

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**02 December 2014**

**Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities**

**DERBYSHIRE INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISOR SERVICE**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To seek approval for £38,326 for the provision of an additional Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) for a temporary period up to March 2016.

**2. Information and Analysis:**

Derbyshire County Council currently commissions an IDVA service for the whole county in support of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs). The purpose of MARACs is to “facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety”. This allows agencies to share up to date, relevant information and provide appropriate services for everyone involved in domestic abuse: victim, family and perpetrator, via a coordinated response. MARAC focusses on those victims at highest risk of serious harm or homicide.

In Derbyshire the standard IDVA service is commissioned by the County Council and is jointly funded by the County Council, Derbyshire Constabulary, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and a small Home Office grant. The annual cost of the current contract is £165,000, which provides 4.5 FTE IDVAs and a 0.5 FTE Administrator. The service is provided by Derbyshire Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Service and is contracted until March 2016.

The IDVA service supports four MARACs across the County: Buxton, Chesterfield, Amber Valley/Erewash and South Derbyshire representing the views of the victim at the meeting. There have been increasing numbers of victims being referred into MARACs over the course of 2014. The joint City and County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board recently sought an independent review of MARACs from CAADA (Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse), a national charity involved in the original development of MARACs.

The findings of the review have now been received and highlight a higher than recommended caseload for each IDVA in the County. CAADA recommends that each IDVA works with 90-100 cases per year which equates to 450 cases maximum for the County. At present the IDVAs are working with approximately 118 cases each, with no sign of a decrease in numbers, which equates to 81 cases over the CAADA recommendation.

The proposal is to employ one additional FTE IDVA for the period January 2015 to March 2016, until the end of the current contract. The total cost for the period is £38,326, which can be met from the Communities Budget.

The County Council is moving to a new more integrated way of commissioning domestic abuse services with a pooled budget and a single lead in the Health and Communities Department, Community Safety Team. The aim is to start the re-commissioning process in January 2015 with new contracts being awarded to start on 1 April 2016. As part of the process an IDVA service will be re-commissioned to better utilise the pooled budget to ensure adequate risk based services for Derbyshire moving forward.

**3. Human Resources Considerations:**

Subject to approval, funding for the temporary post will be transferred to the current service provider, Derbyshire Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Service, who will employ the temporary worker. Any future redundancy costs associated to the cessation of this temporary post, would be attributable jointly to the partnership and the service provider.

**4. Other considerations:**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, and property and transport considerations.

**5. Background papers:**

None

**6. Key Decision:**

No

**7. Call-in:**

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

**8. Officer's recommendation:**

That the sum of £38,326 be awarded from the Communities Budget to fund a temporary Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) as part of the current contract with Derbyshire Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Service.

**David Lowe  
Strategic Director  
Health and Communities**