

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

08 March 2018

Report of the Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy

HELPLINE SERVICE FOR VULNERABLE VICTIMS OF HATE CRIME

(1) Purpose of Report

To seek approval to make a contribution of £7,000 to support the on-going provision of the 24 hour third party reporting and helpline service for victims of hate crime.

(2) Information and Analysis

Recommendation 16 of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, which was accepted by Government states; that all possible steps should be taken by Police Services at local level in consultation with Local Government and other agencies and local communities to encourage the reporting of racist incidents and crimes. This should include:

- The ability to report at locations other than police stations: and
- The ability to report 24 hours a day

In order to help fulfil this recommendation and to address the under-reporting of this type of crime, which includes victims from other groups such as those who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender, a 24 hour third party helpline/reporting line was established in Derbyshire in October 2008.

The helpline, facilitated by Leeds-based charity Stop Hate UK, has historically been funded by Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council. The contract with Stop Hate UK is held by Derbyshire Constabulary with financial contributions from Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council.

Derbyshire County Council has undertaken a significant amount of awareness raising to promote this service, and the helpline number is included on a range of promotional materials. Take up of the service has been increasing year on year since its launch. The average numbers of callers per quarter has increased over the years with 21 contacts made in Quarter Three in 2017-18, making a rolling 12 month total of 137 contacts.

Stop Hate UK provides a variety of ways to access the service and these include, by phone, text, British Sign Language (BSL) (using Interpret Now), post or online to access support, and get information. The total cost of the service per annum is £16,000 this is made up by the following contributions: Derbyshire County Council £7,000, Derbyshire Constabulary £5,000 and Derby's City Council £4,000. Following an evaluation of the Step Up, Beat Hate publicity campaign and the awareness raising of the services offered by Stop Hate UK, partners have agreed to continue to fund this service for another 12 months.

Therefore, £7,000 funding contribution is requested to continue to support this service until the end of March 2019.

(3) Social Value Considerations

The funding provided will support Derbyshire County Council and community safety partners to fulfil their duties and enhance existing provision for victims of hate crime.

(4) Other Considerations

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

(5) Key Decision No

(6) Call-In

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

(7) Background Papers

Held on file within the Commissioning, Communities and Policy Department. Officer contact details – Michelle Collins, extension 38951.

(8) OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

That a contribution of £7,000 be approved from the Community Safety Budget to continue supporting the third party reporting and helpline service for victims of Hate Crime.

Emma Alexander
Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy