

Decision Maker: **Executive**

Date: **9th September 2015**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **SCHOOLS PROGRAMME, VOLUNTEER MANAGER, AND
RESETTLEMENT OFFICER - DRAWDOWN**

Contact Officer: Rob Vale, Head of Trading Standards & Community Safety
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director of Environmental and Community Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The report requests the release of funds secured through the Department for Communities and Local Government Preventing Homelessness Grant for 2014/15 and 2015/16.
 - 1.2 The report sets out the background of the service currently provided and the justification for the exemption from tendering process.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **The Executive is asked to**

- a) **approve the drawdown of the sum of £60,000 held in Central Contingency and allocate to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Budget for 2015/16.**
- b) **approve the award of the contract for to provide a Schools Programme, Volunteer Manager and Resettlement Officer to Bromley Women's Aid**
- c) **agree to carry forward any residual balance of the year two grant into 2016/17 to enable BWA to deliver the project**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Aims and outcomes of this project fall within the Domestic Abuse Strategy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Safer Bromley Supporting Independence:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £60,000
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Budget
 4. Total current budget for this head: £60,000
 5. Source of funding: Department for Communities and Local Government
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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 4 hrs per week of the Domestic Abuse & VAWG Commissioner's time to manage the contract.
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The number of women and children BWA support each year is relatively consistent at 90 women and more than 100 children.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: NA

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Funding for this project has been secured by the London Borough of Bromley through the Department for Communities and Local Government Preventing Homelessness Grant. Bromley Women's Aid led on developing the bid and DCLG awarded the grant to LBB on the understanding the BWA would be delivering the project. The total funding amounts to £86,570. £26,570 was received at the end of 2014/15 and a further £60,000 will be received during 2015/16.
- 3.2 Due to the late timing of the award and receipt of the first tranche, there was insufficient time to spend it before the end of 2014/15. The Executive approved the request to carry forward the initial allocation until 2015/16 and the Portfolio Holder approved the release of the carry forward sum in June 2015. As the award of the contract will not be made until September, the funding will have to be carried forward to 2016/17 in order to deliver the project.

Description of the service provided

- 3.3 BWA has been piloting a Schools Programme through another funding stream for the last two years, though this funding has now ended. Their 'healthy relationship' programme was delivered in 16 primary schools for 2,300 children in year 3-6 within the Bromley Borough. Prevention & early intervention has been identified as one of the key measures to combat and prevent domestic abuse. The programme was delivered in a one hour session in the children's classroom in a familiar and comfortable surrounding with their teacher present.
- 3.4 Any children disclosing domestic abuse during the session were flagged up to the school's safeguarding lead and offered one to one support by a Bromley Women's Aid Child Support Officer funded by Children in Need.
- 3.5 This additional project funding will allow BWA to expand the Schools Programme and also employ a Volunteer Manager and Resettlement Officer in order to expand their support service for the next two years, with built in targets for securing ongoing funding.
- 3.6 The project aims to improve the scope and range of support available within BWA's services, ensuring women are able to move out of a refuge as soon as they are ready into a range of different housing options, rather than waiting for a local authority housing offer.
- 3.7 The grant will be used to fund the project for a period of up to 18 months to 31.3.17 through an SLA contract with BWA.

Schools Programme

- 3.8 This programme is delivered by BWA in partnership with local authority schools to develop awareness of healthy relationships and raise awareness of domestic violence. The funding will provide a part time officer to continue the prevention through local primary schools and to extend the programme to older children in secondary within Bromley.
- 3.9 Early identification and intervention in cases of domestic abuse may mean that refuge accommodation is not needed because the right support is given early on, allowing bed spaces to be accessed by those in most urgent need.

Volunteer Manager

- 3.10 The funding will create a new part time post of Volunteer Manager to manage the recruitment, training and placement of 20 new volunteer resources. Volunteer resources are vital to help reduce reliance on Council funding and to maintain and improve services in the future. The

volunteers will support women and their children, both in their accommodation and the resettlement process, in matters around health and social care, language translation, education and employment. Ex-service users or women who have experienced domestic abuse will also be encouraged to become volunteers.

Resettlement Officer

3.11 This post will support the move on process, providing practical help directed at achieving independent living. This will allow bed spaces to be freed up more quickly and reduce the likelihood of move on arrangements breaking down.

Justification for Exemption to the tendering process

3.12 Funding for this project was sought specifically for the BWA by LBB after BWA identified the funding opportunity and led on the application process. The service specification and project plans have been developed by BWA and the grant was awarded on the understanding that BWA would be delivering the project.

3.13 There are no known other local providers with the capacity, knowledge or skill set to provide this area of work.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This project falls within the Domestic Abuse Strategy.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The grant allocation is one off funding from the DCLG to fund the delivery of the project, via BWA for up to a period of 18 months. There are no restrictions on carrying forward the funding to future years in order to deliver the project.

5.2 In total, a sum of £86,570 has been allocated by the DCLG to Bromley. A sum of £26,570 was received during 2014/15 and has been carried forward to 2015/16. Approval is sought from the Executive to draw down the remaining £60,000 from the Central Contingency and to carry forward any balance of funding to 2016/17, in order to deliver the project.

5.3 In accordance with 13.1 of the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules, approval is sought from the Executive for the exemption of the project from the competitive tendering process, for the reasons outline in 3.12 and 3.13 of the report.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 General management of this project will be undertaken by the Domestic Abuse & VAWG Commissioner, who will be responsible for liaising with the DCLG regarding targets, outcomes and payments. To date, no guidance has been received from the DCLG on targets, although the funding for 2015/16 has been allocated to LBB.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Funding Application to Department for Communities and Local Government