

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES****03 November 2015****Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities****SECURITY MEASURES FOR HIGH AND MEDIUM RISK  
DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS****1. Purpose of the report:**

To seek approval for a grant of £25,000 for security equipment for high and medium risk domestic abuse victims.

**2. Information and Analysis:**

The Derbyshire Handyvan Service is in the process of being re-commissioned with a new contract commencing in April 2016. Historically Community Safety has funded additional home security checks from the Handyvan service at a cost of £15,000 per annum as part of its response to reducing crime. However, in 2012 Community Safety also agreed to fund support for victims of domestic abuse (medium and high risk) for the installation of alarms and target hardening, as domestic abuse became the higher priority generally in terms of the prevalence across the County. In 2014 funding was increased to £50,000 to endeavour to maintain the levels of home security checks and an increase in domestic abuse referrals. This was repeated in 2015, but this is not covering all of the referrals for home security.

Moving forward Community Safety will be seeking to support the Handyvan service with £25,000 per annum from April 2016 for the term of the new Handyvan contract. Due to increasing numbers this will only provide support for high risk domestic abuse referrals where the following will be offered:

- The installation of a ruggedized community alarm, already provided by Community Safety
- A security check and measures fitted (but not supplied) for up to 500 cases
- Fire safety checks and anti-arson measures fitted, supplied by Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

High risk victims are referred into the service through the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and/or the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process. There is currently an

average of 200 cases per quarter discussed across Derbyshire at MARAC meetings and numbers are expected to increase.

In order to fulfil the fitting of security measures £25,000 is being requested to fund the purchase of the following:

- Security items for fitting at high risk properties through the Derbyshire HandyVan Service, which includes a higher specification door shock alarm (this is a door alarm that reacts to movement and opening, has a keypad to arm and disarm), door chain and other relevant security measures
- provision of 'security packs' for domestic abuse professionals to give to medium risk victims where the perpetrator is no longer in the home.

Upon consultation with partner agencies involved with medium risk domestic abuse victims, feedback suggests that the provision of a security pack will address the gap in the new Handyvan service moving forward. Items contained within the pack will include:

- Defender shock/contact alarm
- Personal Alarm
- Bean can for storing essential paperwork
- Lip balm with the Derbyshire domestic abuse helpline.

It is anticipated that £25,000 should purchase sufficient equipment to cover the service (dependant on shifts in demand) for between 18-24 months, as costs are reduced when purchasing in bulk.

### **3. 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, human resources and property and transport considerations.

### **4. Background papers:**

- Cabinet report 28/07/2015 outcome of consultation of proposed changes to the HRS programme
- Service Specification for the Derbyshire HandyVan Service

### **5. Key Decision:**

No

**6. Call-in:**

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

**7. Officer's recommendation:**

That the sum of £25,000 be awarded from the Communities Budget to fund security measures for high and medium risk domestic abuse victims.

**David Lowe  
Strategic Director  
Health and Communities**