

CABINET

16th March 2021

RECOMMISSIONING OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SERVICES

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Strategic Aim:	Protecting the Vulnerable	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/150121	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr Alan Walters Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding – Adults, Public Health, Health Commissioning and Community Safety.	
Contact Officer(s):	Dawn Godfrey, Director of Children's Services.	Telephone 01572 email dgodfrey@rutland.gov.uk
	Susan-Louise Hope, Strategic Commissioner, Public Health	Telephone 0116 3052683 email susan-louise.hope@leics.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	Not applicable	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the procurement model and overarching award criteria for the Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Services for Rutland.
2. Authorise the Director for Children's Services and the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding – Adults, Public Health, Health Commissioning & Community Safety to approve the final Award Criteria.
3. Authorise the Director for Children's Services and the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding – Adults, Public Health, Health Commissioning & Community Safety to approve the contract award.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the recommissioning of Domestic and Sexual Violence Abuse Services (DSVA) in conjunction with Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime

Commissioner (OPCC); to set out its progress to date including the procurement model, indicative timetable for completion, and overarching award criteria, along with recommendations for approval and delegation regarding final award criteria and final contract award.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 Rutland County Council is responsible for the provision of services to address domestic and sexual violence and abuse. This area of work is cross cutting through all areas of the People's Directorate's remit of responsibility and currently sits under the auspices of Children's Service.

3 CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION

3.1 The current contract commenced in 2016 and has been extended until 31st March 2022 to allow for review and recommissioning to be undertaken. The services are provided by a consortium of voluntary sector organisations known as UAVA (United Against Violence and Abuse) which includes the following providers: FreeVa, Living Without Abuse and Women's Aid Leicestershire.

3.2 The service consists of the following elements:

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

3.3 The contract is jointly commissioned by Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; Leicester City Council manage the contract on behalf of all the commissioners. There is an administrative charge payable to Leicester City Council for their contract management function.

3.4 The current contractual structure is calculated proportionately to each local authority's size, as is each partner's financial contribution, however it can have a city-centric feel due to stretching services across the wide geographic area of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland from centralised locations.

3.5 There are some additional separate services commissioned individually by the three local authorities; in Rutland these are:

- Freedom Programme – group-work 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.

These are currently funded from Community Safety funding.

3.2 The current contract value for 2021/22 is £58,503. There is also an administrative

cost payable to Leicester City Council for contract management of £2,100 per annum.

4 PROCUREMENT MODEL

- 4.1 The procurement will be a single stage open procurement under an LLR joint working arrangement of the three local authorities and the OPCC. This enables partners to achieve economies of scale and ensures a co-ordinated pathway across different service provision and different geographical areas and needs. It allows partners to retain control of specific elements of commissioned services for their locality including contract management and performance monitoring whilst ensuring a co-ordinated 'whole system' approach to overall delivery.
- 4.2 Appendix A sets out the service model and indicates which party is leading each element's procurement and the funding contributions procurement of the specialist support service for Rutland and Leicestershire will be led by Leicestershire County Council, where responsibility for DSVAs sits within the Public Health Department.
- 4.3 As Leicestershire will hold the contract for this service on behalf of both, the contract monitoring post-award will be undertaken by Public Health as part of our wider Service Level Agreement with them. It will therefore not incur any additional cost.
- 4.4 The duration of the contracts is proposed to be 4 years from 1st April 2022 with an option to extend for a further 2 years. This enables time for the new service to 'bed in'. The indicative timetable is set out in Appendix B.
- 4.5 The overarching award criteria are detailed in Appendix C. The criteria have been developed to ensure that providers successful in the procurement have the necessary capabilities to meet the requirements of the service specifications and will be able to deliver services in Rutland of an appropriate standard and quality.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Two soft market tests were conducted over 2019 and 2020 to inform the development of the service model. The first of these was to look at the overall service viability and service model. The second looked at the viability of a shared case management system and the necessary information sharing required across providers and how this could be done appropriately in line with data protection legislation. The response from the market was positive in both cases indicating a level of potential provider interest.
- 5.2 In addition, public consultation was undertaken in 2019 which included current service user experience, and has informed the service model.
- 5.3 The Portfolio Holder has been consulted.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Alternative options were considered and rejected.
- 6.2 A Rutland stand-alone service would not be viable for providers to deliver given the range of services required.

- 6.3 A sub-regional approach with commissioning partners was considered the best option for maximising available funding, achieving economies of a scale and comprising an attractive procurement prospect for the market. This also allows the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to contribute fairly and take specific responsibility for some elements of the service.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The proposed value per annum is £58,000 for the support service, with the £2,000 saved on contract monitoring costs retained in the domestic abuse budget for the spot-purchase of perpetrator interventions and to meet identified need where internal services are supporting victims. This retains the budget at the current level and allows a small saving of £600 from the overall value. The £2,000 retained in the budget will be reviewed after the first year of the new service to ascertain the extent to which it is needed going forward.
- 7.2 The budget sits within Children's Services' Safeguarding cost centre and is funded from General Fund. It is proposed that any one-off additional costs during the first year to support TUPE obligations are met through the Public Health Reserves.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The procurement process is in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Public Procurement Regulations 2019.
- 8.2 The contractual framework is detailed in Appendix A. For the elements which are LLR, the proposal is to have a single contract to which all the parties are signatories. For the Leicestershire and Rutland services, the proposal is to have a single contract to which both parties are signatories.
- 8.3 The full tender documentation, including the contractual documentation, is under development and there will be legal input from Rutland prior to the procurement going live.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed, but is underway and will be completed prior to the procurement.
- 9.2 Data Protection implications have been considered throughout the recommissioning process.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening document will be completed prior to procurement. From previous Domestic and Sexual violence and abuse procurements, it is not anticipated that there will be any areas of concern.

11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires councils to take account of community safety implications. Addressing domestic violence and abuse and supporting victims is a priority of the Safer Rutland Partnership Strategy.

- 11.2 Robust partnership relationships with the criminal justice services are important to ensure that victims are responded to swiftly and appropriately to ensure their safety and security, and that there are appropriate interventions with perpetrators.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 DSVAs have wide reaching implications on the health and wellbeing of victims and those around them such as their children. Victims and others affected are more likely to experience health inequalities and poor health outcomes.
- 12.2 Children who are victims or witnesses are more likely to have poor educational attainment which will further exasperate health inequalities.
- 12.3 Drug and alcohol, and mental health issues may feature in the profile of both victim and perpetrator so linkages into the specialist agencies are key to ensuring a holistic, person centred and recovery focussed approach.

13 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 Human Resource implications
- 13.1.1 The Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment Regulations 2006 amended (TUPE) is likely to apply to staff working on contracts that fall within the scope of the procurement. TUPE information will be included in the ITT and providers will be required to undertake due diligence in accordance with their legal responsibilities.
- 13.2 Procurement Implications
- 13.2.1 The overarching award criteria at time of writing are detailed in Appendix C. Cabinet are requested to authorise approval of the final award criteria to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Director of Public Health and the Portfolio Holders for Public Health and Children's Services, this is in order for there to be no delays to the publication of the Invitation to Tender due to Purdah.

14 SOCIAL VALUE

- 14.1 Under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 local authorities are required to consider how economic, social, and environmental well-being may be improved by services that are to be procured, and how procurement may secure those improvements.
- 14.2 Contained within the overarching award criteria is a specific section referencing Social Value and providers will need to consider how they can deliver added value that will support the local economy, contribute to improving the local environment and reduce the future demand for public services.

15 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The provision of services to address domestic and sexual violence and abuse and to support to those experiencing and/or fleeing from DSVAs are positive interventions to meet the health needs of Rutland residents the effect of which will

impact on individuals and those around them. Collaboration with the Safer Rutland Partnership, partner agencies and departments of Rutland County Council will serve to strengthen efforts to improve the health outcomes and reduce inequalities in Rutland as a result of DSVA.

