



Reference No: 31 - 2014

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST:

For PCC Approval

Title:

Child ISVA bid from Barnado's/SARC

Executive Summary:

For a child or young person that has experienced sexual violence, trying to understand the Police investigation and Crown Prosecution service decisions can be very confusing and distressing. Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) aim to provide child-focused support that prepares and guides children, young people and their loved ones through the criminal justice system, court process, witness testimony and onto appropriate healing.

Current therapeutic provision for children is focused on those children who have experienced intra-familial sexual abuse. There is a gap in terms of all the children who fall outside of this category particularly where there are no social services or mental health input.

The vision is that with through the financial support of the PCC services can be put in place to provide a holistic approach to child services from early intervention following disclosure/ report, to closure work following court case or decision to discontinue.

The overall aim is to reduce the distress experienced by young witnesses and help them to lead a happy and healthy life long after the court case has ended.

Decision:

The PCC is asked provide a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant of up to £60k to deliver the services detailed in the attached business case.

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(If yes please provide further details below)

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

The financial implications resulting from supporting this bid are affordable within the 2014-15 budget that was set by the PCC.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

As set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act , the PCC has the power to make a crime and disorder reduction grant to any person. A crime and disorder reduction grant is a grant which, in the opinion of the PCC, will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the body's area.

The PCC is therefore acting within their legal powers in making this decision

Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

Human Rights Implications

N/A

Sustainability Implications

N/A

Risk Management Implications

To ensure the appropriate use of the funds granted to Barnado's/SARC then a formal grant agreement will be put in place and performance updates will be required to monitor the effectiveness of the funding that is made available.

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Executive**

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed: M. Porter

Date: 9/4/14

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS / ~~DOES NOT HAVE~~ my approval.

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 9/4/14

Name and address of organisation(s) submitting the application:

Helen Britton House (SARC) 13 Trinity Mews North Ormesby Health Village North Ormesby Middlesbrough TS3 6AL	Barnardo's SECOS Project East West Centre Ayresome Green Lane Middlesbrough TS5 5BA
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Service to be provided

1 WTE ISVA support worker (Project worker 1) Equivalent to NHS Agenda for change Band 4

The ISVA Support Worker will work alongside existing ISVA services to ensure that all children across Tees and their families have access to ISVA support. The ISVA service operates to the Home Office definition of ISVA provision to:

Provide a victim-focused, independent service, distinct from the role of crisis worker or counsellor, through working in partnership with a range of local statutory and voluntary services in order to best support victims of recent or historic sexual violence and abuse
Provide support to victims in relation to the criminal justice process, from reporting a crime, or deciding whether to report a crime, throughout the trial process as necessary
Provide advice and support across a wide range of issues, such as housing, health, and education that will help to support the victim in the aftermath of the abuse.

The ISVA Support Worker will work specifically with Children and their families across Tees where disclosure of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault or Rape has been made. The post will be hosted by Barnardo's SECOS project and will work in partnership with Helen Britton House, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for Teesside, operating across both sites and on an outreach basis.

1 WTE –'Pre and post court therapist for victims of sexual violence' (Project worker 2)

This is a specialist post attached to the ISVA service to provide therapeutic input for children who have experienced Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault or Rape. The post holder will provide specific interventions pre and post court where need is assessed/identified by SARC staff and ISVA service. The work will be subject to the latest pre-trial therapy protocols and current best practise around therapeutic work with children.

Therapy will also be available to cases that are not progressing down a legal route for example where cases have been 'No Further Actioned' (NFA'd).

All Interventions offered will be age and client appropriate and may include play therapy and art therapy. It is recognised that specialist work is required with children post court and where cases are discontinued in order to bring closure for that child.

The post will be hosted by Barnardo's SECOS project and will work in partnership with Helen Britton House, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for Teesside, operating across both sites.

Evidence of need/un-met need:

1 WTE ISVA support worker (Project worker 1)

There are currently around 5 ISVA posts providing ISVA services to adults across Teesside. By comparison there is 1 Child ISVA to provide services for the same geographical area.

