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| Consideration | |
| Public/Non Public* | Public |
| Report to: | Strategic Resources and Performance |
| Date of Meeting: | 13 November 2014 |
| Report of: | Sexual violence support grants |
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| Agenda Item: | 08 |

*If Non Public, please state under which category number from the guidance in the space provided.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT GRANTS

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To give an overview of proposals to use unallocated Victims' Services Grant.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the PCC agrees to fund, on receipt of satisfactorily completed application forms:

- Nottingham Rape Crisis with up to £30,000 to provide additional 0.8 FTE Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) support from late November to 31 March 2015;
- Equation with up to £5,000 funding to print additional sexual violence support information cards to disseminate information about support services and how to access them;
- Equation with up to £5,000 funding to run additional training sessions for volunteers to support victims of sexual violence;
- Equation with up to £2,000 to run a seminar on stalking to raise awareness, identify gaps in service and recommendations for action.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The PCC has received £491k Victims' Services grant from Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for the period 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015. The PCC has used this grant to fund Victim Support to continue its work, as well as funded other projects previously supported by Ministry of Justice and some other local victims' support projects. There is some Victims' Services Grant funding currently unallocated. However, services supported with this funding are unlikely to be able to be funded in future years as this year there has been additional one off funding available for victims' support services.

3.2 Sexual violence support services are facing increased demand and the above projects have been identified as those which are needed but which will not create a sustainability issue.

3.3 Nottingham Rape Crisis is funded to provide the Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) services for Nottingham/shire. The service is funded by the Home Office and NHS England and provides 1.2FTE (2 x 0.6 FTE) of ISVA support. Compared to neighbouring counties, Nottingham/shire is underserved for ISVA support:

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| Derbyshire: | 3 x full-time 1 x part-time (3 days) 1 x part-time (4 days) |
| Leicestershire: | 2 x full-time (City) 2 x part-time (County) 1 x full-time (Children & Young People) |
| Lincolnshire: | 2 x full-time 1 x full-time (Children and Young People) |
| Northants: | 1 x full-time (Adult) 1 x part-time (Adult) 1 x full-time (Children and Young People) |

3.4 Increasing the two part-time posts to full time will allow the ISVAs to provide more and better quality (face to face rather than telephone) support to victims. It will also support them to provide all the support victims need in order to support their attendance at court.

3.5 The sexual violence and abuse cards are widely disseminated across in GP surgeries, libraries and community centres across Nottingham/shire. The cards provide details of what sexual violence and abuse is and where to get help. There is always a need for more cards to be printed and further disseminated.

3.6 Volunteers help deliver sexual violence support. Volunteer counsellors and helpline volunteers need to have completed the specialist sexual violence awareness and skills training provided by Equation. There is currently a waiting list for the course. Providing funding for more courses will allow more volunteers to be trained and greater numbers of victims supported.

3.7 Local domestic and sexual violence services have some expertise around supporting victims of stalking. However, the Deputy PCC, who leads on support for victims, would like to ensure that providers and police officers have up to date training to ensure victims of stalking are getting the very best support. Consequently the Deputy PCC would like to commission a training seminar for domestic and sexual violence providers, police officers and other professionals involved in supporting victims of stalking. The seminar will update everyone on the best way to support victims of stalking, as well identify any gaps in existing provision to inform the PCC's future commissioning plans.

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| 4. Summary of Key Points (this should include background information and options appraisal if applicable) |
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- 4.1 The PCC has recently gone out to tender for a core victims' support service which will support all victims of crime, anti-social behaviour, hate crime incidents and identity theft.
- 4.2 The Deputy PCC is working with the City and County Councils to co-commission domestic and sexual violence support services.
- 4.3 Once the under spend in Victims' Services Grant was identified, the Deputy PCC discussed it with the leads for domestic and sexual abuse in the City and County Councils. The above projects were identified as those which would help fill gaps without creating a sustainability issue.
- 4.4 We propose to award the grant to the existing delivery organisations because:
- the funding is only available from mid November 2014 to end March 2015 and there is a need to deliver quickly to ensure the maximum benefit from the funding;
 - the ISVA service must be fully integrated with the Sexual Assault Referral Centre managed by Rape Crisis as well as the existing ISVA service;
 - Equation already have responsibility to design and print the sexual violence support cards
 - Equation are already delivering the training to sexual violence support volunteers
 - Equation provide a wide range of professional development for domestic and sexual violence support providers and are well placed to develop and deliver the training seminar on stalking quickly.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 The above projects have a maximum budget of £42,000, which will use almost all of the remaining under spend on the Victims' Services Grant. If the projects are not supported, and funding remains unspent, the monies must be returned to Ministry of Justice at the end of the financial year.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 None.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 Most of the services proposed are already delivering – the proposal is for funding to boost capacity. The services have already considered how they support victims of sexual violence with protected characteristics and taken appropriate action. For example:
- The ISVA service is connected to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and supports all victims of sexual violence involved in the

criminal justice process. The ISVAs are trained to support victims with protected characteristics.

- The language on used on the sexual violence cards has already been consulted with a wide range of victims of sexual violence, including those with protected characteristics. As a result, there is specific signposting to support for LGBT victims.
- The training provided to volunteers already includes supporting victims with protected characteristics.
- An equalities theme will run through the proposed stalking seminar, to ensure that victims of stalking with protected characteristics receive the right kind of support.

8. Risk Management

8.1 The risks to the successful delivery of these projects relate to the short timescale for the grants (mid November 2014 to end March 2015). To mitigate this risk, the projects will be led by organisations already delivering the work.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

9.1 Funding these projects supports the delivery of Strategic Theme 1: Protect and support victims, witnesses and vulnerable people, specifically to protect and support victims of sexual violence.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

10.1 None.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

11.1 The PCC commissioned independent research into the support of victims in early 2014. The research found that victims of sexual violence are very positive about the support they receive and critical of waiting lists. However, they do not always know about the services that may help them. The projects will help raise awareness about service and also boost capacity.

12. Appendices

12.1 None.

13. Background Papers (relevant for Police and Crime Panel Only)

13. N/A

NB

See guidance on public access to meetings and information about meetings for guidance on non-public information and confidential information.