

11th September 2014**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To report on the Domestic Abuse Review 2014 and the options for domestic abuse services commissioning.
- 2 To agree the way forward with commissioning in conjunction with the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Information and Advice**3 As reported previously:**

Tackling Domestic Abuse remains a strategic priority for Nottinghamshire and this is articulated in the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) plan, the Health and Well Being strategy and Safer Nottinghamshire Board priorities. Recently a comprehensive review has been completed (led by the PCC), this along with the Domestic Abuse refresh for the JSNA provide us with a good foundation and a clear way forward. This work is very timely as the majority of services commissioned by NCC have a contract end date of summer 2015.

- 4 As of 1st April 2014 all funding to support Domestic Abuse from NCC comes from the Public Health Grant and is in the region of £1million, and is a mixture of contracted services and those funded through Grant Aid. An additional £800,000 comes from other partners, the biggest contributor being the PCC. Over the next few years NCC will need to meet budgetary challenges and this will have an impact on PH and the various policy areas.
- 5 The financial envelope for domestic abuse services funded by NCC is subject to the NCC budget challenge and the PCC funding is awaiting central government budget settlements. It is likely that the outcomes of both these processes will be clear in February 2015. Any decisions at this stage will be subject to the availability of finance from April 2015 onwards.

Agreement at NCC Public Health Committee July 2014

- 6 Permission was sought from this Committee to begin the process of retendering DV services jointly with the PCC, with the Council acting as the lead and for new service arrangements to be in place 1st October 2015. In response, Members asked the Public Health Team to review the options for commissioning domestic abuse services and obtain relevant legal and procurement advice. As a result of taking that advice two options are available to Members and these are outlined in the table below.

The following feedback has been provided by the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

- 7 The PCC is committed to an open procurement process for its share of the Nottinghamshire domestic abuse funding and sees no viable alternative method of commissioning. This commissioning intention has already been widely publicised in the Domestic Violence Review with no adverse response.
- 8 Joint commissioning with NCC provides a unique opportunity to link all the PCC and NCC funded services into a single tender process, resulting in a jointly managed contract or set of contracts, thus reducing the workload for both providers and commissioners.
- 9 The joint commissioning team as currently constituted contains sufficient leadership, expertise and local knowledge to develop a tender process that will not disadvantage local providers or providers that can deliver quality services.

The following feedback has been provided by the NCC Procurement and Public Health Teams

- 10 The legal duty for procurement is clear, as is the advantage to funders of developing a process that invites providers to develop their services exactly as required by local conditions
- 11 Re-commissioning offers an opportunity to align changes to funding arrangements inherited from NCC Grant Aid which have reached the end of a three year agreement, with the rest of the domestic abuse services
- 12 By jointly commissioning with the PCC there is a greater opportunity for efficiencies.

Table 1 Options for commissioning Domestic Abuse services

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Conduct a joint open procurement process on behalf of the County Council and the PCC with NCC as the lead partner.	Due to commissioning intentions already conveyed, this is what existing services are expecting Enables NCC and PCC to align services, and maintain best value and quality standards through an outcome based approach Achieves sustainability and security for successful provider(s)	Potential concerns from existing providers if they lose their funding
2	Delay commissioning for a further year	Stability for existing third sector projects not in	PCC not in a position to delay, so potential that key

	continuing existing funding arrangements. Commission in 2015-16	receipt of PCC funds	safeguarding services are provided by two different organisations by October 2015, one commissioned by NCC and another commissioned by PCC resulting in failure to align Services Providers have to tender twice in both 2015 and 2016
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Reasons for Recommendations

- 13 The legal framework for commissioning makes the duty to procure services of this size and scope clear. In certain circumstances NCC would be allowed to delay procurement for further information or in order to align the timeframes of several contracts. Since a very comprehensive review has just been completed and the contracts are all due to end in summer 2015 these grounds do not offer any alternative in this case.
- 14 Feedback from the PCC clearly favours joint commissioning in the near future and this opportunity will not be repeated for at least the next two years.
- 15 Through the Domestic Abuse Review process local providers are now expecting to bid for services again in 2015 and there has been no adverse reaction to this proposal

Crime and Disorder Implications

- 16 Tackling Domestic Abuse is a community safety priority

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

- 17 Services working with and for Victims of Domestic Abuse are required to work in accordance with local safeguarding arrangements

RECOMMENDATION

The PH Committee is asked:

To agree to Option 1 in Table 1 above. A joint open procurement process on behalf of the County Council and the PCC with NCC as the lead partner is undertaken, recognising that at this stage the financial envelope for this commissioning is yet to be determined

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Constitutional Comments [SB 18/08/2014]

18 The Public Health Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments [NS 13/08/14]

19 The financial implications are set outlined in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nottinghamshire PCC Domestic Abuse Review (*available at*
<http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Home.aspx>)

[Domestic Violence chapter JSNA Nottinghamshire 2014](#)

[Health and Wellbeing Board January 2013: Tackling Domestic Violence in Nottinghamshire](#)

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All