



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Acting Chief Executive

Date: 02 July 2020

COVID-19 EXTRAORDINARY MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the process carried out by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to enable the award of this funding locally
- detail the services funded and arrangements to monitor and report on outcomes at the end of the funding period (October 31, 2020)

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

3. Background

3.1 On 2nd May 2020 the Government announced a package of £76m extra funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, vulnerable children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry of Justice (“the MoJ”) asked Police and Crime Commissioners to support the distribution of £20m of this funding in local areas.

3.2 Cambridgeshire was allocated a maximum of £288k ringfenced into the following three categories:

- Domestic abuse services – already commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner (£144k)

- Sexual Violence Support Services – including those already commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner and those who are not currently in receipt of funding from the Commissioner (£72k)
 - Domestic abuse services – not currently commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner (£72k)
- 3.3 The funding was “for March 24 to October 31, 2020 to meet the additional costs registered charities or social enterprises had incurred or expected to incur while adapting their services during the pandemic and to cope with demand increases resulting from it, during this time period”.
- 3.4 Local PCCs were asked to design a process to assess the need for this funding across their area and submit their proposed spends to the Ministry of Justice for approval.

4. Cambridgeshire Needs Assessment

- 4.1 The Cambridgeshire process opened on Friday 22nd May three days after receipt of the letter from the MoJ. A dedicated page was created on the Cambs PCC website (with links from the home page). A locally developed six-page guide clearly set out how the bids would be assessed in the county (attached at **Appendix 1**). Bidders were asked to email an expression of interest and complete and submit a short Excel form to justify their incurred and expected spends.
- 4.2 The OPCC in partnership with the local authority Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Team proactively contacted all known services operating in the county to make them aware of the fund. A communications campaign also raised further awareness in the county.
- 4.3 In Cambridgeshire the assessment criteria asked bidders to:
- meet the Government funding criteria set out in the guidance specifically:
 - organisational status
 - nature of primary service provision (must be DA/SV support only)
 - currently delivering services in the county
 - clearly evidence the need for additional financial support because of an increase in demand or because of COVID-19 has forced a change in working practices which incurred costs
 - demonstrate funding costs have been incurred between March 24 and May 21 or that funds can safely be spent within the specified time period (before October 31 2020)

The following was also considered:

- whether the organisation has been able to access any other sources of funding
- the risk to the continuation of service through Covid-induced cost pressures

For services not currently commissioned by the Acting Commissioner bidders were asked to:

- evidence they can deliver services in partnership with existing commissioned providers as part of the 'integrated model of support services in Cambridgeshire'
- evidence that they are not duplicating services already available
- clearly demonstrate that they have robust operating practices, governance and management arrangements in place to support vulnerable victims of crime (this could be supported by evidencing existing commissioning relationships with other statutory agencies and enables the Police and Crime Commissioner to partially fulfil the requirement for conducting 'due diligence')

4.4 The OPCC also checked all bidders on Spotlight, an online tool hosted by the UK Cabinet Office, that allows users to undertake due diligence checks on all organisations that bid and shares information between Government departments to prevent fraud and duplication of funding.

4.5 A process was put in place to evaluate bids if the totality exceeded the amount available allocating in line with the 'victim support elements' of the agreed core and enhanced offers set out in the county's **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategies**. However, this process was not required.

5 Successful Bids to the Fund

5.1 Cambridgeshire received 14 bids to the fund which were assessed by two experienced commissioners: the OPCC's Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning and the Local Authority Domestic Abuse Partnership Manager alongside an independent consultant. Recommendations were presented to the Acting Commissioner for sign off before being submitted to the Ministry of Justice for final approval.

5.2 The MoJ approved all awards and the following 12 organisations were made aware that they were successful on June 24. More details about each bid and the amount awarded is available at **Appendix 2**.

- **Cambridge & Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership**
- **The Meadows Children and Family Wing**
- **Choices**
- **One Voice 4 Travellers**
- **NSPCC**
- **Refuge**
- **Peterborough Women's Aid**
- **Family Action**
- **The Hampton Trust (Hampshire and The Isle of Wight)**
- **Embrace Child Victims of Crime**
- **Cambridge Women's Aid**

- **Cambridgeshire Deaf Association**

5.3 Bids from two national organisations were not approved for funding.

6. Arrangements to monitor and report on outcomes

6.1 All successful bidders were asked to sign a local Victims Services Grant Agreement and made aware of the requirement to complete an Outcome Monitoring form at the end of the funding period (October 31, 2020). The data required is set by the MoJ who are the ultimate funders. However, it is hoped that this will enable commissioners to develop a better understanding of the demand for services met by local grassroots organisations who are not formally commissioned locally. Interim contract meetings will be arranged to support organisations unfamiliar with formal reporting mechanisms.

7. Recommendations

7.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Appendices	Appendix 1 – Extraordinary Covid DA/SV Fund – Local Guidance Appendix 2 – Extraordinary Covid DA/SV Fund – Successful bids
Contact Officer(s)	Nicky Phillipson, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning