

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 ADVOCACY PROJECT**

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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 Advocacy Project 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 Advocacy Project to Victim Support for 2014/15-2016/17 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 £360k over three years from 2014/15
 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: £360k
 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): Average of 200 victims referred each year, plus 1000 young people attending workshops. Total expected 3,600 over the life of the contract; with additional impact on an estimated 300 perpetrators and 1,200 children of victims.
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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 continue to deliver the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project (DAAP) which has been in place in the borough since 2007. This project will amalgamate two separate agreements previously funded through LAA reward monies and Community Safety.
- 3.2 The project will employ three Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDAAs) who will work predominantly with high risk victims of domestic abuse involved in the criminal justice system, and additionally provide support for medium-high risk victims who have not reported to the Police, provide preventative and awareness work with young people in the borough, and work closely with colleagues in health to improve identification and early intervention through health services. The service will be arranged so approximately 2.0 FTE IDAAs are allocated to Police and criminal justice work, based primarily in the Police Station and receiving the majority of their referrals from the Police; with 1.0 FTE IDAA providing community, health, and preventative work.
- 3.3 This project exists to increase victim safety and improve conviction rates for domestic abuse crimes by providing dedicated support, advocacy and advice to victims from their first point of contact with the Police and to victims in the community.3.4 The Home Office initiative Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in Bromley has been established since 2007 and consistently performed above the targets set by Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) for reducing repeat victimisation; with national data showing an average of 24% repeats and Bromley performing at 14% in 2012/13 – indicating that the interventions put in place are effective in reducing risk. The MARAC model recommended the appointment of IDAAs to provide independent risk assessment and support to victims, guide them through the criminal justice system and provide the victims' voice at MARAC meetings. One of the core outcomes for IDAA work is to reduce victims withdrawing support for prosecutions – the most significant reason for domestic abuse cases discontinuing.
- 3.4 IDAAs in Bromley have made a significant positive difference to conviction rates for domestic abuse crimes in the borough. Prior to the project beginning in April 2007 domestic abuse conviction rates averaged 12% (the accepted baseline rate at the beginning of the project), below is the progression since then, with performance consistently exceeding the target to increase convictions by 0.5% per year.

Year	Domestic Abuse Conviction Rate
2006/07	12.00%
2007/08	53.91%
2008/09	56.58%
2009/10	58.02%
2010/11	59.31%
2011/12	60.27%
2012/13	64.70%
2013/14 Q1	69.00%

- 3.5 In addition to conviction outcomes national research by CAADA has found that IDAA intervention results in a swift reduction of risk for victims, and that at point of exit from the service 63% of victims were not experiencing any abuse. 80% reported a reduction in physical abuse, 84% a reduction in sexual abuse, 63% a reduction in harassment and stalking, and 68% a reduction in jealous and controlling behaviours. Along with self-reporting CAADA found that IDAAs judged that there was moderate or significant reduction in risk for 74% of victims; and that this risk reduction was sustainable in medium to long term for 71% of those.

- 3.6 Subject to new arrangements with Kings having taken over the Princess Royal University Hospital it is planned that an IDAA can be located in A&E one day a week, extending this provision into ante-natal services if it is successful after one year. Locating an IDVA in health services is a national recommendations from CAADA in order to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable and hard to reach victims. CAADA estimate that vulnerable victims and those with complex needs are most likely to be identified through health settings and that this project will improve early intervention and therefore risk reduction. (CAADA – A Place of Greater Safety – Nov 2012). In addition this collocation will provide health staff with a greater awareness of domestic abuse and training will be given as part of the implementation of this project.
- 3.7 The following targets and outcomes have been agreed with MOPAC as measures of success and these will be reported quarterly and on-going targets se.

Measure	Baseline	2013/14 Target	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target	Evidence
Increase in conviction rate by 0.5% per year	64.7% (2012/13)	65.2%	65.7%	66.2%	66.7%	CPS
Increase in MARAC referrals from health services	Baseline TBD	+5 (TBD)	TBD	TBD	TBD	MARAC records
Delivery of prevention workshops to young people	N/A	1000	1100	1210	1331	Victim Support records
Satisfaction with service (>80% satisfaction)	N/A	>80%	TBD	TBD	TBD	Self-reported
Feelings of safety (>60% report increase)	N/A	>60%	TBD	TBD	TBD	Self-reported
Awareness of help available (>60% report increase)	N/A	>60%	TBD	TBD	TBD	Self-reported
Confidence (>60% report increase)	N/A	>60%	TBD	TBD	TBD	Self-reported
Feeling positive about the future (>60% report increase)	N/A	>60%	TBD	TBD	TBD	Self-reported

3.8 An agreement is already in place for two thirds of this project (funded through LAA reward monies) until 31/03/14, and a top-up amount has been awarded by MOPAC for this year to allow a full service to be delivered. These are subject to separate service level agreements and this report pertains to the creation of a new contract for the entire service to run from April 2014 to March 2017 subject to performance and continued MOPAC funding.

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

- Victim Support have delivered the project successfully since 2007, exceeding all targets. As there were serious delays in MOPAC completing the grant process Victim Support have continued to provide this service from April 2013 to date without any contract in order to maintain continuity of support for victims.
- The grant from MOPAC was approved on the basis that Victim Support are the preferred provider.
- A critical factor in the successful delivery of this project is co-location in the Police Station with access to Police systems allowing them to track cases and keep victims informed – this access is difficult to set up and Victim Support are a trusted partner of the Police.
- There are no identified local organisations with the knowledge or partnerships necessary to deliver this service.

- Victim Support are the most prolific deliverer of domestic abuse advocacy services across London, managing XX advocates across XX boroughs.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 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”.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 For 2013/14 the project is being delivered through two separate agreements and is being funded from LAA Reward grant £80k, Home Office grant £20k, Police contribution of up to £6k and MOPAC grant of £21k.
- 5.2 In accordance with 13.1 of the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules, approval is sought from the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder to the exemption of the project from the competitive tendering process. The reasons are set out in 3.9 of the report.
- 5.3 The value of the contract is estimated to be up to £360k over a three year period from April 2014 to March 2017, fully funded by MOPAC grant and a contribution from the Police, subject to the delivery of specific agreed outcomes.

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