

Agenda Item No. 7(j)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

14 September 2017

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities

FUNDING FROM THE HOME OFFICE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS SERVICE TRANSFORMATION FUND 2017 – 2020 (HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES)

(1) **Purpose of Report** To note the Chief Executive's use of his urgent powers to accept a grant of £400,000 from the Home Office (HO) Violence Against Women and Girls Service Transformation Fund.

(2) **Information and Analysis** In February 2017, the County Council submitted two bids to the Violence Against Women and Girls Service Transformation Fund. The bids were developed in partnership with local specialist domestic abuse providers and the University of Derby, and were supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Groups.

The two bids contained three discreet, but complementary projects. The first bid for £549,000 was focussed on the delivery of prevention activity and the second for £428,000 on specialist provision, specifically legal support and work with refugees and asylum seekers who have been victims of sexual violence.

The County Council was partially successful with its bid and was awarded £400,000 over three years (2017-2020) for the delivery of prevention activity. Whilst this was not the full amount requested, through negotiations with the HO, partners are confident that all the projects can still be delivered, with one of the projects being scaled back. The projects are:

Women and Girls Safe (WAGS) –The project has been successfully piloted in the High Peak and has produced excellent outcomes for young women and girls. The funding will allow for its expansion across Derbyshire. The project offers one to one support and group work for young women and girls who are vulnerable and at risk due to abuse in their relationship, sexual violence, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and grooming.

CRUSH –The project offers group work sessions with young people who harm and is specifically aimed at male and female teenagers in schools who are displaying signs of perpetrating abuse. The programme lasts approximately eight weeks with the aim of encouraging recognition of behaviour, understanding risk factors and identifying warning signs, building self-resilience, learning alternative ways to respond to conflict, increasing accountability and understanding consequences. The project has successfully been piloted in the north-east of the County and this funding will allow for expansion across Derbyshire.

This Ends Here - Extension of a pilot project with adult perpetrators of domestic abuse. 'This Ends Here' is an educationally based intervention of short duration specifically designed to provide easily installed skills to identify, challenge and change beliefs and behaviours which condone abusive behaviour. It is this project which will be scaled back.

Due to a delay in the funding announcement, the grant period has already begun. In order to prevent any further delay in drawing down the grant and commencing project delivery the Chief Executive authorised acceptance of the grant.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The total cost of the project will not exceed £400,000 and is fully funded from the grant from HO.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The County Council's Constitution provides for the Chief Executive, after discussion, if practical, with the Leader of the Council or the relevant Cabinet Member, to make urgent decisions on matters which, because of the timescales involved, cannot wait until the next Cabinet or Cabinet Member meeting.

The monies received will be allocated to the providers identified within the bid approved by the HO.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on victims and their families. The funding from the HO will allow an expansion of existing prevention work across the whole of Derbyshire, thus increasing capacity to reduce victimisation and repeat offending.

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

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Christine Flinton, extension 38271.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet notes the Chief Executive's decision to use his urgent powers to accept a grant of £400,000 from the Home Office to extend prevention activity across the County.

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Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities