

## Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Notice of Decision



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<b>Date Received*:</b>	17 March 2015
<b>Ref*:</b>	2015.16

\*to be inserted by Office of PCC

**TITLE: Domestic Violence Helpline**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Following internal and external discussions, it was agreed early in 2014 that the PCC fund the Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Helpline with a grant of £38,415 during 2014-5. The grant will be awarded to WAIS with funding from Ministry of Justice's Victims' Services Grant.

### INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)

WAIS run a countywide 24 hour freephone domestic violence helpline. The helpline is a highly specialist service diagnosing needs and risk of harm. It ensures that domestic violence is identified as early as possible and supports earlier referral to safeguarding for vulnerable children and adults. It supports and is supported by all local domestic violence initiatives including the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts, the city and county MARACs, the city DART and county MASH. Its primary functions are:

- Crisis support
- Gateway to services including refuge
- Sexual violence helpline and triage service
- Emotional support
- Support for health, other public sector and voluntary sector agencies

The Nottingham Domestic and Sexual Violence Needs Assessment recently reviewed the helpline and found it: "absolutely essential for the protection and prevention of harm (including crisis provision)." The assessment reasoned that the helpline provided "immediate support and advice" and that whilst there exists a national helpline, in its current form it still only "diverts to the local helpline for access to emergency hostel provision out of hours" and thus doesn't replace the local helpline service that WAIS provides. It also highlighted the important role that out of hours support plays in preventing "self harm, suicide, homelessness and children going into care overnight."

Over 1 million domestic violence cards promoting the helpline are in wide circulation across the city and county in GP surgeries, libraries, community groups and other venues. WAIS set up the service on receipt of a Big Lottery Fund grant and own the telephone number.

The helpline costs c£270k per annum. It is funded by multiple public sector funders, with the biggest single funder being Nottingham City Council.

The recommendation is to award the funding to WAIS as an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules in the Contract Standing Orders for the following reasons:

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- if opened to competition, the possible award of funding to another provider may result in the provision of a different telephone number, or a separate helpline being set up. Given the widespread publication of the existing number this will duplicate public services, cause confusion amongst domestic violence survivors and potentially increase the risk of harm
- there are multiple funders with the PCC's grant contributing less than 15% of the total funding.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION** (please include if is it capital or revenue or both. What the split is and the totals being requested. Is this a virement/ something already budgeted for or something that requires additional funding. Are there any savings that can be offered up/or achieved)

Revenue funding is requested. It will be funded from MoJ Victims' Services Grant and has been budgeted for in 2014-5. The PCC funding is a small part of a much bigger package of funding to which the City and County Councils and Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Group also contribute. NOPCC has been working with other funders and the provider to identify efficiencies in the service delivery. The service costs have been reduced from 2013-4 levels by c£30k.

Signature:   
Chief Finance Officer

Date: 14.05.15.

**Is any of the supporting information classified as non public or confidential information\*\*?**

No

X

Yes

**DECISION:**

To approve an exception to Contract Procedure Rules in the Contract Standing Orders to allow the PCC to fund WAIS to deliver the Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Helpline.

To approve the award of a grant to WAIS of £38,415 for the Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Helpline.

**DECLARATION:**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:   
Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Date:

1/6/15

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:  
Chief Executive



Date:

29<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

\*\* See guidance on non public information and confidential information.