In the financial year 12-13 the SARC recorded 470 clients across Teesside. Of these 275 were adults over 18, 195 were under 18 of which 156 were under 16. Assuming that young adults aged 16 – 18 are suitable for adult services then the following ratio's apply on the current ISVA provision across Teesside:

314 clients aged 16+ divided by 5 ISVA's = ratio of 63:1

156 clients aged <16 divided by 1 ISVA = ratio of 156:1

This crude calculation does not factor in the reality that child victims often require more regular and sustained input/support than adult clients or indeed the fact that some 16- 18 year olds are not suitable for adult services.

The 25 hour SARC based ISVA has been picking up some of the older child/young adult work to alleviate some of the pressure however this post is not child specialist and the situation is not sustainable.

Current client/worker ratios have dictated a reduced service to children and it is not acceptable that our most vulnerable members of society have limited access to ISVA support.

The SARC Risk Matrix identifies this concern as a risk factor.

The Teesside Sexual Violence Needs Assessment of 2011 states within its recommendations that: 'Many respondents expressed concerns about the services available for children and young people who are victims of sexual violence across Teesside'.

1 WTE – 'Pre and post court therapist for victims of sexual violence' (Project worker 2)

This is an innovative new role working across the Barnardo's ISVA project and the SARC and taking referrals from both as identified.

There is no current therapeutic intervention for children who have not been identified as victims of familial abuse or been diagnosed with a mental health condition. This has resulted in exclusion for many children who have experienced other forms of sexual assault and rape including those involved in sexual exploitation.

Many children and young people remain vulnerable as a result of the crimes committed against them and early intervention with specific child/young person therapist can reduce the risk of further harm.

In addition this new post will ensure that children are able to seek help in order to find closure regardless of whether or not a criminal case continued, social services are involved or indeed of the case is finished. This is a crucial requirement identified by many including the SARC and the Bridgeway project. Current child therapy available through the Bridgeway project is limited to those victims of familial abuse who have social services involvement and qualify for therapy through the gatekeeping process. This new post will open up availability of therapy to those children who do not fit the Bridgeway criteria.

The SARC Risk Matrix identifies limited access to services for children as a risk factor.

The Teesside Sexual Violence Needs Assessment of 2011 states within its recommendations that: 'Many respondents expressed concerns about the services available for children and young people who are victims of sexual violence across Teesside'.

What are the likely outcomes from this proposal?

Increased provision for child cases across Tees
Speedy response to referral
Increased outreach potential
Easier access to support/therapy
Intensity of child work will increase
Partnership improvements via joint working
Improved data recording

How does the proposal differ from current service model?

ISVA Service

For a child or young person that has experienced sexual violence, trying to understand the Police investigation and Crown Prosecution service decisions can be very confusing and distressing. Our Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) aim to provide child-focused support that prepares and guides children, young people and their loved ones through the criminal justice system, court process, witness testimony and onto appropriate healing.

The Child and young person's ISVAs aim to enable clients to feel:

- supported throughout the Police investigation
- prepared and able to answer critical questions
- able to relax, keep calm and reduce anxiety & fear
- aware of the time scale involved from report to court and prepared for any long periods of waiting
- able to understand, and not feel intimidated by, the courtroom and legal process
- able to understand the words or phrases being used in court
- knowledgeable about the special measures that are in place to help young people give evidence in court i.e. video-link
- able to access the Young Witness Pack, model courtrooms and meet with peer supporters who can share coping strategies
- able to take advantage of a pre-court visit so that they can familiarise themselves with the court room and staff
- supported in making sense of no further action decisions by Police or CPS
- supported in choosing and accessing the most appropriate healing options

In order to provide the compassionate and intensive outreach service that would continue to meet every aim of the service, each client needs a dedicated ISVA who can facilitate support in a safe comfortable and child friendly setting. Current provision prevents this as capacity is quickly reached and even when a reduced service such as fortnightly or monthly contact is in place a waiting list still operates.

Capacity issues mean that clients are currently offered only 6 fortnightly sessions followed by monthly support and this may not be face to face work.

