

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)

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 800 people (victims) through the court processes between September 2016 and March 2017. 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 of the first seven months 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 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. 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 LCJB Efficiency Group.

This contributes to the Police and Crime Plan aims in respect of Domestic Abuse.

Decision: PCVC to approve grant funding of £29,890 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"/>	

(If yes please provide further details below)

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 the 2017/18 MOJ Victims monies and is included within the budget, (£29,890).

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: 27/03/2017

Police and Crime Commissioner:

Signed:



Date: 27/03/2017