



Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

To: Business Co-ordination Board

From: Nicky Phillipson, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning

Date: 21 September 2016

Commissioning support for vulnerable victims

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To share with the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (Commissioner’s) plans to enhance the provision of support services for victims of sexual violence.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report as part of the ongoing commissioning for support services for victims of crime in Cambridgeshire under the: ‘Understand, Plan, Do, Review’ commissioning cycle.

3. Background

- 3.1 The responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime transferred to Police and Crime Commissioners in October 2014. In Cambridgeshire an integrated model of support services was developed and informed by an inter-agency Victim Strategy and a Victim and Offender Needs Assessment. This evidence base allowed services to be commissioned which met the needs of Cambridgeshire victims. Details of the Victims’ Service grants and commissioning intentions for the coming year were shared with BCB at the February 25 meeting as part of Appendix 1 Finances Update.
- 3.2 The service provision is under regular review, as part of the commissioning cycle, which is informed by feedback from both victims and the agencies providing the services. A Victims’ Services provider forum held in October 2015 highlighted resilience issues and inequality in the provision of services for victims of sexual violence. This was partially attributed to the short-term nature of funding streams and disjointed public sector commissioning. It also identified a gap in counselling services for young victims of

sexual violence to enable them to start the journey of recovery. Local charities had been successful in national funding bids to provide counselling but demand was outstripping supply.

- 3.3 The ongoing 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG) Needs Assessment, which is being undertaken by Domestic Abuse Lead for Cambridgeshire Simon Kerss, has also identified a continuing gap in counselling provision for young victims of sexual violence.
- 3.4 In response the Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning, on behalf of the Commissioner, has been looking at ways to address these issues in partnership with other agencies and the voluntary sector. A proposal to explore the co-commissioning of a countywide support service for victims of sexual violence was taken to the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board in March 2016. This was unanimously supported. It also received support from the CCJB Victim and Witness sub-group and the SARC Strategic Board chaired by the ACC Nav Malik.

4. Commissioning a county-wide support service for victims of sexual violence

- 4.1 Work to progress the commissioning of a single equitable county-wide support service for victims of sexual violence has progressed. Funds from the Commissioner's Victims' Services Grant have been pooled with existing funding from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council and new funding from NHS England to create a single budget. The OPCC, as lead commissioner, has worked collaboratively on a service specification. A "Provider Day" is planned for early October with the tender for the new service going out via the Bluelight System in late October. This work is being supported by the Constabulary's Contract and Procurement Team. It is expected the new contract will start April 1st 2017.
- 4.2 Plans are being put in place to merge existing OPCC held contracts for aspects of sexual violence support provision into this overarching contract as they come up for renewal. This includes provision of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs).

5. Enhancing counselling provision in partnership with the voluntary sector

- 5.1 The Commissioner is keen to enhance the support service provision for young vulnerable victims, including victims of sexual violence, as part of Cambridgeshire's 'integrated model of support services for victims of crime'. The model clearly aligns with the work of both of the local safeguarding children boards to ensure organisations work together to safeguard children.
- 5.2 Funding was provided from the 2015/16 Victims' Services Grant to build capacity in this area with two local charities. Following the success of this work a Cambridgeshire-based charity 'Embrace' (previously Child Victims of Crime) has offered to host and match-fund, with the Commissioner, a dedicated county-wide counselling post based in the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre. This post will be funded for two-years as part of the charity's local work to support child victims of crime.
- 5.2 This post will enhance the provision of services for young victims of crime. It will work closely with the Specialist Victim Care Co-ordinator for young victims of crime, based within the Victim and Witness Hub, and the Child and Young Person Independent

Sexual Violence Advisors hosted by the county's two Rape Crisis charities. In addition this post will also complement the services to be provided under the new commissioned contract detailed in 4.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report as part of the ongoing commissioning for support services for victims of crime in Cambridgeshire under the: 'Understand, Plan, Do, Review' commissioning cycle.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Contact Officer(s)	Nicky Phillipson, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning
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