

3 February 2020

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Committee of progress on the recommendations within the Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and highlight considerations for the authority.
2. To advise Committee that it endorse the outcome of the procurement exercise for Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse support services, and the Domestic Abuse Prevention, Promotion of Services and Training service.
3. To seek Committee approval to publicly launch and promote Domestic Abuse services, including the Helpline number and Prevention, Promotion of Services and Training elements, to residents and stakeholders across Nottinghamshire for the duration of the contract.

Information

Strategic Context

4. Tackling Domestic Abuse is a strategic priority for both the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board and is highlighted as a key issue in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022. Domestic Abuse services also contribute to achieving Nottinghamshire County Council's Plan 'Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future 2017-2021'.
5. The updated Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) set out the needs for Nottinghamshire. This has informed the procurement of the services commissioned by the authority which are currently accessed by more than two thousand women, men and children each year.
6. Recommendations from the JSNA and progress against them is summarised below, followed by a report of the outcome of the procurement

Domestic Abuse JSNA summary of key recommendations

7. The JSNA groups its recommendations under the four themes of: partnership working, prevention, provision and protection.

8. Recommendations for which there are considerations for the authority are highlighted below. Details of the full set of recommendations are set out in Appendix 1.

Partnership working (which also addresses governance and oversight)

9. The Safer Nottinghamshire Board has strategic oversight of domestic abuse. The Board is chaired by the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council and is made up of leaders and senior officers from statutory agencies across the county, including the Director of Public Health and service directors.
10. Nottinghamshire County Council also contributes to partnership working through the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive which reports to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. It is chaired by the Director of Public Health and brings together executive officers from partner organisations including providers. It is this group through which submission of a countywide bid for government funding is also being coordinated by the public health team.
11. In 2019 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) conducted a consultation and subsequently released a funding prospectus on the support for survivors of domestic abuse and their families within safe accommodation. This highlighted a new role for upper tier authorities to oversee bids for and management of safe accommodation. The authority will also be expected to provide updates to the National Domestic Abuse Commissioner.

Prevention

12. The authority is addressing recommendations under this theme by procuring prevention services using the public health grant. To date, prevention interventions have focused on children and young people in school setting through whole year group training on healthy relationships. However funding is insufficient to provide full coverage for all schools in the county.
13. The authority also commissions a service tailored for young people and children who have experienced domestic abuse. This is funded through public health reserves and is time-limited.
14. Work to address misunderstandings and discrimination is undertaken through the media and in community settings
15. Evaluation of these interventions by the public health team will be important to establish their impact and to develop recommendations about further funding.

Provision

16. The most immediate considerations for the authority have been addressed through the reprocurement of services which is reported in more detail later in this report.
17. Alongside the reprocurement of services funded using the public health grant, officers from public health are coordinating the submission of a countywide bid to replace the end of current MHCLG funding in March 2020. The issue of maintaining the present number of refuge spaces in Nottinghamshire remains a key area of concern. A summary paper highlighting the concerns, risks and impacts of a reduced funding will be presented to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board in March 2020.

18. The JSNA highlights that there is an increasing volume and complexity of demand for domestic abuse services. This demand continues to exceed service capacity which can cause delays for survivors and constrain their access to support. One example of this is that the number of referrals to the local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) remains high. The public health team is working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and other partners to review referral criteria and monitor demand. Options and recommendations will be taken to the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive scheduled for 12 March 2020.

Protection

19. Action on recommendations relating to protection falls within the remit of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Police and district community safety colleagues. Further detail is available in Appendix 1.

