

Derbyshire County Council Cabinet 18 April 2019 Report of the Strategic Director

Commissioning, Communities and Policy RE-COMMISSIONING OF DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

(Health and Communities)

1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval from Cabinet to re-commission the Domestic Abuse Support Service, on the basis of a three year contract with potential to extend for a further two years.

2. Information and Analysis

In December 2014 Cabinet approved the commissioning of an integrated Domestic Abuse Support Service to include a Countywide Support Line and Support Services delivering accommodation, outreach, therapeutic and children's services. At that time the services were subject to a complete redesign, which was informed by extensive consultation. Contracts for delivery of these services are in place until the end of March 2020.

Funding for the Domestic Abuse Support Service is made up of a pooled budget, from Public Health, Children's Services, Community Safety and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The services have become embedded with the Support Line, answering on average 800 calls per month from professionals, victims and their families seeking support and advice. The current services support female and male victims and their families. In 2017/18 they supported 203 adults and 204 children in refuge accommodation and a further 1,278 adults and 440 children in the community, it was assessed that risk was reduced for 109 high risk cases and 176 medium risk cases. In addition 233 women completed the 'freedom programme' an enabling and confidence building course run by the service providers.

In January 2019 the Government published the report 'Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse – Consultation Response and Draft Bill', prevention and protection were central to the objectives within this consultation and bill including the protection and support of victims.

To ensure that there is no gap in service provision and to allow sufficient time for any TUPE requirements the tender documents will need to be advertised by 12 August 2019 for contract(s) beginning April 2020.

Whilst it is not proposed to redesign the services, an engagement process involving a wide range of stakeholders including; statutory partner agencies, service users, current service providers and Derbyshire residents will be undertaken to inform any specification developments.

Soft market testing will also take place to assess the potential range of providers who may bid for this contract.

Following the period of engagement and market testing, service specification(s), together with 3 year contract(s) with an option to extend for a further period of up to two years will be drafted between April and July 2019. An Equality Impact Analysis will be completed on the proposed specification(s).

Following completion of the procurement process a further report will be brought to Cabinet for approval of the preferred supplier(s).

3. Financial Considerations:

As detailed within the report, the cost of this service is met by a pooled budget. The County Council contribution to the new service would be £1.25m pa. The exact contribution from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is yet to be confirmed.

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, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Social Value Considerations:

Domestic abuse is a complex crime that can affect anyone, leaving physical and emotional scars on victims for a lifetime and impacts on their families and society into the future. Supporting victims and their families to access specialist support services at the appropriate time enables them to make their own choices and live independently, reducing the impact on communities and the need for them to access wider services, for example social care and health services.

6. Key Decision:

Yes

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

8. Background Papers

Cabinet Papers;

- 02 December 2014 – Integrated Commissioning of Domestic Abuse Services
- 24 March 2015 – Re-commissioning of Domestic Abuse Services
- 28 July 2015 - Re-commissioning of Domestic Abuse Support Services

9. Strategic Director's recommendation:

That Cabinet approves the re-commissioning of the Domestic Abuse Support Service in line with Protocol 1 of the Council's Financial Regulations, on the basis of a three year contract with potential to extend for a further two years from April 2020.

Emma Alexander

Strategic Director - Commissioning, Communities and Policy