

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.

**Decision Reference No: AHWB.018.2020 County Wide Perpetrator Programme**

**Box 1**

**DIRECTORATE: Adults Health and Well Being**

**DATE: 1/7/20**

**Contact Name: Bill Hotchkiss**

**Tel. No.: 01302 737831**

**Subject Matter: County Wide Perpetrator Programme**

**BOX 2****DECISION TAKEN**

To approve Doncaster Council to undertake the following:

1. Act as Lead Authority in the procurement of a new contract for a county wide voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programme.
2. Act as the sole Authority entering into the contract with the selected provider for the benefit of itself and the other authorities and organisations (namely Sheffield City Council, Barnsley Council, Rotherham Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner).
3. Continue an inter-authority agreement with the other 3x named authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
4. Utilise funding on the following basis:
  - (a) Doncaster contributing Public Health funding of £52k per annum for a period of two years.
  - (b) Receiving on an annual basis £60k from Sheffield Council, £50k from Barnsley Council, £50k from Rotherham Council and £50k from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as a contribution towards the programme for a period of two years, plus the possibility of 2x 12 month extension periods.

### **Box 3**

#### **REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

Since 2017 a successful county wide perpetrator programme has operated throughout South Yorkshire, delivered by the South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)

Recently the Government announced that they were ending the contract arrangements with CRC, which means that from June 2021 they will no longer be able to provide the perpetrator programme in South Yorkshire. We have been anticipating the outcome of Government plans for some time and therefore all four local authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have met and held discussions over the last few months and agreed to re-commission our contract with an alternative provider.

The South Yorkshire Partnership seeks to procure a perpetrator programme which achieves evidence based outcomes for individuals seeking to change their behaviour, which supports a multi-agency approach for an integrated response to the whole family affected by domestic abuse and where all services work together to the same agreed objectives. A key aim of the newly commissioned programme will be to challenge abusive behaviour at all risk levels. Also key will be to offer a flexible programme of individual and group interventions in order to support perpetrators to change their behaviour.

During the past two years of the Inspire to Change voluntary perpetrator contract, 1106 referrals have been made with 190 people successfully completing the programme. These completion figures are in line with similar programmes across the country and recognise the difficulties in engaging with perpetrators on a voluntary basis and working with them to complete the programme.

Interestingly, during the COVID emergency, referrals and engagements have significantly increased by around 60%, with sessions taking place using electronic media as CRC adapted their business processes to continue working with clients. The success of this approach has been incorporated into our new specification, where we are asking providers to consider this as part of service delivery for clients, unable to attend group sessions and a recognised barrier to successful completion.

It is recognised that many victims of domestic abuse do not report to the police and the true incidence of domestic abuse is estimated to be far higher than the reported figure.

Whilst in most domestic abuse reports, the perpetrators are male; we recognise that women may also be abusive. This programme will be accessible to abusers of both genders and people in same sex relationships and other under-represented groups. This recognises that interventions need to be tailored to specific needs and again our specification for the new contract takes account of this.

It was agreed that Doncaster would continue to take the lead on the development, as we hold the expertise in procurement, commissioning, professional knowledge and operational management of the existing programme.

A joint development group has been established consisting of a representative from Legal, Procurement, Commissioners, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and specialist Domestic Abuse Managers from collaborating authorities.

Subject to approval, below is an outline of the timescales we are working towards:

- Anticipated that the contract will commence at the end of February 2021 following an open tender process, at which time the full service must be ready to commence delivery.
- The contract will be for 2 years initially (Feb 2021 – Feb 2023) with the option to extend for a further 2x 12 month periods, subject to continued funding and performance.

Over the last three years we have learnt a great deal from operating a service across South Yorkshire and the collaboration between all partners has been an excellent example of how all local authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have jointly commissioned a successful programme. Whilst it is unfortunate that national changes to the Probation Service have resulted in us going down the route of re-commissioning, everyone is agreed that this has given us an opportunity to strengthen our requirements and include the most up to date learning from other programmes throughout the UK. This means that the new programme will be innovative and 'cutting edge' to maintain our profile as a successful provider with a key outcome of breaking the cycle of abuse that unfortunately exists in so many households across South Yorkshire.

## **Box 4**

### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED & REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

Present a business case to the Senior Management Team seeking approval to use the funding from Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley Council's, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Doncaster Council Public Health funding for the specific purpose of delivering a sub-regional perpetrator programme.

#### **Option 1: Do Nothing**

Allow the current Countywide Perpetrator Programme to come to an end at the end of February 2021 and not re-commission the service.

As outlined above, domestic abuse is a key issue for Team Doncaster and the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership. A programme of early intervention working with perpetrators and providing them with the opportunity to change their behaviour is a key factor in reducing the impact of abuse and reducing risk.

To do nothing would significantly put vulnerable families at further risk and potentially could lead to further pressures (and cost) to public agencies.

#### **Option 2: Commission a programme just in Doncaster**

This option is not viewed as a viable option as the limited funding available in Doncaster (approx. £50k per annum) would not be sufficient to fund a programme and make it an attractive proposition to potential providers. The budget available would limit the amount of resources able to be committed to the programme and the number of places would be significantly reduced, compared to a countywide programme.

#### **Option 3: Re-commission a Countywide Perpetrator Programme**

Recommended option; this would create an adequately resourced programme able to operate across the whole of South Yorkshire with one provider and a pooled budget of £262k. This option has the full support of all four local authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and has been proven to work over the last 3 years. As we emerge from the current COVID crisis, we are already seeing increases in referrals, which a new programme will be able to absorb.

## BOX 5

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council power to purchase goods and services.

Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 states that each local authority must take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. This may include both providing information and advice and providing services or facilities designed to promote healthy living (whether by helping individuals to address behaviour that is detrimental to health or in any other way).

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 makes it clear that tackling crime should be a partnership matter, with key local organisations working together to achieve a shared strategy for the benefit of local communities.

Legal services must prepare the necessary documentation to implement the collaboration between the authorities and to set out the eventual provider's obligations in providing the intervention services.

**Name: \_ Signature: Nichola Varty\_\_by email\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)

## BOX 6

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

It is proposed to procure a new contract for a county wide voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programme with Doncaster Council continuing to be the lead authority and sole authority entering the agreement with the provider. It is anticipated that the new annual contract will be delivered within the existing financial envelope for this service which is £262k. It is proposed that the cost of this service will be funded by continuing the existing inter-authority agreement with the other three named authorities and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as detailed in the table below.

	£000s
Doncaster Council	52
Sheffield Council	60
Barnsley Council	50
Rotherham Council	50
Police and Crime Commissioner	50

**TOTAL FUNDING**

**262**

The Doncaster Council contribution is funded by the Public Health grant. If the contract cannot be delivered within the financial envelope available, further funding would need to be identified.

**Name: Nick Cameron /Olivia Brown** Signature:  **Date: 24/07/2020**

Signature of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

## **BOX 7**

### **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **PROCUREMENT**

The procurement of the new county wide voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programme falls within chapter 3 section 7 Social and Other Specific Services regulation 74. Award of contracts for social and other specific services commonly referred to as the 'light touch regime' of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

While the light touch regime provides flexibility to the design of the procurement process, for procurements above threshold there is a requirement to advertise the contract in the Official Journal of the European Union and on contracts finder.

Given the nature of the service, Strategic Procurement will work with the service area to ensure. ensure compliance with the Councils Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulation

**Name: \_\_\_Shaun Ferron\_\_\_** Signature: \_\_\_\_\_via email\_\_\_ **Date: \_07.08.2020**

Signature of Assistant Director (or representative)

**ANY IMPLICATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD GENERALLY BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 5 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THESE CAN BE GIVEN THE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION.**

## **BOX 8**

**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:** (To be completed by the author).

The countywide programme aims to provide a service to perpetrators of domestic abuse to support them to change their behaviours. The eligibility criteria defined within the service specification will not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation) other than service users must be aged 16 years and over.

The service will not tolerate behaviours that are prohibited by the Equality Act 2010 and will actively work to reduce discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and the fostering of good relations.

#### **BOX 9**

##### **RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

Failure to take effective action may result in a key part of the new Domestic Abuse Strategy not being implemented and would increase the risk to victims and families by failing to offer a programme aimed at preventing the continuance of perpetrators behaviour.

#### **BOX 10**

##### **CONSULTATION**

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety Councillor, Chris McGuinness, has been fully consulted and briefed on the proposal and fully supports the decision for use of this funding.

Consultation has also taken place with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the 3 Partnering authorities involved in the project and Doncaster Council Legal and Procurement officers.

#### **BOX 11**

##### **INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, it is in the Public's interests for this decision to be published in full, redacting only the signatures.

**Name: Gillian Parker Signature by email Date: 07/098/2020**  
Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

#### **BOX 12**

##### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR (NO)

(If YES please list and submit these with this form)

**BOX 13**

**AUTHORISATION**

Name: \_Phil Holmes\_ Signature:  Date: \_14/08/2020\_

Director of Adults Health & Wellbeing

**Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer**

**NO**

**If yes please authorise below:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Executive/Director/Assistant Director of \_\_\_\_\_

**Consultation with Relevant Member(s)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation \_\_\_\_\_

(e.g. Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair/Vice-Chair)

**Declaration of Interest YES/NO**

**If YES please give details below:**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.**

**Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at**

**[Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk) who will arrange publication.**

**It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.**