

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Laura Mercer

Subject:
Funding for Manchester Rape Crisis and Trafford Rape Crisis to provide counselling support for victims of sexual violence and sexual abuse across Greater Manchester

Type of decision:			
Deputy Mayor's decision	X	Chief Officer's decision	

In all cases this will need to be approved by the Assistant Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

<p>The decision is that:</p> <p>It is recommended that GMCA continue to provide funding to Manchester Rape Crisis and Trafford Rape Crisis, to deliver counselling support for victims of sexual violence. This will cost a total of £45,000 (£22,500 to each organisation) for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and will be funded from the Ministry Of Justice Victims Fund.</p>
<p>The reasons for the decision are:</p> <p>In the last financial year, Trafford and Manchester Rape Crisis were each awarded a grant to help to address the long waiting lists for their counselling services.</p> <p>Across Greater Manchester, there is a recognised risk in terms of the long waiting lists for those organisations who provide counselling support for victims of rape and sexual assault. By providing funding to both centres, this has helped reduced waiting times in terms of access to this type of support.</p> <p><u>Delivery 2017-2018:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recruitment of a Development Worker and Volunteer Coordinator enabled Trafford Rape Crisis to extend access to services and develop new services. They have also increased the number of volunteers recruited to support victims. In addition, Trafford Rape Crisis has

successfully piloted their own counselling service offering more support for victims and survivors.

- Manchester Rape Crisis used its funding to increase the working hours of a support worker. This has resulted in more women being able to access support at the Centre with over 450 new counselling sessions delivered and a wide range of positive outcomes being achieved including increased resilience; improved mental and physical health and better outlooks for the future.
- Manchester Rape Crisis has increased volunteer numbers; recruiting and training twenty women to support survivors of sexual violence and have inducted four new counsellors. They also report considerable success in providing support to victims who have reported to the police and all women who have reported stayed with the criminal justice process following their support.

Planned spend 2018-2019

- Manchester Rape Crisis report 105 women on the waiting list for counselling. Continuation of the funding will seek to address this waiting list.
- Trafford Rape Crisis will use the funding to improve access to their counselling service and reduce waiting times for women who want counselling support following the disclosure of sexual violence or sexual abuse.

This decision will contribute to priorities of the the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:

This work will support the following priorities within the Greater Manchester Strategy:

- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthy lives, with quality care available for those that need it

Financial comments:

The funding for 2018/19 will come from the MOJ Victims Fund and there are sufficient funds within the budget.

Legal comments:

Funding will be provided for 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and the impact of the investment will be monitored via the request of regular grant return information. PULSE will continue to support GMCA with the monitoring arrangements of this grant.

Risk Assessment:

Addressing Demand:

Failure to continue to fund this provision would mean that the large number of victims supported by Manchester Rape Crisis and Trafford Rape Crisis would be left at risk in terms of not being able to access support. In addition, those currently on the waiting lists would not be able to access support.

Understanding Impact:

Both Centres will collect monitoring information regarding number and content of individual assessments, support plans, progression and outcomes of victims supported during the project term and produce project reports as required. The impact of the investment will continued to be monitored by PULSE.

Strategic Approach to Support for Victims

Working with the two Rape Crisis Centre across Greater Manchester is one of a number of approaches to providing support for vicitms of sexual exploitation and abuse.

This funding will be provided during a period in which GMCA is developing proposals for a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy in parallel with a similar strategy that outlines Greater Manchester's ambition to address Violence Against Boys and Men. This will include consideration of future needs and model development of services for victims of sexual violence and sexual abuse across Greater Manchester, and future years funding for Trafford Rape Crisis and Manchester Rape Crisis will be reviewed in the context of the findings from ths strategy development.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

Manchester Rape Crisis and Trafford Rape Crisis have policies and procedures in place in relation to safeguarding children.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:

Manchester Rape Crisis and Trafford Rape Crisis have policies and procedures in place for safeguarding vulnerable adults.

Agreed by Assistant Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire

Signed.....

Date.....12/7/18.....

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

Signed:

Date:12/7/18.....

Contact Officer: Laura Mercer 07866 253070