

Decision Maker: Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder
For Pre-decision scrutiny by the PP&S PDS Committee on

Date: 5th November 2013

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: **REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM TENDERING FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME**

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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environment and Community Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

To set out the background and current funding situation for the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme and present reasons for the request that the project be exempt from usual tendering procedures.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a. That permission is given to exempt the project from the usual tendering process.
- b. That approval is given to award the contract for the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme to TRYangle for 2013/14-2016/17 (backdated) subject to performance and continued MOPAC funding.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: This project falls within the Community Safety Strategy, Domestic Abuse Strategy, and Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy (due to be published April 2014)
 2. BBB Priority: Safer Bromley: This project improves safety for victims of domestic abuse, any children in the family and increases conviction rates for perpetrators.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost: up to £120k over four years from 2013/14
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost: Contract to run until 2016/17 subject to performance and ongoing MOPAC funding.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Public Protection & Safety Portfolio Budgets
 4. Total current budget for this head: £120k
 5. Source of funding: MOPAC Grant and Police contribution
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): No LBB staff.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Approximately 4hrs per week of Domestic Abuse Strategy Coordinator's time to manage contract.
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
This project falls under regional strategy from MOPAC - "The Way Forward: Taking action to end violence against women and girls 2010 - 2013" (updated version due to be published November 2013) and national strategy from the Home Office "Ending violence against women and girls: action plan 2013"
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Targeted 30 male perpetrators plus their partners or ex-partners per year; with indirect benefits for any children in the families.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Funding has been secured through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to fund a full perpetrator programme as piloted in the borough in 2012/13. The programme is to be delivered across Bromley and Lewisham and funded equally by each borough.
- 3.2 A pilot programme was commissioned following several audits in the borough which revealed that although victims of domestic abuse have good access to services in Bromley, there was no provision for perpetrators of domestic abuse who wish to change their behaviour; that approximately 60% of child protection cases in Bromley feature significant levels of domestic abuse, and that over 60% of all contacts to Children's Social Care are from Police identifying concerns for children as a result of domestic abuse. In consultations with Children's Social Care social workers consistently stressed the need for perpetrator provision in the borough, recounting a significant number of families where the perpetrator is willing to engage in services, but that there are none which they are able to offer.
- 3.3 Additionally the Police identified informally that a number of men in Bromley can be considered 'serial perpetrators', in that they have been abusive of more than one partner, and although services have been successful in supporting their victims, there are no services available should they wish to change their behaviour.
- 3.4 The pilot was commissioned on the basis that perpetrator work is essential in order to tackle domestic abuse at its source, preventing re-offending and re-victimisation and reducing the number of children subject to child protection proceedings due to domestic abuse.
- 3.5 The 2012/2013 a pilot was jointly funded by Children's Social Care, Community Safety and Bromley Metropolitan Police. This programme was favourably evaluated - although the sample was small it illustrated that 75% of the couples who engaged reported reduced or eliminated levels of abuse three months after the programme finished.
- 3.6 MOPAC funding has been secured for 66% of the Bromley funding for the programme – for 2013/14 the Police have already contributed the additional funding and work is in progress to identify funds for 2014/15-2016/17.
- 3.7 The programme is being split equally in access and funding with the London Borough of Lewisham. This approach has meant a full programme can be commissioned serving both boroughs and eliminating any need for clients to wait in order to be able to join the programme. The project will comprise of a 24-week rolling programme for male perpetrators of domestic abuse, along with up to 20 individual counselling sessions for each participant. This programme will challenge abusive beliefs and behaviours, examine communication skills and anger management techniques and seek to raise understanding of the effects of abuse on children in the household. A parallel support group will run for their female partners or ex-partners to enhance their safety by increasing their knowledge of domestic abuse, raise their self-esteem and provide safety-planning advice. Up to 20 individual counselling sessions will also be available to the women and they will have access to a support worker in between sessions.
- 3.8 The following targets have been agreed with MOPAC as outcomes for the Bromley users of the project, and these will be reported quarterly and reviewed with MOPAC regarding ongoing funding:

Measure	Baseline	2013/14 Target	Evidence
Number of referrals	16 referrals (pilot)	100 minimum	Referral statistics
Percentage of referrals engaged	25%	>40%	Referral statistics
Percentage of referrals completing	25%	>30%	Referral statistics
Perpetrator's assessment of changes in their behaviour	75%	>70% state reduced abusive behaviours	Self-reported
Victim's feelings of safety	N/A	>70% report increased feelings of safety	Self-reported
Referring professional's assessment of changes in behaviour	N/A	>60% state reduced abusive behaviours	Referrer
Referring professional's assessment of impact on any children	N/A	>60% report positive impact on children	Referrer
Any changes in child protection involvement	N/A	>70% have reduced child protection involvement	Referrer
Referrals to MARAC for families engaged in the programme	N/A	>80% have no MARAC referrals within a year of completing programme	MARAC coordinator
Police involvement	N/A	>80% have no Police involvement within a year of completing programme	MARAC coordinator

3.9 It is requested that this project be exempt from the full tendering process for the following reasons:

- TRYangle were commissioned for the pilot programme on the basis of being the only local provider for this specialised work.
- TRYangle have already been engaged by Lewisham through their procurement process, and began delivering the programme for both boroughs in April 2013 pending confirmation of funding from MOPAC.
- The grant from MOPAC was approved on the basis that TRYangle are the preferred provider.
- There are no identified local organisations with the knowledge or partnerships necessary to deliver this service.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This project falls within the Community Safety Strategy, Domestic Abuse Strategy, and Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy (due to be published April 2014).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In accordance with 13.1 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, approval is sought from the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder for the exemption of the project from competitive tendering process. The reasons are set out in 3.9 of the report.
- 5.2 The value of the contract is estimated to be up to £120k, fully funded from MOPAC grant and a contribution from the Police covering a four year period, subject to the delivery of specific agreed outcomes.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel and Legal Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	