



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 28 February 2019

## Supporting victims of crime in Cambridgeshire

### 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the funding being provided to deliver victim services by the Commissioner in 19/20; and;
- to sight the board on the risks to continued funding for domestic abuse support services from April 2020.

### 2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the funding awards made for service provision in 2019/20.

### 3. Approach to awarding victim services funding

3.1 The responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime transferred to Police and Crime Commissioners in 2014 from the Ministry of Justice (“the MoJ”). An annual grant is provided to the Commissioner to fund these services. In 2019/20 the grant is for £978,525. This is an £8k reduction on the previous year due to a change in the population formula used by the MoJ to calculate funding.

3.2 In 2018/19 the grant agreement from the MoJ contained, for the first time, a responsibility to provide support for victims, and those affected by a major crime or terrorist incident in the county. A model and major incident plan is now being developed to enable such support to be made available within existing resources.

3.3 The Commissioning and Grants Strategy sets out the Commissioner's approach to awarding money from a number of funding streams including the Victim Services Fund from the MoJ. This strategy has just been revised and is subject to a separate paper to this Board. The revisions do not impact upon the provision of victim services funding.

3.4 The funding awards for victim service provision in 2019/20 are detailed at Appendix 1.

#### **4. Cambridgeshire's Victim Services Model**

4.1 Cambridgeshire has an in-house Constabulary-led Victim and Witness Hub which provides telephone-based practical and emotional support. A team of community volunteers provide a face to face support offer. A number of specialist services enable additional support to be provided to the most vulnerable victims; this include those with suspected mental health needs, young victims, victims of stalking and harassment and elderly victims of burglary for example.

4.2 Survivors of sexual violence are supported through a countywide support offer which is funded through a pooled budget arrangement with two local authorities, NHS England and the Home Office. The latter comes in the form of 'devolved funding' with Cambridgeshire being one of five pilot areas to test enhanced local commissioning to better meet local needs. This service is currently provided by Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership. It will be re-commissioned during 2019. This process will be aligned with the re-commissioning of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre to ensure seamless pathways between services.

#### **5. Supporting victims of domestic abuse**

5.1 Support services for survivors of domestic abuse are primarily funded by the two local authorities with contributions from the Commissioner. However in the past two years funding gaps have been plugged by successful bids to central government funds. These funding streams, while bringing much needed service provision to the county, increase the gap which will be faced from April 2020. The current domestic abuse outreach provision and counselling offer for children affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence will not be funded post 2020.

5.2 It is also unclear if the core mainstream funding for the Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDVAs) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) co-ordinators who enable high risk victims to be safeguarded will be maintained at current levels. The Commissioner's office is working with the local authority in a bid to secure greater budget transparency and collectively mitigate against the future risks to vulnerable victims of crime.

#### **6 Recommendation**

6.1 The Board is recommended to note the funding awards made for service provision in 2019/20.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Nicky Phillipson, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning