

Approved By:	Classification of Paper: Not Protectively Marked
Report to PCC	Report reference number PCC/ 0103/15
Date of Decision 2 September 2015	Area of County/Stakeholders affected Countywide
Title of report PCC Victims Fund – 2016-17 Sexual Abuse commissioning arrangements	
Report by Greg Myddelton	
Enquiries to Greg Myddelton (greg.myddelton@essex.pnn.police.uk)	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £680,000 per year (for up to 5 years) to fund the new commissioning arrangements for victims of sexual violence and abuse across Essex.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £680k from the PCC's 2016-17 victims' commissioning budget to the successful bidder for the delivery of the Essex sexual violence and abuse services.

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1. This new service will provide Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) and Community-based support for all victims of sexual abuse across Essex, including the Unitary authorities of Southend & Thurrock.
- 3.2. The formal commissioning of these services will provide consistency and certainty that has previously been absent; existing arrangements are fragmented with a number of different providers and commissioners involved and funding being distributed on a fragile, year-to-year arrangement. By bringing these services together we will ensure a consistent pathway for victims, helping them to cope and recover from their experience.
- 3.3. The following is a selection of the improved outcomes that are sought for victims through the service;
- Improved mental and physical health, including improved emotional wellbeing for victims
 - Improved relationships with family, friends and children

- Reduced reliance on drugs and alcohol
 - Resumption of or development of opportunities for education, skills and employment
 - Improved feeling of safety
- 3.4. The service will extend into West Essex where previously there was no specialist support for sexual abuse, and will provide services for all victims regardless of their age or gender, and whether the abuse happened recently or in the past.
- 4. Background and proposal**
- 4.1. The commissioning of this service will be subject to a full OJEU competitive procurement process. The successful bidder of this service will be announced in December 2015. The service will commence on 1st April 2016 and will be based on a 3 year (with option for two 1-year extensions) contract.
- 4.2. The services are split into two lots;
- LOT 1 will include the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service – currently provided through NHS England and Home Office funding, aligned to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) services in Essex. The PCC is commissioning a standalone ISVA Service from April 2016, to support the development of a more consistent quality service for a wider range of victims.
 - Lot 2 incorporates the community based support: face to face counselling, general advocacy, group work, child and family practice, work with young people and adolescents. This service is currently provided by the three Rape Crisis Centres in Essex, grant-funded by the PCC.
- 4.3. The ISVA service is jointly commissioned with NHS England as part of the wider Sexual Abuse Services Pathway (SASP) service, incorporating SARC management and Forensic Medical Examination (FME) services, which includes paediatric services to young people.
- 4.4. Essex Police figures show there were 2,170 recorded victims of sexual abuse in 2014. It is suggested that this represents around 15% of the total number of victims, indicating that the vast majority do not report to the authorities but may still require support to cope and recover from their experience.
- 5. Police and Crime Plan**
- 5.1. This proposal supports the PCC's vision and delivery of the following key areas of focus:
- Supporting our victims of crime
 - Reducing Hidden Harm
 - Ensuring local solutions meet local problems
- 6. Police Operational Implications**
- 6.1 The new contract will assist Essex Police by ensuring victims presenting at the SARC are given emotional and physical support to enable them to cope and recover from their experiences.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The PCC will commission the successful bidder to meet the outcomes of the new sexual violence and abuse service, at an indicative annual cost of £680,000.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The award of the grant is subject to the PCC's standard funding agreement

9. Staffing and other resource implications

9.1 There are no staffing issues

10. Equality and Diversity implications

10.1 There are no D&E implications

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the Chief Executive and CFO and the PCC Solicitor where legal implications arise.

Chief Executive/M.O

.....
.....
.....

Chief Financial Officer

PCC Legal Advisor

..... (As necessary)

Decision

I agree the recommendations to this report

.....
.....

PCC/Deputy PCC

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

.....

PCC/Deputy PCC

Publication

Reasons for non-publication (*state 'None' if applicable*)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

.....
Signed/Print name

Report for publication	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.