

**Title of meeting:** Community Safety decision meeting

**Date of meeting:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

**Subject:** Independent Sexual Violence Advocate funding

**Report by:** Bruce Marr. Head Harm and Exploitation

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to commit £10,000 from portfolio reserves to contribute to a year's extension to the jointly commissioned Hampshire and Portsmouth Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That a one year extension to the ISVA Contract with Hampshire County Council be approved and that the £10,000 cost of the 1 year extension be met from the Environment & Community Safety Portfolio Reserve.
- 2.2 For the Cabinet Member for Community Safety thank Yellow Door and Aurora New Dawn for their commitment and support to victims of sexual violence.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 There is no legal requirement to provide ISVA provision however supporting victims of sexual violence is considered good practice and is a priority for the Safer Portsmouth Partnership. The strategic assessment identified that "there has been an increase in police recordings of sexual offences and rape, however there has been a decrease in the proportion resulting in a formal outcome. Police analysis has found that the main driver has been victim disengagement particularly for victims who were reluctant to report in the first place. The most common complaint from victims was that the process is too long." The most common types of offence reported were sexual assault 26%, rape 24% and distribution/take/make or publish indecent photos of a child 12%.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.saferportsmouth.org.uk/sexual-offences/>

- 3.2 ISVA's provide specialist tailored support to victims and survivors of sexual violence and works with people who have experienced rape and sexual assault, irrespective of whether they have reported to the police.
- 3.2 Prior to April 2017 Portsmouth residents had access to 1 full time equivalent ISVA however due to funding this was provided by 2 separate agencies. 18.5 hours was funded and delivered by Portsmouth City Council and 18.5 hours was delivered by the voluntary Sector (Aurora New Dawn) and funded by the Home Office. From April 2017 Home Office funding was diverted through the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC).
- 3.3 In October 2016 the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety agreed to contribute £30,000 (£10,000 per year) from portfolio reserves to a jointly commissioned ISVA provision for Hampshire and Portsmouth from April 2017 to March 2020. Provision would be funded between Hampshire County Council (£16,800 per year), the OPCC (£92,108 per year) and Portsmouth City Council (£10,000 per year)
- 3.4 After a competitive process the contract was awarded to Yellow Door which included working in partnership with Aurora New Dawn who would deliver ISVA provision for Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport, Havant and East Hampshire area.
- 3.5 The current tender is due to end in March 2020. Hampshire are the lead agency and their legal department has agreed to extend the contract for a further year to align with other commissioned sexual violence contracts and then re-tender for a further 3 years (April 2021 to March 2024)
- 3.6 Future funding options for the City Councils contribution will be considered including identifying this from the cash limit.
- 3.7 Demand for provision has been consistently high across the area but specifically more in the more densely populated areas. For March 2017/18 there were 170 referrals in Portsmouth, 582 across Hampshire and 223 in Southampton (numbers provided for comparison only and not part of this contract) and in 2018/19 there were 128 referrals in Portsmouth, 595 in Hampshire and 243 in Southampton<sup>2</sup>.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1 A partnership commissioning arrangement with Hampshire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner represents exceptional value for money and efficiencies. The significant contribution from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner increases the resource capacity and one contract provides the flexibility to prioritise need across all areas within the Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council area.

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<sup>2</sup> Per 100,000 population this would equate to 2017/18 - 81.7 for Portsmouth, 54.9 Hampshire and 91.8 Southampton and 2018/19 - 61.5 Portsmouth, 54.4 Hampshire and 100 Southampton

4.2 Portsmouth City Council is committed to identifying sustainable funding options and in light of this contract proving successful a year's extension will provide an opportunity to consider this.

**5. Equality impact assessment**

5.1 A preliminary EIA has been completed which identified there was no need to undertake a full assessment.

**6. Legal implications**

6.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

**7. Director of Finance's comments**

7.1 At this stage there is no contractual commitment to incur expenditure beyond 2020/21. In the event that a later report recommends the re-letting of the ISVA contract then ongoing funding from within the Community Safety Cash Limit will need to be identified.

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Signed by: Alison Jeffery

**Director of Children, Families and Education**

**Appendices:**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: Cllr Lee Hunt

**Cabinet Member for Community Safety**