

**ORIGINATOR: Amanda Murr**

**DECISION NO. 48 /2021**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision**

**SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner**

**SUBJECT: The Change Project, Behaviour Change Intervention Programmes**

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) has a statutory responsibility for the local commissioning of victim support services and, along with Norfolk Police, they have invested in first class services to support those who are affected by all types of crime, including domestic violence and abuse. Whilst robust policing and investigations alongside effective victim support services go some way to address the symptoms of domestic abuse and violence, it is recognised that perpetrator intervention approaches, which can involve programmes to address behaviours, are necessary to change behaviours and deal with the root cause of offending. It is the OPCCN and partnership philosophy that victims cannot be supported successfully without a whole system approach including perpetrator prevention, provision of services, partnership working and pursue through tactical means.

To understand the need of further interventions a deep dive analysis has been undertaken utilising police data and County's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group, Perpetrator Sub Group research which demonstrates an evidenced based need for perpetrator behaviour change interventions.

The specification for this service is to deliver an accredited Behaviour Change Programme which assists the perpetrator to address their abusive behaviours, prevent reoffending and reduce repeat victimisation and vulnerability.

Perpetrators will be identified through an evidenced based approach by the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Partnership Approach (DAPPA) team. Individuals will be assessed for suitability to engage in the Behaviour Change Programme by The Change Project in consultation with the DAPPA team and the perpetrator.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the PCC for Norfolk support the allocation of funding to The Change Project to deliver Perpetrator Behaviour Change Programmes in Norfolk for those who are identified by the DAPPA team analysis. This project will run for a 6-month period.

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

*The recommendations as outlined above are approved.*

**Signature**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. [unclear] - Smith', is written over the signature line.

**Date: 16/11/2021**

## **DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION**

### **1. OBJECTIVE:**

- 1.1 The key objectives of The Change Project - provide community-based Respect accredited domestic violence perpetrator programmes which include a dedicated Integrated Support Service for victims of domestic abuse. This service will support the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Partnership Approach (DAPPA).
- 1.2 The DAPPA team in partnership with key stakeholders will use an evidence-based approach to identify those perpetrators who would benefit from engagement with this programme. The programme aims to assist a positive change in attitudes and associated behaviour and in turn reduce the risk of repeated abusive behaviour amongst service users.
- 1.3 The program will be inclusive of all protected characteristics and be accessible in appropriate, and agreed, geographical locations across Norfolk. The programme will provide dedicated integrated emotional, behavioural and practical support services for perpetrators of domestic abuse and their partners who are victims of crime matched to the individual's circumstances and level of risk and for those who want to stop being abusive towards intimate partners.

### **2. BACKGROUND:**

- 2.1. The Domestic Abuse Bill Consultation, Home Office (2018) revealed the necessity to identify innovation and best practice from a national audience regarding perpetrator intervention, prevention, and protection, which is key to stop repeat and serial perpetrators from reoffending and reduce crisis intervention.
- 2.2. There is a national drive to address and implement intervention pathways and provision for perpetrators of domestic abuse, which demonstrate a positive reduction in abusive and violent behaviour:
  - Home Office (2016)
  - Violence Against Women and Girls Statement of Expectations (2016)
  - Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-20 (2019)
  - The Domestic Abuse Bill Consultation, Home Office (2018)
  - A Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy for England and Wales: Call to Action (2019)
  - The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- 2.3 Domestic abuse is a strategic priority and all partner organisations. In conjunction with the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Group (DASVG), Perpetrator Partnership Sub-group identified the necessity to protect vulnerable victims from the physical and emotional harm that domestic abuse causes. Domestic abuse has a profound effect on victims and children, both emotionally and physically as well as socially and financially. The abuse can lead to difficulties at school for children and result in learned behaviours which can continue and perpetuate as children grow up to become victims and/or perpetrators of domestic abuse themselves.
- 2.3 A rapid evidence review of academic literature, local and national identified best practice interventions and approaches, has been completed by the OPCCN for the benefit of the DASVG, 2018 and 2019. This research, which reviewed similar approaches such as the Northumbria Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) approach which has been subjected to evaluation, Drive and other independent perpetrator programs, has already been presented to the DASVG partner

agencies and has been used to inform perpetrator intervention progression in the county.

- 2.4 There is a growing body of research to demonstrate the effectiveness of quality assured violence perpetrator programmes.
- 2.5 A 'one size fits all' approach would not be suitable for all perpetrators of domestic abuse. Provisions in service need to be identified on a case by case basis and personalised to the level of threat, risk and harm the individual presents to those they target and abuse.
- 2.6 The service provision must include meeting the perpetrators own level of needs to address their offending behaviours, whether the perpetrator is acknowledging they are an abuser or not.
- 2.7 This will assist in the prevention and reduction of reoffending by addressing the underlying causes of abuse whilst delivering innovative services.
- 2.8 Programmes and interventions cannot exist in isolation. They need to be embedded as part of a whole service approach protecting all who are at risk of abuse. Specialist complex need support services, such as mental health, substance misuse, housing and employment are required to provide perpetrators with appropriate help and ensure those services are working concurrently with support services for victims and children.
- 2.9 The current perpetrator service provision is predominantly reactive and Criminal Justice driven. There are limited intervention services and opportunities to respond to perpetrators offending behaviour outside the criminal justice system and within the Criminal Justice system in Norfolk for agencies or perpetrators, when recognised and accepted, to access to address domestic abuse offending behaviour
- 2.10 Norfolk DASVG partners through the DASVG Perpetrator Partnership subgroup have developed an appropriate response to the domestic abuse perpetrator intervention agenda. The development of the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Partnership Approach (DAPPA) intervention, disruption, education and interruption model including the evidenced base and business case to support the model. This follows the same approach as the Northumbria Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) approach which has been subjected to evaluation.
- 2.11 This approach, will support the partnership strategic vision to:  
  
Develop a cohesive multi-agency operational delivery group to manage:
  - perpetrators, who are serious or repeated risk to harm, regardless of post-conviction, gender or geographical location
  - Focus and develop a dedicated referral team/partnership management process/focused pathway to support enabling:
    - reduced reoffending
    - impacting positively on offender's behaviour
    - improvement of victim safety, criminal justice outcomes and partnership working
  - Provide access to intensive, targeted perpetrator intervention programmes (inclusive of all protected characteristics or geographical location) which are not reliant on criminal justice outcomes
- 2.12 The Change Project will provide access to community-based Respect accredited domestic violence perpetrator programmes which include a dedicated Integrated

Support Service for victims of domestic abuse. This service will support the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Partnership Approach (DAPPA).

- 2.13 The DAPPA team in partnership with key stakeholders will use an evidence-based approach to identify those perpetrators who would benefit from engagement with The Change Project. In partnership with The Change Project, and after risk assessing, the perpetrator will be offered the opportunity to engage with the programme as part of the partnership support to addressing their behaviours. The programme aims to assist a positive change in attitudes and associated behaviour and in turn reduce the risk of repeated abusive behaviour amongst service users.
- 2.14 The program will be inclusive of all protected characteristics and be accessible in appropriate, and agreed, geographical locations across Norfolk. The programme will provide dedicated integrated emotional, behavioural and practical support services for perpetrators of domestic abuse and their partners who are victims of crime matched to the individual's circumstances and level of risk and for those who want to stop being abusive towards intimate partners.
- 2.15 The desired outcomes of this project will be to:
- Provided targeted support for up to 25 perpetrators of domestic abuse identified through the DAPPA team
  - Provide dedicated integrated emotional, behavioural and practical support services for perpetrators of domestic abuse and their partners who are victims of crime to assist attitudes, behaviour and risks of those re offending for those attending and completing the programme
  - Reductions in the reoffending rates for domestic abuse perpetrators
  - Reductions in the number of domestic abuse perpetrators who meet the DPP criteria going through the court process
  - Reduce repeat victimisation and vulnerability

### **3 AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- 3.1 As the operator of the accredited domestic violence perpetrator programmes The Change Project will be required to:
- Deliver the programme in Norfolk in locations that are easily accessible and that take into consideration the geography of Norfolk.
  - Provide tailored packages for up to 25 participants over a 6-month period which focus on participants taking responsibility for their own actions to include 1:1 session and group based interventions
  - Deliver a range of techniques which are regularly reviewed for risk and program suitability;
  - Identifying and managing risk (in multi-agency environment as appropriate);
  - Deliver proactive safeguarding support, information and help to victims associated with the perpetrator
  - Signposting to appropriate diversionary activities;
  - Appropriate managed handovers to other generic/specialist services;
  - Deliver an assertive persistent non-collusive approach which challenges attitude and behaviour, enables them to take full responsibility for their actions and supports them to identify and work towards positive change;
  - Sufficient hours of contact over a long enough period to provide a reasonable opportunity for behavior change and to sustain a reduction in risk/future risk.
  - Deliver the programme at the most appropriate time for the intended audience



#### **4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

- 4.1 Not funding The Change Project to facilitate domestic violence perpetrator programmes. This option was rejected as The Change Project are an accredited community-based perpetrator intervention organisation which can provide the service required to support the DAPPA approach. Without an appropriate non-criminal justice programme available to address perpetrator behaviours the DAPPA work would predominantly remain reactive and Criminal Justice driven.

#### **5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:**

- 5.1 The delivery of domestic violence perpetrator programmes supports the recent national drive to address and implement intervention pathways and provision for perpetrators of domestic abuse, which demonstrate a positive reduction in abusive and violent behaviour:
- Home Office (2016)
  - Violence Against Women and Girls Statement of Expectations (2016)
  - Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-20 (2019)
  - The Domestic Abuse Bill Consultation, Home Office (2018)
  - A Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Strategy for England and Wales: Call to Action (2019)
  - The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- 5.2 The Domestic Abuse Bill Consultation, Home Office (2018) to identify innovation and best practice from a national audience regarding evidenced based perpetrator intervention, prevention, and protection which is key to stop repeat and serial perpetrators from reoffending and reduce crisis intervention.

#### **6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 Total award of the grant £75,000

- 6.2 Financial breakdown of the budget

<b>Financial Year Breakdown</b>	<b>21/22</b>
Grant Amount	£75,000

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:**

- 7.1 All parties will work together to identify, manage and mitigate risks on achieving the project through the DAPPA. These shall be recorded in all referrals, assessments and collaborative work between The Change Project and the DAPPA team.
- 7.2 The risk and issues will be regularly reviewed and managed collaboratively between The Change Project and the DAPPA team, on a monthly basis.

<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>No</b>
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>Yes</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	<b>Yes</b>
Have human resource implications been considered?	<b>Yes</b>
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	<b>Yes</b>
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	<b>Yes</b>
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	<b>Yes</b>
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	<b>Yes</b>
<p data-bbox="204 1570 786 1608"><b>Is this report a Confidential Decision?</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input data-bbox="1066 1585 1187 1659" type="checkbox"/> <input data-bbox="1259 1585 1380 1659" type="checkbox" value="NO"/> </div> <p data-bbox="204 1682 1430 1720">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the <a href="#">PCC Decision Making Policy</a></p>	



**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: 16/11/2021**



**Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)**

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: 16/11/2021**

**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.*