

CABINET

15 January 2019

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES - OPTIONS FOR FUTURE PROVISION

Report of the Strategic Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Reaching our Full Potential	
Key Decision: Yes	Forward Plan Reference: FP/161118	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr A Walters, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding - Adults, Public Health, Health, Commissioning , Community Safety including Road Safety	
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DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the work being undertaken to recommission the domestic abuse and sexual violence services for the future across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
2. Approves the request to undertake public consultation on the potential structure for services.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommissioning work undertaken so far for the future provision of domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Rutland and the plans for completing the recommissioning work including subsequent procurement, and the request to undertake a public consultation on the potential models of service provision.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The local authority is responsible for providing services to address domestic abuse and sexual violence. The work cuts across all areas of the People Directorate's remit, and currently sits under the auspices of Community Safety.

3 CURRENT PROVISION OF THE SERVICE

- 3.1 Rutland currently jointly contracts with Leicester City and Leicestershire County Councils and the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for domestic abuse and sexual violence (DA/SV) services. Leicester City Council manage the contract on behalf of all the commissioners.

- 3.2 The service is provided by a consortium of voluntary sector providers known as UAVA (United Against Violence and Abuse), which includes: Living Without Abuse, FreeVa, and Women's Aid Leicestershire. The contract commenced in 2016 and has been extended to 31st March 2020 to allow time for the recommissioning to be undertaken.

- 3.3 The current service consists of:

- Individual and group support for high risk and medium risk victims of both domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- Therapeutic interventions for adults and teenagers;
- Awareness raising, training and education for professionals and the wider public;
- Telephone helpline for professionals and victims.

- 3.4 In addition to the main contract, across LLR there are a range of other smaller contracts and projects being undertaken to address DA/SV. Within Rutland these are:

- Freedom Programme - groupwork with victims of domestic abuse to support their recovery.
- Spot-purchasing of therapeutic support for children under 13 years who have witnessed domestic abuse within their home

- 3.5 Over the lifetime of the current contract, there has been increasing demand across LLR and in Rutland specifically, and future services provision will need to take account of how this can be met within available resources.

4 CHALLENGES

- 4.1 During the lifetime of the contract thus far, there have been a number of challenges: the service has struggled to meet demand and additional funding was provided by all commissioners, other than Rutland, in 2017 to increase capacity. This additional funding was proportionate on where demand had increased. The knock-on impact of increased demand in other areas of LLR has been that visibility of the service in Rutland has reduced.
- 4.2 The breadth of services required to meet the range of possible needs for DA/SV means that it would not be feasible to have a standalone service for Rutland, however it is clear that any service model moving forward needs to balance the breadth of provision with the needs in Rutland, and ensure that greater demand elsewhere does not reduce capacity locally.
- 4.3 Alongside the directly commissioned support services, there are a number of support services commissioned and/or delivered by other statutory partners including the police and NHS England. Any services commissioned through this process must ensure that they complement these and that pathways between are consistent and appropriate.

5 RECOMMISSIONING PLANS

- 5.1 An LLR DA/SV Redesign Group has been established with representatives of each of the commissioners and from Public Health for Leicestershire and Rutland. This group reports up to a Governance Group comprising of the Lead Members from each local authority and chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 5.2 A plan has been agreed for the recommissioning, including the proposed timeframe within which the procurement will be undertaken to ensure service contract(s) are awarded in time for new services to commence from 1st April 2020. It is anticipated that the service model will be tabled at Cabinet in July for approval.
- 5.3 Stakeholder consultation sessions were held with current providers, and other stakeholders from a range of providers across LLR in October 2018 to understand both the challenges of current provision and what is working well.
- 5.4 Service user engagement has been led by the Leicester City Domestic Abuse Coordinator to ensure views and feedback from service users across LLR are included as the new service model is designed.
- 5.5 Following the stakeholder workshops, the themes were analysed by the Redesign Group to start to inform potential future options. A further workshop was held in December 2018 to engage current and potential providers and wider stakeholders to then hone the potential options for future delivery.
- 5.6 During the consultation (as set out below in Section 6), further specific work will be undertaken with stakeholders and service users in Rutland to ensure the widest possible views are taken into consideration and there is a detailed understanding of Rutland specific needs and demand.
- 5.7 Following consultation the final service model will be developed and this along with the plan for procurement will be tabled at Cabinet for approval in July 2019.

