

## THE POLICE CRIME & VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM

### DECISION RECORD FORM

**REQUEST:**

**Title:** Court based support to victims of domestic of domestic abuse by an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) (£30,000)

**Executive Summary:**

We propose the continuation of a Court IDVA service that supports victims of domestic abuse, living in County Durham and Darlington, whose cases are being dealt with through the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) and the Remand Courts.

The role of the IDVA is to help victims:

- Understand the nature of the proceedings;
- Have latest information about court dates;
- Have latest information about court and bail application outcomes;
- By offering assistance during the proceedings; and
- By referring into Harbour Support Service (with client consent).

The service commenced in September 2016 and has supported over 650 people through the court processes between April 2017 and March 2018. The IDVA has built strong relationships with the criminal justice professionals and court staff, which has helped to ensure that the victims' voice is heard in court. The evidence in 2017/18 is sufficient to recommend the continuation of this service, ensuring that victims better understand the court process and the victims' voice is represented clearly.

The IDVA is provided by Harbour and will be grant funded for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The intention for the service beyond these dates is to include the IDVA support to domestic abuse victims (in court) as part of a wider specification (of services) that will mainstream the support of victims, witnesses and vulnerable on their journey through the criminal justice system. Performance information will be provided quarterly (or more frequently as needed) to the PCVC Office and a review of the service will be undertaken by the LCJP Efficiency Group.

**Decision:** PCVC to approve grant funding of £30,000 to continue the IDVA support to domestic abuse victims in the Remand and Special Domestic Violence Courts

**OPCC Lead Officer:** Charles Oakley

**Contractor Details (if applicable):**

**Implications:**

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>(If yes please provide further details below)</b>			

## Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

This has been considered as part of and is included in the 2018/19 victims services budget, (£30,000).

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

Grant arrangements pursuant to the PCVC's commissioning powers set out in s.143 Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Equality and Diversity Implications

No specific equality and diversity implications

Human Rights Implications

No specific human rights implications

Sustainability Implications

No specific sustainability implications

Risk Management Implications

No specific risk management implications

Consultation

No specific consultation undertaken

### OFFICER APPROVAL

#### Chief Executive

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.


Signed:



Date: 21/06/2018

### Police and Crime Commissioner:

Signed:



Date: 21/06/2018