



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: Additional ISVA Provision for Cleveland			
Title: Additional ISVA Provision			
Executive Summary: Additional demand for ISVA services has been identified by Arch North East, one of the main providers for sexual violence services. The funding requested will help alleviate the immediate pressures on the services for a period of 12 months to provide additional resilience. Find attached a detailed business case.			
Decision: To award £12,832 as a one off contribution to Arch towards additional Independent Sexual Violence Services across the Cleveland area.			
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 PCC has received additional funding from the Ministry of Justice during 2014/15 which must be used in the current financial year and must be spent on either sexual and/or domestic violence services. The proposals put forward in this bid and contained within this decision note will meet the restrictions on how the money can be spent and is affordable as a result of receiving this additional funding.

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

Equality and Diversity Implications

Arch provide services to both male and female victims aged 14 years and over. The PCC has made a separate provision for the under 14s provided by the SARC.

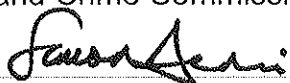
Human Rights Implications**Sustainability Implications**

Organisations in receipt of the funds have been advised to consider an exit strategy once the funding comes to an end on 31st March 2015. Arch have a detailed exit strategy within the business case.

Risk Management Implications**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: _____



Date: 22 September 2014

Police and Crime Commissioner:

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

Signed: 

Date: 27/9/14



29th August 2014

Business case in respect of additional ISVA provision

Summary

Arch North East is seeking a grant from the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) of £13,424 to fund a part time Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) post for a period of 12 months. The post would support Arch to continue to deliver a quality service to victims of sexual violence and their families and assist the service to meet an increase in demands on the ISVA service.

Statement about ARCH North East

Arch North East is the specialist provider of sexual violence services across Teesside, offering support to males and females aged 14 years and over since 1997. We provide a range of services to meet our client's needs including emotional & practical support, therapeutic counselling, and an Independent Sexual Violence Advisory (ISVA) service enabling us to support clients who have reported or are thinking or reporting their experiences to the police.

It can take up to a year for a rape case to come to trial, during this time many victims withdraw from the process for a variety of emotional and practical reasons. Over the last two years all victims where a charge has been made that have been supported by the Arch NE team and have remained engaged with the criminal justice process.

Victims working with an ISVA feel better prepared for court have more confidence in the criminal justice system and are supported in order to give their best possible evidence. The Chief Crown Prosecutor acknowledged the positive impact Arch NE ISVA services has on helping to bring the most complex cases to trial he said " It is undoubtedly the case that our ability to successfully prosecute allegations of rape and sexual assault would be diminished without the service Arch NE provide".

This year we are pleased to have attained the National Rape Crisis Service Standards. Only 27 out of 48 Rape Crisis centres across the country reached the required standard needed.

Outline of proposal

The ISVA service is a need led service and every client is provided with an individually assessed package including;

- Client needs assessment
- Home Visits / Outreach Visits
- Late/evening appointments
- Regular contact from ISVA team (telephone and face to face)
- Criminal Justice Advocacy
- Preparation for court for both direct victims and CPS witnesses
- Pre-trial familiarisation visit(s) to court
- Support during trial, which may be up to 5 days
- After court support
- Facilitate access to therapeutic counselling both pre and post-trial (in line with the CPS and Police pre-trial therapy protocol)
- Emotional support
- Support with practical issues e.g. housing, employment, training and welfare issues

We also support those who choose not to access the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and those who have progressed beyond the process and require support with practical issues such as housing, benefits or accessing Criminal Injuries (CICA).

The team work hard to ensure that victims of sexual violence are supported to give their best evidence in court and that they receive the standards of service set out in the Victims Code of Practice, making their experience of the CJS as easy as it can be during a difficult and stressful time.

Within the ISVA service we currently employ 1 Full-time accredited ISVA, 1 Part-time accredited ISVA (2 days per week) and 1 Full-time Life Enhancement Skills Advisor. In April 2014 we appointed a new Full-time ISVA Manager and due to the demands on the service the post holder is also currently carrying a caseload.

Our ISVA service is delivered on an outreach basis and covers Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Stockton and Redcar, during the financial year 2013/14 the team provides services to 261 direct victims of rape and sexual abuse and supported 134 indirect victims (i.e. family members who may be witnesses for the prosecution) a total of 395 clients support by 2.5 FTE posts.

At the point of a client accessing the service it is un-clear how long the team may be required to provide support. If a case goes to court the process can take up to 12 months or above and it is essential that people are supported throughout this period. Once a case goes to trial an individual ISVA may be required to support at court for up to 5 working days which can greatly impact upon the capacity of the team.

The team are working with high caseloads and there is a need to bring extra capacity into the team to support the resilience of the service. As an example of this, there are currently 88

active ISVA clients receiving a service, with our part-time ISVA (2days per week) currently carrying a caseload of 33 clients.

In addition to this, new referrals into the service are up on the same period last year, the most up to date information shows that we received 43 new referrals during June and July 2014, and for the same period in 2013 we had received 27 new referrals

Court support has also increased, with the team working on 11 trials during the same period (June and July 2014) this year. This can mean that, if case does go to trial, an ISVA is supporting the client at court for between 3-5 days in one week.

As a service we prioritise the needs of clients over our other demands, and our priority is that they maintain engagement with the CJS, however it has become evident that to maintain the quality of service that we currently provide to victims of sexual violence we need to recruit a further part-time ISVA post into the team to support the resilience of our work.

Strategic Fit

The proposal contributes to the key aims of the Police and Crime Commissioner around ensuring a better deal for victims and witnesses as set out in the in the Police and Crime Plan 2014-17.

It strongly supports two of the PCC's five promises to victims and witnesses, namely to;

- Ensure that victims and witnesses get the high quality support and help they, need when they need it
- Give victims and witnesses an effective voice in the wider Criminal Justice System

The requirements of the post would also suit the skills and knowledge base of a retired police officer and we would ensure that the post was advertised through the Police intranet as well as other local networks.

Exit Strategy

We are asking for support with this proposal as a holding measure, as a service we are actively sourcing other funding avenues in order to recruit a full time ISVA into the team. The suitable grant streams that we have identified however have a turnaround timescale of approximately 9-12months. We are in a position where we need the additional capacity now in order to ensure the longer term stability of the service.

We would advertise a 12 month fixed term contract, allowing us time to put in place a longer term plan and pursue 3year funding streams.

BUDGET

BUDGET (18 hr ISVA Post)	
Gross Salary (based on current ISVA rate of £13 ph)	12168.00
Employer NIC(13.8 % after threshold of £7956)	581.00
Mileage based on 125miles per month @ 45 p	675.00
AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM PCC to cover basic salary costs	13424.00
Office running costs (based on current costs of £36000 p.a. for equivalent 12 full time staff)	1544.00
Admin costs (based on 1 hour pw current admin rate of £16.50 ph - inc nic/pension etc.)	858.00
Direct Line management costs (based on 2 hour pw current ISVA manager rate of £19.60 inc ECU/nic/pension etc.)	2038.40
Development & training	800.00
Pension at 5% (after 2 yrs)	608.40
OVERALL COSTS	19272.80

Contact for the proposal:

Dilys Davy (CEO)
Arch North East
22 Hoylake Road
Saltersgill
Middlesbrough
TS4 3JL

(01642) 833225

d.davy@archnortheast.org