6 THE CONSULTATION ON FUTURE SERVICES

6.1 The consultation will be undertaken across LLR and request views against the key elements identified through the workshops as being central to any future service:

- a) Whether sexual violence support and domestic abuse support should be separate or combined

Whether services are best placed to deliver support across both sexual violence and domestic abuse or whether the two should be split into specialist services in their own right, and how this might impact on victims where they have experienced both. There are different views as to whether support can cover both or whether different skills and knowledge is needed by services to best support victims. It will also impact on links with services such as the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) – a specialist support and forensic service which is only for sexual violence and is commissioned by NHS England and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- b) Whether services for children and adults should be separate or combined

Again, there are arguments for and against: whether splitting creates an artificial line between victims who may have very similar support needs and where the cut-off should come; whether the skills to work with a child or young person who has been a victim and the types of support are similar or whether they are too different to combine; how splitting the service into adults' and children's might impact on work with families where children have witnessed parental violence.

- c) The need for a 'specialist' front door

There is agreement that there needs to be a single front door into sexual violence and domestic abuse support services in order to minimise duplication and ensure ease of access for both victims and perpetrators. There are differing views as to whether this needs to be specific to a domestic abuse/sexual violence service or whether this might be better placed with a wider service access point such as Victims First.

- d) Single care coordination/case management throughout a victim's journey

This refers to where the split between different elements of service might be made or whether support workers are allocated a case at the point of referral into a support service and are able to then remain working with that individual until they no longer require support regardless of their risk or support needs.

- e) Maintaining strategic links and ensuring effective inter-agency working

Given the range of services and geographical area which the service(s) needs to cover, the potential need for a specific post or remit to maintain strategic links and oversight of inter-agency working, rather than this be part and parcel of a wider role(s), and the consequential impact.

f) Locality-based provision

How the service(s) should be based within localities and the extent to which specialist workers might be co-located with other services or agencies in localities to support equity of access. There were a range of views of how and whether this might work, who might be appropriate to co-locate with, and the extent to which this might diffuse limited provision.

g) Specialist specialist provision

During the initial workshops there were a number of perceived gaps identified for very specific victim and perpetrator groups: for example a refuge for BME victims. Given the resources limitations, the extent to which these are necessary to meet need or whether services should have provision in place to meet all needs across the community.

- 6.2 The consultation will proposed to run for 13 weeks from 12th February 2019, subject to agreement from all commissioning bodies.
- 6.3 The consultation will be undertaken by web-based survey, supplemented in Rutland by hard copy surveys and open public engagement events to ensure as wide an opportunity as possible to hear views from both professionals and (potential) service users.
- 6.4 Additionally, commissioners will use the period during consultation to consider the format and contract arrangements which will best enable the effective management of the contract, hold provider(s) to account for delivery in Rutland, and achieve the economies of scale needed to provide a comprehensive service.
- 6.5 Following the consultation, the commissioners will design the service model based on the feedback and views, the demand and level of need, and good practice. It is anticipated that the approval of the service delivery model and the request to go to procurement for the services will be tabled at Cabinet in July 2019 to enable the procurement to be undertaken a new contract(s) to start from 1st April 2020.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 No consultation has been carried out on request to go to consultation on the service model.
- 7.2 Consultation has been undertaken as set out in section 6.3 – 6.7 to design the potential service delivery model elements to be consulted on.
- 7.3 During the consultation, the options and plans for recommissioning will be presented to the Scrutiny Panels for Children and for Adults for their comments.

8 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1 The option of re-procuring the existing service was rejected on the basis that it is not believed to offer the best service for Rutland residents.
- 8.2 Given the likely change to services, the council has a duty to consult in order to take

into account the potential impact of any changes of Rutland residents.

9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In total across LLR, there is currently c£2m per year spent on support and intervention services, of which c£60,000 is from Rutland. The recommissioning is not intended to provide any savings to Rutland.
- 9.2 There are no direct financial implications from undertaking the consultation.

10 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The council has a duty to consult and this consultation will ensure that the council meets its obligations.

11 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) screening has been completed for Rutland.

12 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken on the consultation document to ensure that there are no adverse impacts of the consultation and it is accessible.

13 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 Domestic abuse and sexual violence sit under the remit of Community Safety within Rutland County Council. The redesign of services will improve the safety for residents.

14 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The redesign of services will improve the safety and wellbeing of residents experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence.

15 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The recommissioning of DA/SV services is designed to improve the service offer available to Rutland residents and make it more accessible, thereby reducing the impact which domestic abuse and sexual violence have in Rutland on both individuals and the wider community.
- 15.2 The consultation will enable commissioners to take into account as many views as possible, including those of service users, to ensure that a service model is designed which is fit for purpose, meets needs and addresses current challenges with the services.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 There are no background papers to the report.

17 APPENDICES

17.1 There are no appendices.

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