

Ref 10653

6 November 2013

Dear

Re: Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request for information, which was received by the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on 17 October 2013.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

I am aware that you recently commissioned WAIS to deliver a medium risk service to survivors of domestic abuse in Nottingham City.

Could you please advise me, under the FOI of the following:

- How this medium risk service was commissioned to WAIS
- If the service was not placed out to an open tender/commissioning type processes to other organisations why WAIS were selected as the preferred provider and what policy you follow to agree that it didn't need to be placed out to open tender if that was the case.
- How this fits in with Nottingham City commissioning pathways
- If this is a time limited piece of work if so, for how long
- The value of the contract/commission
- An outline of what the service will deliver

Previously a question has been sent to you under the FOI process, that also related to domestic abuse services commissioned. This has not been placed on your website for general viewing as other FOI's are, could you offer an explanation as to why. Also the person making the FOI request was advised to contact the Crime and Drugs partnership for information on what had been commissioned. The Crime and Drugs partnership do not have to share information as they "are a statutory crime agency" when asked about FOI, so this seems to conflict with the information you have provided.

Can you please explain why there appears to be a lack of willingness to share information regarding the commissioning processes from yourselves to the CDP in terms of being able to identify what domestic abuse services exactly have been commissioned and how in the City?

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does hold the information you have requested.



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- **How this medium risk service was commissioned to WAIS**

There was a piece of work to develop a business case for commissioning medium risk services. The aim of this business case was to ensure that there is a clear focus on high quality services that fully meet the needs of protecting, supporting and responding to repeat victims of medium risk domestic abuse as an identified priority of the Police and Crime Plan.

- **If the service was not placed out to an open tender/commissioning type processes to other organisations why WAIS were selected as the preferred provider and what policy you follow to agree that it didn't need to be placed out to open tender if that was the case.**

This Business Case provides the rationale for the commissioning framework for the provision of services for Medium Risk Repeat Work being allocated to current specialist domestic abuse support providers. To ensure repeat victims of medium risk domestic abuse cases meet the outcomes identified in the Police and Crime Plan, the starting point has been to maintain services and commission further support and research to assist with improving services for domestic abuse and its impact on individuals.

- **How this fits in with Nottingham City commissioning pathways**

There has been a piece of work conducted by the Nottingham City Council to review their commissioning arrangements of Domestic Violence which has reported options to the Health and Well-being Board, this is further supported by the commissioning of a piece of work for the County commissioned services.

- **If this is a time limited piece of work if so, for how long**

The timescale is a commissioned Community Safety Fund Grant until 2016

- **The value of the contract/commission**

£86,000

- **An outline of what the service will deliver**

There are well established networks of partnerships, strategic and operational groups which direct and manage work on domestic abuse. Following engagement with providers, partner agencies and service users the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire has secured £130k for the provision of 'protecting, supporting and responding to repeat victims of domestic abuse, especially medium risk' for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The aim is to provide the services through commissioning and to do much more to prevent violence against women and girls happening at all, but a key focus will be on reducing repeat victimisation and assisting victims work towards identifying opportunities to recovery.

The issues raised, and the need to secure savings and efficiencies, have led to a decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner to prioritise budgets to protecting, supporting and responding to repeat victims of domestic abuse, especially medium risk, to include a whole systems approach to commissioned services, with an emphasis on re-evaluating the commissioning to improve service delivery across:



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Protecting

- Allocating and protecting commissioned funding until 2016 for specialist local support services, and specifically for the funding of Medium Risk Intervention Workers, x1 for the City, x1 for the County South and x1 for the County North to ensure victims have access to specialist support.
- Maintaining high quality services for repeat victims of medium risk domestic abuse.
- Provide clear and effective risk assessments and referral pathways.
- Ensure value for money and the efficient use of limited resources.
- Ensure a robust improvement plan is monitored for implementation.

Supporting

- Improve service provision to reduce confusion for individuals and partners.
- Improve co-ordinating of services to meet statutory and professional service providers and partners.
- Improve information sharing to avoid duplication of support through seamless services to victims through to recovery.
- Streamlining the monitoring of improvement outcomes.

Responding

- Reducing time and costs of commissioning and procurement processes and streamlining of service delivery being victims focused.
- Preventing and reducing risk, repeats of x4 or more incidents.
- Focusing on increasing safety of victims whilst challenging and holding perpetrators to account.
- Getting the balance right between investment dealing with repeats and prevention and early intervention.

Key issues for consideration for commissioning have been:

- Information Sharing Protocols in place between the Force, NWA, and WAIS to have access to Police Stations and relevant information regarding domestic violence survivors.
- Have been commissioned through tender processes to supply IDVA's for MARACS and Specialist Domestic Violence Courts. This is important as risk constantly changes and information can be shared within the organisation and avoid duplication of support.
- Organisations have data systems, so that names can be checked on the histories reviewed and service users have continuity of support staff.
- Current service providers already have contracts for Medium Risk work in Priority Plus Areas in the County. Sharing of information means continuity of support staff for survivors and avoidance of duplication.
- Relationship with DART in the City (for City Work).

You refer in your correspondence to an FOI related to domestic abuse services commissioned. I have reviewed our FOI responses and by process of elimination have assumed you are referring to FOI reference 7617/13. There was a delay in initially publishing the information due to annual leave commitments however this information is now on our website.



The Crime and Drugs Partnership do respond to FOI requests. If you have evidence that this is not the case, then you should use the City Council's Have Your Say service to raise any concerns you have in this regard. Further information can be found at:

<https://secure.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>

If FOI reference 7617/13 is not the request you are referring to, I would be most grateful if you could provide further details to enable me to make further enquiries.

We are happy to share information about our commissioning processes. For this financial year, the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner agreed to fund the CDP based on their existing commitments. We have just opened a dialogue with the CDP about next year's priorities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 101 Ext 801 2008 or e-mail nopcc@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Pearson".

Lisa Pearson
Office Manager
Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner