

ORIGINATOR: Stephanie Stearman

DECISION NO. 53 /2022

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision

**SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk –
Giles Orpen-Smellie**

**SUBJECT: The Rowan Project – Pilot for Sexual Violence Services in the
Breckland District area of Norfolk.**

SUMMARY:

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk is committed to expanding the level of provision available to support victims of sexual violence and has a long-term ambition to ensure that services are available and accessible across the County at different times of the day.

As part of a strategy that includes funding to existing service providers in the county to maintain and enhance the services they provide, the OPCC has worked with the Daisy Programme to provide a sexual violence support service in the Breckland District, known as the Rowan Project. This two-year initial pilot was launched during the Covid-19 Pandemic and responded to need and where there were gaps in local specialist provision as identified through the OPCC's sexual violence service needs assessment.

Initial findings from the pilot have highlighted that a trauma informed service has supported victims within the district but due to the pandemic and a series of lock downs the service has not been able to reach its full potential and momentum.

Therefore, the PCC has agreed to extend the pilot initially for one year with a further year's extension (to be confirmed) to allow the service to fully develop and build momentum and resilience.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk approves the extension of the Pilot Service by way of a grant for 1 Year initially with the option of a possible additional year's extension.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature

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

Date: 27/10/2022

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 This Decision Notice is for the extension of a Pilot Service that was introduced during the Covid-19 Pandemic within the Breckland District of Norfolk and delivered by the Daisy Programme. The project is known as 'The Rowan Project' and is being developed as a pilot in response to demand for services to support victims of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Violence /Child Sexual Abuse (16+ years) and Historic Cases of Sexual Abuse.
- 1.2 The service will provide support for women, men and those identifying as male or female, young people (boys and girls) aged 16 years and over who have been victims of sexual abuse/violence/rape and/or current/historic child sexual abuse.
- 1.3 The pilot originally commenced November 2019, however due to recruitment issues followed by the Covid-19 Pandemic and victims feeling unsure/vulnerable to the introduction of a new service, the recruitment, integration and development has been staggered over a two-year period.
- 1.4 To enable the service to run in line with past recruitment, previous Grant, budgets and financial years, as agreed with the Charity, this extension will commence from 1st November 2022 to the 31st March 2023. The total award will then incorporate a 1+1 year Grant offer, starting 1st April 2023-31st March 2024, with the option of one more year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025
- 1.5 The service will be free of charge, confidential, non-discriminatory and accessible to residents in Breckland where the Daisy Programme has premises and support
- 1.6 The service will support the need to:
 - Respond to a gap and lack of services in the Breckland District
 - Make the service accessible locally to victims
 - Build resilience within the market
 - Provide additional capacity and capability
- 1.7 Support responsibilities as devolved under the Ministry of Justice Victims' Fund

2 BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Demand for services that support victims of SA/SV/CSA and especially HCSA have risen sharply over the last four years. This has been influenced by a number of factors such as:

- High profile cases of Child Sexual Abuse, such as the Jimmy Saville case through Op Yewtree in 2014/15 – which has continued through the media - Child Sexual Abuse (male) in Football, High-profile media stories (for example, Harvey Weinstein, #MeToo and TV dramas such as ‘Three Girls’) These high-profile cases/inquiries have generated extensive awareness.
 - the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) set up to examine how the country’s institutions handled their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse
 - Increased referrals from other agencies within the county.
 - Police Forces improving their response to investigations and safeguarding and vulnerability
 - National Campaigns such as #MeToo Movement increasing awareness of sexual assault
 - Survivors having confidence to report to either the police or a specialist support agency with the knowledge that they will be believed and not judged
- 2.2 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk is lead commissioner for services for victims of crime and during 2019 went out to market through an open and transparent tender process to commission a ‘specialist provider’ or consortium of providers to deliver a county-wide support service for victims of sexual abuse/violence/ CSA/HCSA.
- 2.3 After completion of the open tender process, the OPCCN was unable to secure a provider or consortium of providers to deliver this service as laid out within the specification.
- 2.4 The OPCCN carried out a review post tender reviewing victim need and including the county the need to:
- develop the market
 - build resilience, capacity and capability within the sector
 - improve accessibility of local services
 - increase specialist provision for victims of sexual violence
- 2.5 Following this review it was highlighted that there were three districts within Norfolk where the requirements listed above (in 2.4) were needed. These were:
- Breckland
 - North Norfolk
 - West Norfolk
- 2.6 The Rowan Pilot has been developed in response to need within the district of Breckland under the management of the Daisy Programme who are a specialist

Domestic Abuse Support Service which includes a specialist Counselling Service.

- 2.7 To date cases/reporting have demonstrated:
- That there is crossover between clients where there someone experiencing domestic abuse, they are also experiencing sexual assault/rape and where there is sexual assault/violence/rape there is domestic abuse
 - The common denominator is trauma
 - The number of referrals received/clients in service confirms the need of service in Breckland
 - Self-referrals accounted for 47% of overall referrals
 - 100% of clients that completed counselling were happy with the amount (18 1-2-1- sessions) they had, especially as we were able to offer those who needed it more.
 - 80% of clients said if we were to offer extra sessions or other type of support afterwards, they would take it.