It is vital that funding is allocated to a child specialist service to fully meet the needs of children and young people in the Tees Valley. The partnership working that already exists between the SARC and Barnardo's ensures that a child friendly approach is embedded within the services we deliver. With additional funding we can employ an ISVA support worker who would work under the guidance of the Barnardo's ISVA and the SARC ISVA. The new ISVA post would reduce the risk of any child having to wait for support.

Therapeutic worker

Current therapeutic provision for children is focused on those children who have experienced intra-familial sexual abuse. There is a gap in terms of all the children who fall outside of this category particularly where there are no social services or mental health input.

The employment of someone specifically trained to offer support to children and young people who are victims of non-intra-familial sexual violence would ensure children who do not fall within the remit of the Bridgeway contract are not left unsupported.

Ideally the post will be allocated to a play or art therapist who can explore client's feelings around no further action decisions and enable healing to commence. Children themselves have identified the benefit of support and therapy to enable them to find closure.

The child worker would operate across both sites to suit the needs of the client.

Overall

Our vision is that with these posts in place we could provide a holistic approach to child services from early intervention following disclosure/report, to closure work following court case or decision to discontinue. Our overall aim is to reduce the distress experienced by young witnesses and help them to lead a happy and healthy life long after the court case has ended.

The following are quotes from young people the quotes substantiate the need for this development:

'For someone so young and so vulnerable who probably doesn't understand things a specialist child ISVA is the last resort for support that your family can't give you. How does a 9 year old understand what an adult is saying if the adult is trained just to work with adults?' (peer supporter aged 15)

'I sat with my story for a year then built up the courage to open up as I realized what had happened to me was wrong, my whole world came crashing down, I didn't know what to do or who to turn to – if I was told I was on a waiting list I wouldn't have wanted a service, I probably would have dropped all charges and I wouldn't have seen it through' (ex ISVA client aged 15)

'The freedom of being in sessions with an ISVA made it easier to get my mind off the incident. There was always tension at home as I was expected to talk about

what happened. In my sessions I could just be me. Having an ISVA gives you someone to restore your confidence, help you believe everything will get better, it gives you hope at the end of the tunnel. It would be great if you could see an ISVA every week. For me everything changed week to week and I needed someone to help me make sense of that. Without an ISVA physically and emotionally I wouldn't have been able to go through with the charges. ' (ex ISVA client aged 16)

'it is hard to find a coping strategy yourself, you need the support of someone trained to help you.' (peer supporter aged 16)

What are the expected health and criminal justice outcomes and how will these be measured?

A process evaluation completed by Cardiff University focussing on the impact of ISVA services found that:

'The direct support provided by ISVAs to victims was perceived by some to increase their willingness to engage with justice agencies.'

This was seen to impact upon attrition rates as clients who would have been previously unsupported for months while waiting to attend court had access to continuous practical and emotional support and felt fully prepared for their role as a key witness in a court trial.

The University of Bristol and the NSPCC looked jointly at the issue of partner violence in teenage intimate relationships. The findings clearly showed that violence in young people's intimate relationships is a significant child welfare issue. There was also a greater incidence of violence reported by girls rather than boys. Some of the key findings included:-

- Young people with an experience of family violence were more likely to have experienced a relationship, and more likely to have experienced one at an earlier age than young people with no history of family violence;
- 30% of girls and 16% of boys reported some form of partner sexual violence;
- The majority were single incidents, however, for a minority of young people, sexual violence was a more regular feature of their relationships;

Young people who are supported by the SARC/Barnardo's partnership ISVA service would have access to specialist support in order to increase their awareness of how to form and maintain healthy and safe relationships. This would impact on future service costs as access to such specialist workers would aim to help prevent clients becoming repeat victims of crime.

Additional funding would support posts that would in turn increase and build upon existing service provision. In measuring the effectiveness of our current service we have gathered feedback from clients that has indicated a requirement for intensive outreach support tailored to meet individual client needs as this would stabilize the emotional well being of clients. Having the flexibility to develop bespoke client provision would ensure every young person referred to our service receives the level of support required to maintain good social, emotional and psychological health.

NICE guidance states:

Young people's social and emotional wellbeing is important in its own right but also because it affects their physical health (both as a young person and as an adult).

Good social, emotional and psychological health helps protect young people against emotional and behavioural problems, violence and crime, teenage pregnancy and the misuse of drugs and alcohol (Adi et al. 2007; Colman et al. 2009; Graham and Power 2003). It can also help them to learn and achieve academically, thus affecting their long-term social and economic wellbeing.

NICE guidance also explains that positive 'social and emotional wellbeing' results in the following health outcomes:

'happiness, confidence and not feeling depressed (emotional wellbeing)'

Additional service provision would ensure that clients have access to an ISVA service worker once a referral has been received from the SARC. A trusting relationship between ISVA worker and client would develop with the focus on raising client self esteem through the engagement in client led activities (ie art, cookery)

'a feeling of autonomy and control over one's life, problem-solving skills, resilience, attentiveness and a sense of involvement with others (psychological wellbeing)'

Funding to employ a worker dedicated to enabling clients to come to terms with nfa decisions by Police and CPS would help clients to engage in the closure process and begin healing without referral and waiting list delays.

'the ability to have good relationships with others and to avoid disruptive behaviour, delinquency, violence or bullying (social wellbeing).'

Increased service provision would ensure that the ISVA Service worker can work within an intensive multi agency support network ensuring that all aspects of the client's life are supported appropriately. With the ability to provide weekly support the ISVA service worker can work in partnership with parents, carers and other family members to promote the young person's social and emotional wellbeing.

This extract from the Stern review outlines the potential health costs at stake if this vulnerable group of society does not receive effective and timely support:

We were told that many of those who are particularly vulnerable to experiencing rape will not be one-off victims, but will instead experience rape and sexual assault on multiple occasions. Such people, referred to by some as 'repeat victims,' may have mental health problems or learning disabilities which make them vulnerable to being taken advantage of. We were told they can become 'locked into predatory circles quite quickly'. Others have experienced abuse from childhood, through teenage-hood to adulthood, where they have become locked into a pattern of abusive relationships which become their 'norm'. The impact on the individual of being a repeat victim is huge, and the related costs to services such as the health, social welfare and criminal justice systems are substantial.

We believe our model of a holistic ISVA service developed across partnership working would help to prevent children and young people becoming repeat victims through the intensive outreach we would have the capacity to deliver with additional posts this would in turn reduce long term costs to society.

The health outcomes would be measured using organisational monitoring procedures. The health outcomes would be measured using organisational monitoring procedures. Scores are rated relating to a sliding scale of statements from positive to negative numerically 1-5 on improved family communication, Improved mental health and wellbeing, Effective decision making by courts, Views and opinions voiced and acted upon, Family has access to support services, and Recovery from sexual abuse/exploitation.

Using a baseline assessment the outcomes are reviewed at 12 weekly intervals and at any significant change in circumstance this enables workers to systematically measure and assess young people's social and emotional wellbeing and use the outcomes as the basis

for planning activities and evaluating their impact.. Reviews are reflected in individual case notes and monitored by supervisory staff.

Outcomes are measured by support worker observations in case notes. Regular feedback is obtained from service users and their families using written evaluation forms and informal discussions about progress. Monitoring information is also gathered from multi agency networking.

The SARC and Barnardo's are both represented at TSVSG Pathways and Operational Groups which ensures feedback across the wider services for effective external monitoring.

The overall cost of sexual violent crimes to society is estimated at more than £8 billion each year. The cost to health services alone is estimated at £76,000 for each individual rape. Addressing problems at an early stage through ISVA service intervention should help to prevent long term costs. Through partnership working we will have the opportunity to offer long term support to children and young people based on the strong relationships formed between ISVA worker and client. This will meet individual's specific support requirements and reduce the need for additional services thus reducing additional costs.

12 month Expenditure Plan:

Expenditure Plan:

Staffing

Project Worker L2 – 37 hours per week £34,658
Project Worker L1 – 25.5 hours per week £16,794
Project Manager – 3 hours per week £3,946

Staff Related Costs

Staff Insurance £292
IS £1,212
L&D £1,824
People Section £750
Property Charges £356

TOTAL £59,832

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