

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

31 January 2019

Report of the Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy and Head of Paid Service

FUNDING FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MHCLG): 2018-20 FUND FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE INCLUDING REFUGES AND OTHER SAFE ACCOMMODATION, TO HELP LOCAL AREAS MEET THE PRIORITIES, SPECIALIST LOCAL AREAS MEET THE PRIORITIES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

(1) Purpose of Report

To note the Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy and Head of Paid Service use of her urgent powers to accept a grant of £378,908 from MHCLG to enhance the provision of domestic abuse accommodation and support in Derbyshire.

(2) Information and Analysis

In July 2018, MHCLG announced a £18.8 million fund to assist in the provision of accommodation based support services and the local reforms needed to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services. Derbyshire County Council was the lead organisation in a successful bid to the fund, which was developed in partnership with a range of local specialist domestic abuse providers, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Derbyshire Constabulary and supported by the eight district/borough councils. The value of the grant awarded by MHCLG is £738,464.

The funding will be utilised to enhance the provision which is already available for victims of domestic abuse in Derbyshire through commissioned services and through funding received under a previous DCLG grant; it specifically covers:

1. Funding for two specialist domestic abuse posts for the Police/OPCC Victim and Witness Liaison Unit, Triage Team – It is anticipated that this will generate additional referrals into specialist services and these will be supported by an increasing capacity (see below).

2. Continuation of the expanded specialist refuge provision in the High Peak for young women and girls who are at risk of or experiencing abuse and/or exploitation. The funding will be used to continue the provision of two dispersed properties in the community for young women who are ready to move on from the intensive support of the refuge but still require additional support to live independently.
3. Recruitment of specialist community workers to accommodate anticipated increase in referrals from the triage unit and to improve engagement with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) and other hard to reach groups across the County.
4. Continuation of domestic abuse prevention and support in a refuge in the High Peak for women with complex needs, predominantly substance misuse.
5. Continuation of the provision of out of hours cover in refuges. Some have been extended to 24 hours and others provide evening and weekend cover. This means that people fleeing domestic abuse can access refuge accommodation out of hours rather than going into B&B accommodation.
6. An additional post for the Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Support Line to accommodate anticipated increase in referrals from the Victim and Witness Triage unit and continue the project work with the County BME forum and other marginalised communities to work towards the helpline being more accessible to all communities.

A full evaluation of the projects will be undertaken by the Safer Derbyshire Partnership.

A letter was received from MHCLG dated 12 December with a Grant determination stating that Derbyshire County Council would receive £378,908 representing the 2018/19 allocation. The total amount of the grant awarded is £738,464.

Due to the delay in receiving the grant award letter, and the need to progress activity in this financial year, the Head of Paid Service agreed to use the urgent powers, provided for in the County Council's constitution, to accept the whole grant, subject to the conditions of the grant award being acceptable.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The total cost of the project will not exceed £738,464 and is fully funded from the grant from MHCLG

(4) **Legal Considerations** The County Council's constitution provides for the Head of Paid Service, 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 specific providers identified within the bid approved by MHCLG.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on victims and their families. The funding from MHCLG will allow the specialist third sector domestic abuse services to deliver enhanced levels of support to victims to some of the most vulnerable people in society, in particular those who are considered the hardest to engage for reasons such as mental health, substance misuse or because they are from isolated and/or marginalised communities.

By supporting victims of domestic abuse and their families to access safe and suitable accommodation the specialist providers can work with them to enable them to make their own choices and to live independently in the future.

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** Yes


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

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

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet notes the Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy and Head of Paid Service decision to use her urgent powers to accept a grant of £738,464 from the MHCLG to enhance the provision of domestic abuse accommodation and support in Derbyshire.

Emma Alexander
Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy and Head of Paid Services

<p style="text-align: center;">Authorisation of Emergency Powers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Request to invoke urgent powers delegated to the Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy and Head of Paid Service under the County Council's Constitution</p>	
Name and Job Title of Officer responsible	Christine Flinton – Head of Community Safety
Department	Commissioning, Communities and Policy
Location of proposed works/contract (if applicable)	Countywide
Reason for request (please provide full justification for the need to invoke emergency powers)	<p>In July 2018 MHCLG announced a £18.8m fund to support the provision of accommodation-based support services and the local reforms needed to meet the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services. The grant period is 2018/19 to 2019/20.</p> <p>Derbyshire County Council as the lead commissioner of domestic abuse services, submitted a bid which was developed in partnership with local specialist domestic abuse providers and supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Derbyshire Constabulary and the eight district councils.</p> <p>The bid was successful and the County Council received formal notification of this on 12 December 2018.</p> <p>The delay in the announcement means that it is critical that approval to accept the grant be sought as a matter of urgency, as further delays will impact our ability to deliver in the current financial year. As such it is requested that the Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy and Head of Paid Service uses</p>

	her emergency powers to accept the grant.
Details of Elected Member approval (if applicable)	Cllr Hart is aware of the grant application and has been informed that it has been successful.
Estimated cost of works/contract	Total grant from MHCLG is for £738,464. The current grant award for 2018/19 is £378,908. A further grant award for 2019/20 will be issued in the new financial year for £359,558.
 Signature Date 13 December 2018 Strategic Director – Commissioning, Communities and Policy and Head of Paid Service	