

## Decision under Delegated Powers

### Officer Requesting Decision

Children, Families and Partnerships Officer

### Officer Making the Decision

Head of Neighbourhood Services

### Recommendation

To provide both the Strategic Partner Grant funding allocated to Domestic Abuse Support Services (£11,334.31 in 2016/17) and the funding reallocated from Victim Support (£4,337.52 in 2016/17) directly to Living Without Abuse (LWA) in 2016/17.

This arrangement will be subject to review prior to the second year of the Strategic Partner Grant funding (2017/18), when consideration will be given to whether the funding should continue to be provided directly to LWA or to the newly established United Against Violence and Abuse (UAVA) consortium, which includes LWA, that were successful in winning the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Contract that commenced on 1st December 2015. This review will also include whether the reallocation of Victim Support funding continues to be provided towards Domestic Abuse Support Services, or is targeted elsewhere.

### Reason

To ensure that support services for primary victims of Domestic Abuse are provided in Charnwood.

### Authority for Decision

At its meeting on 21st January 2016, the Cabinet resolved that the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority to determine whether funding for Domestic Abuse Support Services be given directly to Living Without Abuse (LWA) or through UAVA (minute 93.3 15/16 refers).

In addition, Cabinet resolved that the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority in consultation with the Lead Member, to determine the appropriate use of the £4,337.52 previously awarded to Victim Support, and that its potential use for Domestic Abuse support to meet the probable identified shortfall in service provision be noted.

## Decision and Date

*Julie Robinson*

*8/4/16*

## Background

In autumn 2015, a joint exercise was undertaken by Leicester City Council (procurement lead on this contract), Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to commission one Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). This process has initiated the biggest change for Domestic Abuse provision in LLR for more than a decade.

Post 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the contract start date), the joint LLR Commissioning Framework requires the provision of the following services to male and females aged 13+:

- Ongoing Helpline Support
- Sexual Violence / ISVA Support
- Domestic Abuse / IDVA Support
- Recovery & Engagement Team (Outreach)
- Counselling / Therapeutic Support
- Group & One to One Support
- Signposting & Referrals to Specialist Services

The contract commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and will run until 2020. Both have been awarded to United Against Violence and Abuse Ltd (UAVA), a consortium organisation of established local providers of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services. The three consortia members, Living Without Abuse (LWA), Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd (WALL) and Free from Violence and Abuse (FreeVA) have come together to deliver distinct strands of the service specification outlined above for the target numbers of service users within the LLR contract.

The Charnwood Strategic Partner Grant for Domestic Abuse Support Services (plus the reallocated Victim Support funding) will continue to be allocated for the area commonly thought to require the most additional capacity; face to face outreach and group support programmes. This work also caters for those proved to be at highest risk of Domestic Homicide; medium risk victims.

Living Without Abuse is the organisation that has been allocated both Grants for this area in the past and is the United Against Violence and Abuse consortium member responsible for outreach and group work. Therefore LWA would provide the outreach and group work service whether the Grants provided the funding to LWA or UAVA.

The Charnwood Strategic Partner Grant Panel have determined to provide Year 1 of the Strategic Partner funding in 2016/17 directly to Living Without Abuse, on the condition that this arrangement is reviewed in relation to Year 2 (2017/18) funding, for the following reasons:

- Given that there are no targets for number of outreach and group work service users/ sessions in Charnwood, providing the funding to UAVA would mean that there is no way to track whether Charnwood funding was funding a service for Charnwood residents only
- LWA will use the Grant(s) to fund work(ers) hours based solely in Charnwood
- LWA will, in kind, guarantee to dedicate a greater proportion of the funds they raise themselves to Charnwood residents in recognition that Charnwood exhibits by far the highest need of any district in relation to Domestic Abuse and the Borough Council is supporting the provision of services
- For over 2 years, all funds provided by Charnwood to LWA have been monitored jointly under one Service Level Agreement (SLA). This has been developed to meet the needs of the Strategic Partner Grant, the Community Safety Partnership and the Homelessness Prevention Grant. All contributors are satisfied with this arrangement and wish the joint monitoring and single SLA to continue
- Charnwood's monitoring and SLA contain stretching targets that are also flexible to reflect changing levels of funding provided and external factors; the UAVA contract monitoring arrangements are less sophisticated than those currently in place, less flexible and controlled by an external organisation (Leicester City Council)

The Lead Member for Community Cohesion has been consulted regarding the proposals.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications related to this decision.

In 2016/17 a total of £15,671.83 will be paid to Living Without Abuse from the Strategic Partner Grants funding allocated to Domestic Abuse Support Services (£11,334.31) and the reallocation from Victim Support (£4,337.52).

### **Risk Management**

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
LWA fail to retain outreach staff allocated to Charnwood	Possible	High	LWA is being supported by Officers to help meet all the agreed requirements.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
The targets and financial penalties within the UAVA contract affect LWA's performance under the Strategic Partner Grant SLA	Possible	High	LWA is being supported by Officers to help meet all the agreed requirements. LWA have successfully gained external funding to add to the Strategic Partner Grant funding for additional outreach support in Charnwood.

Key Decision:

No

Background Papers:

Cabinet Report 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 – Charnwood Grants – Strategic Partners (2016/17 – 2017/18) Min 93