3 AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 3.1 To continue the pilot, post the initial trial period as need demonstrates demand for service.
- 3.2 Introduce therapeutic services post counselling session to help victims move forward on their personal journey to couple and recover which has been requested by 80% of those who have completed counselling.
- 3.3 To further develop the pilot and continue building capability and momentum which has been interrupted on several occasions by enforced lock downs due to the Covid-19 Pandemic so the pilot can reach its true potential.
- 3.4 To ensure there are services in place that offer support for victims of sexual violence in line with current county coverage of service and existing Grant Agreement arrangements up to a maximum of 31st March 2025.
- 3.5 The OPCCN during 2023 will be undertaking two independent pieces of work within the sexual violence arena:
- through a specialist independent consultancy agency, a mapping exercise to understand the current referral pathway for victims of sexual violence will take place and include key stakeholders, statutory and non-statutory partners, specialist delivery agencies and victim focus groups.
 - To complement this piece of work a secondary consultancy workstream will take place in response to the Governments End to End Rape Review (June 2021) and specifically response by the Police through the Criminal Justice Service.
- 3.6 It is the intention of the OPPCN that with the alignment of Grant Agreements to those specialist providers who support victims of sexual violence, along

with the mapping/consultancy work (3.5) that the OPCCN will go out to market to for a countywide sexual violence service.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

- 4.1 Not to fund this pilot– this option has been rejected based on evidence of need that additional capacity and accessibility for services is required to support victims of sexual abuse/violence in the Breckland District.

5 STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:

- 5.1 The PCC has a statutory obligation to set Police and Crime objectives through the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan 2022-24. The PCC's six priorities fall into the following categories each with detailed objectives in the plan:

- Sustain Norfolk Constabulary
- Visible and Trusted Policing
- Tackling Crime
- Prevent Offending
- Support Victims
- Safe and Stronger Communities

- 5.2 This extension to the Pilot supports the pillar 'Supporting Victims'.

- 5.3 Quality standards that will be supported as set out in the following documents:

- NICE Guidance on Child Abuse and Neglect (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng76>), which makes recommendations for a range of therapeutic interventions for children, young people and families after sexual abuse
- The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) Ethical Framework (<https://www.bacp.co.uk/about-us/about-bacp/>). The counsellor recruited for the SV pilot will be accredited with the BACP or UKCP with the relevant competency levels in place to support this group of clients (this includes highly complex cases and those who have experienced historic childhood sexual abuse).

- 5.4 This Grant Extension will also support the following county objectives and strategies:

- Norfolk's Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy 22-25
- Joint work with Norfolk's Community Safety Partnership (sits within the OPCCN)
- Objectives through the Norfolk Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group (DASVG)

- 5.5 The primary statutory legislation that drives the support of commissioning services that support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Local Authority and Police Force areas are:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012
- Equality Act 2010
- Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime Directive 2012/29/EU
- Code of Practice for Victims of Crime –MoJ Victims Code 2020
- Home Office Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls – July 2021
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021

6 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 The initial Grant Agreement was to cover a two-year pilot that commenced 1st November 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic recruitment has been difficult to align as well as service delivery and therefore it has been staggered over this period.

6.2 The total of the original award over the two-year pilot period 1st November 2019- 31st October 2022 was **£141,066**, which was to run over three financial years as follows:

2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
£32,951	£68,283	£39,832

6.3 This Decision Notice seeks agreement to align the service from 1st November 2022 until 31st March 2023.

6.4 In addition, this Decision Notice seeks agreement to extend the pilot by 1+1 Years (second year subject to review and terms and conditions adhered to within the Grant Agreement by 1st December 2025) to ensure it reaches its true potential and so that therapeutic work can take place and be tested.

6.5 The Total Award is for the sum of £202,944 (subject to the grant being extended 1+1 years, including alignment and subject to terms and conditions being adhered to). The financial period will cover a period of up to three financial years (from 1st November 2022 to 31st March 2025 and is highlighted below.

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
£31,003.22	£83,449.14	£88,491.41

7 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

- 7.1 There are no major implications or risks with this decision paper.
- 7.2 The OPCCN has assessed the eligibility of the Daisy Programme and the appropriate due diligence checks have been completed and agreed by the OPCCN's Chief Finance/151 Officer and will be reviewed periodically.

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
<p data-bbox="204 1422 788 1458">Is this report a Confidential Decision?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input data-bbox="1066 1440 1187 1509" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" data-bbox="1259 1440 1380 1509" type="checkbox"/> </div> <p data-bbox="204 1532 1430 1568">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the PCC Decision Making Policy</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: 27/10/2022

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: 27/10/2022

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.*