

PCC Decision Report

Please ensure all boxes below are completed

Report reference number: 0048/17
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: CARA sexual abuse counselling - CSA funding
Area of County/Stakeholders affected North Essex
Report by : Greg Myddelton Date of report: 25 th April 2017 Enquiries to: greg.myddelton@essex.pnn.police.uk

- 1. Purpose of report**
To approve the allocation of a grant from the 2017-18 Victims Fund to CARA for the delivery of counselling services to victims of rape and sexual abuse
- 2. Recommendations**
Approve the allocation of £55,000 to the Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA) to deliver counselling services for victims of sexual abuse
- 3. Benefits of Proposal**
The aims of this grant funding are;
 - To increase specialist sexual violence counselling provision for adults and young people who have been victims of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), reducing existing waiting times.
 - To provide more consistent specialist provision for adults and young people who have been victims of CSA across Essex.
 - To improve the health and wellbeing of adults and young people who have been victims of CSA by providing them with timely counselling services.

Specifically, the funding will pay for;

- A full-time counsellor to be based at CARA. The counsellor will provide at least 816 counselling sessions over a one-year period, working in areas of mid and north Essex where waiting times are longest (currently Chelmsford, Clacton-on-Sea and Colchester). The counsellor will also be responsible for the line-management of at least 2 volunteer or sessional counsellors – supporting an increased counselling capacity.
- 964 counselling sessions provided by sessional counsellors over a one-year period. This would maintain current sessional counselling capacity and further increase it by over 100 sessions a year. Employing sessional counsellors increases overall capacity, flexibility and ability to respond quickly to rises in demand in specific areas.

4. Background and proposal

In 2017-18 the PCC received an allocation from the Ministry of Justice specifically for the support of victims of CSA. This funding is intended to tackle the demand as a result of the continuing increase of reporting of these crimes. The OPCC must inform the MoJ at 6 and 12 months about how this specific element of the victims' commissioning fund has been allocated.

CARA forms part of the Essex Rape Crisis Partnership (CARA) – the consortium of rape crisis providers that is commissioned to deliver the countywide ISVA and long-term community based support service for victims of sexual abuse. This grant targets the areas of highest need (longest waiting times) as a result of the increase in reporting of sexual abuse in recent years.

The rape crisis partnership continue to experience high and increasing levels of demand for their services against a declining level of investment from other statutory partners.

5. Police and Crime Plan

This grant ensures that victims are given the chance to cope and recover from their experience, and have the support needed to engage in the criminal justice system, where appropriate.

This grant will ensure that vulnerable adults and children are protected from harm and may help to break the cycle of domestic abuse.

6. Police Operational Implications

No operational implications.

7. Financial Implications

£55,000 will be allocated to the Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA) from the PCC's 2017-18 victims' commissioning fund.

8. Legal Implications

This funding will be subject to the terms of the PCC's standard grant agreement

9. Staffing and other resource implications

Employment of staff or sessional workers will be the responsibility of CARA.
No liabilities will be placed on the PCC as a result of this grant funding.

10. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no direct equality and diversity implications

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPCC Chief Executive and Treasurer, prior to review and sign off by the PCC / DPCC .

Chief Executive/M.O Sign: *S. Hancock*

Print: *S. Hancock*

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Sign: *Charles R. Lambert*

Print: *CHARLES R LAMBERT*

Decision

I agree the recommendations to this report;

Sign: *R.C. Hurst*

Print: *R.C. Hurst*

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed: *11/5/17*

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

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Sign:

Print:

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed:

Publication

Report for publication

YES

NO

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

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Sign:

Print:

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

