

# **Proposed Decision to be made by the Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety on or after 10 August 2018**

## **Approval for Submitting Grant Applications related to Domestic Violence and Abuse**

### **Recommendation**

That the Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety approves the submission of grant funding bids on behalf of the County Council in connection with domestic violence and abuse as detailed in the report.

### **1.0 Outline of Bids**

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the County Council's Constitution that Portfolio Holders approve Grant Funding Bids submitted on behalf of the County Council.
- 1.2 This report seeks such approval in relation to two bids that the County Council wishes to submit in connection with domestic violence and abuse.

#### Grant Funding Bid 1: MHCLG Fund for Domestic Abuse Services

- 1.3 In July 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) announced a fund of £18.8 million for accommodation-based domestic abuse support and services which support local reforms to meet the national priorities for domestic abuse services. The fund is open to local authorities to apply for and bids must not exceed £100,000 per authority. Funding will need to be spent by 31 March 2020 and bids must be in by 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- 1.4 WCC is preparing a partnership bid across the 5 local authority areas within Warwickshire to the maximum combined value of £500,000. The partners involved in developing the bid are the five district and borough councils (heads of housing) and Refuge (the commissioned domestic abuse service provider). The bid will seek to address not only the national Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services but the priorities of the Warwickshire Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2015-18.
- 1.5 The aims of the bid and the ideas being developed are as follows:
  - a. Ensuring that survivors of domestic violence who access homelessness support under the Homelessness Reduction Act are able to access the right pathways to support, including:

- Setting up a post within the PHIL (Preventing Homelessness & Improving Lives) project which focuses on setting up pathways for domestic abuse survivors, ensuring that they are able to access the right support
  - Delivering training to the wider housing and homelessness teams
- b. Making the service accessible for hard to reach groups, including:
- Dedicated hospital IDVA(s) – to open up pathways for women with the most complex needs – we would be looking at the possibility of this being sustained with funding from health
  - BAME caseworker(s) – offering community support and increasing referrals from specific communities
  - Investigating ways to best support survivors in rural communities – potentially incorporating technology

### Grant Funding Bid 2: Home Office Children Affected by Domestic Abuse Fund

- 1.6 Also published in July 2018, the Home Office have announced a fund totalling £8 million over the next two financial years (2018-20) for organisations in England and Wales delivering interventions designed to support children exposed to domestic abuse. The fund is open to PCCs, local authorities, health commissioners or any other suitable organisation. Bids must be for a minimum of £500,000; there is no maximum amount but bids must be scalable. The closing date for this fund is 19 September.
- 1.7 A partnership bid is being explored across Business Units within WCC and with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. Ideas include:
- Expansion of the Family Intervention project – working with young people and their non-abusive parent/carer
  - Development of Operation Encompass to include secondary schools – funding to pay for people to do the work in the Police Harms Assessment Unit
  - Relationship work in schools – to enhance the offer already in place around peer relationships
  - Expansion of the DRIVE perpetrator programme to have a young person element
  - Work with Veteran Contact Point and Armed Forces Covenant staff to develop a programme for children of both service and retired armed forces personnel (in support of the new No Defence for Abuse Strategy).

## **2.0 Financial Implications and Risks**

- 2.1 There are no inherent financial implications for the County Council in terms of submitting the bids other than officer time in working up and submitting the bids. This time will be found from within existing resources. Neither funding stream requires any match funding.

- 2.2 In both cases, the funding must be spent by 31 March 2020. The proposed projects developed in each case will therefore either be time limited to that end or be pilot projects for evaluation and consideration as part of the commissioning process that exists around domestic abuse. The bids made will cover the full cost of the proposed projects. There will be no commitment for the County Council to provide any extra financial resources.
- 2.3 If the bids are successful, there would again be a staff resource required to manage the additional funding and report back on expenditure in accordance with the grant conditions of each Government department. Existing staff resources would be able to accommodate this. The County Council as the applicant would be accountable for the expenditure and would ensure appropriate contractual arrangements are in place to manage any external provision of services using this funding.

## Background papers

None

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Owing to the tight timescale this report was not circulated to members prior to publication.