15.2 For the procurement process to commence on schedule it is recommended that:

15.2.1 Cabinet approve the procurement model and overarching award criteria;

Cabinet authorise the Director for Children's Services and the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding – Adults, Public Health, Health Commissioning & Community Safety to approve the final award criteria. The criteria have been developed to ensure that providers successful in the procurement have the necessary capabilities to meet the requirements of the service specification and will be able to deliver services in Rutland of an appropriate standard and quality.

15.2.2 Cabinet authorise the Director for Children's Services and the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding – Adults, Public Health, Health Commissioning & Community Safety to approve the contract award.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

17 APPENDICES

17.1 Appendix A Service Model and Contracts Structure

17.2 Appendix B Indicative Timetable

17.3 Appendix C Overarching Award Criteria.

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

Appendix A. Service Model and Contracts Structure

Helpline and engagement service

The helpline and engagement service will be the main access point for victims of domestic abuse/sexual violence and as such it will offer a “front door” to other support services (particularly those listed below). The Helpline and Engagement service will include a telephone helpline including webchat, assertive engagement and provision of a dedicated worker who will help to guide individuals on their support journey. It will also act as a front door for those being abusive in their relationships who wish to change and third parties concerned about those who might be in this situation.

Domestic Violence and Abuse Service; Sexual Violence and Abuse Service

Offer more intensive and specialist support and information to victims aged 16+. Support will be tailored to individual and specific needs including support throughout the criminal and civil justice system.

Perpetrator interventions

Seek to challenge the abusive behaviour of perpetrators and offers them an opportunity to access advice and support to help them to address this behaviour. This service will include longer term interventions to change abusive behaviour and shorter term out of court disposal workshops (for those perpetrators dealt a conditional caution through the Police).

Accommodation services

Leicester and Leicestershire - a variety of accommodation options for victims currently without safe housing, until they can secure safe longer-term accommodation.

Rutland - accommodation needs will continue to primarily be met via housing options

Children and Young People (CYP) specific support

Within individual local authorities
Children's Services

Provision	Lots	Contracts	Funding party	Procurement Leads
Helpline and Engagement	Single	LLR	PCC	PCC
Domestic Violence and Abuse Service	City	City	City	City
	County & Rutland	County & Rutland	County	County
			Rutland	
Sexual Violence and Abuse Service	Single	LLR	PCC	PCC
Perpetrator Interventions Framework	City	City	City	City for Framework + call off
			PCC	
	County & Rutland	County & Rutland	County	Spot-purchase
			Rutland	
Accommodation related support services	City	City	City	City
	County	County	County	County

Appendix B. Indicative Timetable

Action	By When
Cabinet Approval for Award Criteria	16 th March 2021
Invitation to Tender published	12 th April 2021
Tender submissions deadline	2 nd July 2021
Evaluation of Tenders	5 th July – 6 th August 2021
Bidders Presentation (if required)	6 th - 10 th September 2021
Commencement of approval of Contract Awards	1 st November 2021
Contract start date	April 1 st 2022

Please note that the above dates are interdependent and may be subject to change.

Appendix C. Overarching Award Criteria

The evaluation will be undertaken on an 80:20 quality: price basis.

The table indicates the areas which will be covered by the criteria and gives indicative weightings. The weightings are yet to be agreed by all partners and may change. More detailed questions will be developed under each of these areas.

Criteria	Indicative weightings
Experience of providing relevant services	8%
Service model and how the provider will meet the outcomes	10%
Ensuring accessibility	10%
Partnership and co-ordination	8%
Workforce	10%
Information and data sharing	8%
Governance, quality and safeguarding arrangements	10%
Adaptability and Resilience	4%
Social value	4%
Service user perspective	8%
Pricing criteria: Contract Pricing - Staffing, training, accommodation, management, overheads, prescribing, other Pricing / Financial questions - Financial robustness, sustainability and cost control	20%
Total	100%