either coming to an end, or is insufficient. To address this, a long term multi-agency commissioning response and strategy is required to address growing need and this can be brokered by the PCC for Norfolk supported by the OPCCN. However, whilst this strategy is being devised, it will be necessary to provide short term interim funding to Victim Support to continue to support clients in service and Fresh Start new beginnings to increase capacity to support children on the waiting list for support.

3.2 The OPCCN is therefore intending to:

- provide a grant of £20k to Fresh Start New Beginnings to provide support for child sexual abuse victims, for the period 1 August 2016 to the 31 March 2017
- provide a grant of £30k to Victim Support to continue to support historic child sexual abuse victims on the waiting list for counselling from the Sue Lambert Trust, for the period 7 September 2016 to the 31 March 2017.
- conduct, in partnership with the statutory and voluntary sector, a review of child sexual abuse support services in Norfolk and develop and implement a new strategy from the 1 April 2017.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 To postpone funding of child sexual abuse support services until a multi-agency county wide strategy is in place to inform future investment – this option has not been taken as it would leave victims unsupported and further increase pressure on services in the future leading to increased waiting times for support for victims in the future.

5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED

5.1 The provision of funding to support victims of child sexual abuse supports the OPCCNs objective of supporting victims of crime to cope and recover and reducing vulnerability to further victimisation.

6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 To amount of grant funding being recommended totals £50k, which is contained within the commissioning budget.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

7.1 Failure to use the full grant MOJ victim's services grant within the current financial year will result in a reduction in victim's services funding for 2017/18.

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.*

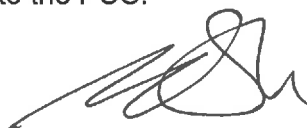
ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	NO
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have 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

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

24.8.16

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) ~~there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,~~
or
b) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date

24/8/16

