



*'Supporting victims and witnesses'*

### **Supporting victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse**

This document sets out the Police and Crime Commissioner's intentions with regards to the commissioning of a **countywide support service for survivors of sexual violence**. This includes recent and historic victims of child sexual abuse.

This process will be carried out in tandem with the commissioning of the county's Sexual Assault Referral Centre. This document refers to the support service only.

### **Strategic background**

Police and Crime Commissioners took on responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime in 2014. The Ministry of Justice provide an annual grant for this purpose. This grant sets out that support be made available whether or not a victim has reported the crime they have experienced to police.

The Police and Crime Plan 2017-20 – Community Safety and Criminal Justice Commissioner has a series of shared outcomes under thematic headings (Victims, Offenders, Communities, Transformation) which were signed up to by partner agencies. The victims shared outcome commits that: 'Victims and witnesses are placed at the heart of the criminal justice system and have access to clear pathways of support'.

### **Commissioning and Grants Strategy 2016-20 - Key principles**

Cambridgeshire uses the 'Understand, Plan, Do, Review' commissioning cycle which is a continuous cycle of action and improvement. The Commissioning and Grants Strategy has a series of key principles which can be accessed [here](#). The OPCC will endeavour to influence the commissioning of co-dependent services to ensure they adhere to these principles.

### **Resources**

In Cambridgeshire the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner leads the commissioning of sexual violence support services on behalf of partner agencies. A pooled budget arrangement, with Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and NHS England, ensures best value is achieved and an equitable service provided.

Cambridgeshire is one of five areas selected to take part in a sexual violence local commissioning test with the Home Office. This means the county's allocation from the national Rape Support Fund is devolved to the Police and Crime Commissioner. This is not new money but allows the funds to be used to respond to local commissioning needs.

### **Commissioning Intentions**

Sexual violence and rape can have a significant and long-lasting impact on those who experience it. Being able to access the right support at a time which is right for a victim can be important to help them cope with their experience.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner intend to re-commission an all age and gender countywide support service for victims and survivors of sexual violence (to include child sexual abuse) during 2019.

The service will be commissioned in **one lot** with two separate elements:

- **An Independent Sexual Violence Advocate Service** – this will include provision for adults and children. It will also include an ISVA based in the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Huntingdon.
- **Emotional Support Service** – this will include all age and gender survivor-led support. It is expected that this will have a mixture of paid staff and volunteers and use innovation to ensure a single offer wherever a victim or survivor lives in the county.

This service is being re-commissioned alongside the Sexual Assault Referral Centre to take advantage of joined up engagement opportunities. However this will be separate lot to the support service.

Cambridgeshire has a county-wide **Victims Outcomes Framework**. The four outcomes of which are:

- Improved Health and Wellbeing
- Better able to cope with aspects of everyday life
- Increased feelings of safety
- Improved sense of empowerment (better informed)

## Commissioning Timeline

Year	Month	Activity
2019	June	Stakeholder discussions and current service review
	<b>July 22</b>	<b>Market Engagement Event</b>
	August 30	Tender made live
	October 9	Tender deadline
	December	Contract awarded
2020	January February March	Mobilisation period
	April	New contract goes live

### Guiding principles

The process will follow all procurement legislation and will be led by Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Joint Procurement Team. An OJEU notice will be published in August. Tender documents, which will include service specifications, will be published on Bluelight Tender Portal. <https://bluelight.eu-supply.com/>

Interested parties are required to register with Bluelight to be able to bid for this contract.

### Supporting victims of major crime or terrorism

Recipients of Victim Services funding in Cambridgeshire are required to provide reasonable support, in the form of employed staff or volunteers, to arrangements put in place so that victims of major crime incidents and family members resident in the police area are able to speedily access Specialist Services. Major crime incidents include terrorist attacks, and larger scale incidents resulting in multiple victims of crime. This may require staff to be based within the Victim and Witness Hub in Peterborough to provide this support for a time-limited period.

## Background Documents

- **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Plan**

<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/>

- **OPCC Commissioning and Grants Strategy**

<https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2019/03/Commissioning-and-Grants-Strategy-2016-20.pdf>

- **Cambridgeshire Victim Service Outcomes Framework**

<https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/media.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/uploads/2019/05/19-05-16-BCB-Agenda-Item-9.02-Victim-Services-Outcomes-Framework.pdf>

- **Cambridgeshire Victim Services Website**

<https://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk/>

- **Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse Services - Lifelong care for victims and survivors: 2018 – 2023**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/strategic-direction-sexual-assault-and-abuse-services.pdf>