Summary and outcome of the procurement process

20. Committee gave approval in April 2019 to tender for Domestic Abuse services to meet the needs identified in the JSNA.
21. Domestic Abuse services are funded and jointly commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council using the public health grant and by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The overall investment by the authority is £1,085,250 for 2020-2021, which represents 70% of the overall combined budget.
22. The procurement was structured around three “lots”, each one comprising a series of “call offs”. The contract is a “framework agreement” which is an arrangement under which the authority has flexibility to commission additional services and capacity as funding allows.
23. These “lots” and details of the financial allocation 2020-2021 against each of them are shown in table 1.
24. Potential providers qualified to participate in the tender on the basis of various criteria relating to capacity for specialised work in a partnership setting with survivors of domestic abuse, and with reference to arrangements for workforce, delivery and governance.
25. The outcome of the procurement is that (subject to finalisation) contracts will be awarded to Nottinghamshire Women’s Aid Ltd, Juno Women’s Aid and Equation. The new services will commence April 2020. The lot which each provider is to be awarded is shown in Table 1.
26. Alongside the awards made through competitive tender, a direct award has been made for the contract to provide the Nottinghamshire 24 Hour Freephone Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline. The rationale for making a direct award is that the service operates across the whole of Nottinghamshire including the city and is funded by various charitable and statutory sources including the Police and Crime Commissioner and Nottingham City Council. It would be detrimental to potential users in the county and unaffordable for the authority to fund a separate helpline dedicated to county residents. Therefore a direct award has been made to Juno Women’s Aid to enable them to continue to deliver this important service.

Table 1: Domestic Abuse Service in Nottinghamshire from 2020-21

	Contract length	2020-21 investment
Lot 1: Domestic Abuse Support Services – South Nottinghamshire, Awarded to Juno Women’s Aid		
Call off 1a: Domestic Abuse Support Services in South Nottinghamshire: Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe	4 years +2+2	£580,000
Call off 1b: Young People’s Violence Advocate (YPVA) Service - South	1 year	£40,000
Direct award - Local Domestic Abuse Helpline (Countywide)	4 years +2+2	£84,894
Lot 2: Domestic Abuse Support Services – North Nottinghamshire Awarded to Nottinghamshire Women’s Aid Ltd		
Call off 2a: Domestic Abuse Support Services in North Nottinghamshire: Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood and Mansfield	4 years +2+2	£580,000
Call off 2b: Refuge Support Services in North Nottinghamshire	4 years +2+2	£174,852
Call off 2c: Young People’s Violence Advocate (YPVA) Service - North	1 year	£40,000
Lot 3 – Prevention, Promotion and Training Awarded to Equation		
Call off 3a: Prevention, Promotion & Training Services (Countywide)	4 years +2+2	£20,000
Call off 3b: Domestic Abuse Prevention, Service Promotion and Training – Children Affected by Domestic Abuse	1 year (1 Sept 2020 – 31 Aug 2021)	£35,000
Total		£1,554,746

Financial Implications

27. The Service contracts are affordable as contained within budget and met from the Public Health Grant and the PCC.

Procurement

28. The procurement of the Domestic Abuse Services is being finalised by NCC Corporate Procurement.

Reasons for Recommendations

29. The Local Authority has lead roles and responsibilities with the prevention of and delivery of services to support victims of DA. The progress against the recommendations of the JSNA highlights achievements to-date and areas for future work to progress.
30. A rigorous procurement process has been conducted.
31. Whilst the providers will be primarily responsible for their own communication and service publicity, it is important that the Local Authority is able to support promoting and on-going delivery of the services through its own media channels.

Statutory and Policy Implications

32. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) To consider whether there are any actions arising from the report
- 2) To endorse the outcome of the procurement process for the Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse support services and the Domestic Abuse Prevention, Promotion of Services and Training service (subject to finalisation of contracts) and their commencement from April 2020
- 3) To approve the launch and ongoing promotion of Domestic Abuse services, including the Helpline number and Prevention, Promotion of Services and Training elements, to residents and stakeholders across Nottinghamshire for the duration of the contract

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Constitutional Comments (LW 16/01/2020)

33. Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Finance Comments (DG 16/01/2020)

34. The contract value of £1.555m will be met from the Public Health Grant £1.085m, and the balance, £0.47m met from a contribution by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment ([published](#))

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

