

29th September 2015**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****COMMISSIONING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update members of the Community Safety Committee about the commissioning of specialist domestic violence and abuse (DVA) services.

Information

2. The Public Health Committee agreed in September 2014 to the joint commissioning of DVA service between Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Joint commissioning with NCC provided an opportunity to link PCC and NCC funded DVA services into a single tender process, resulting in a jointly managed contract, thus reducing the workload for both providers and commissioners. NCC led the procurement process and is the contract lead organisation.
3. Following the joint commissioning process with the PCC all of the Public Health DVA budget will be committed via contracts from 1st October 2015 and any former DVA Grant Aid arrangements will have ceased by this date.
4. Following the Public Health Committee decision an open tender procurement process took place which concluded in July 2015. The contract was awarded to Nottinghamshire Women's Aid in the north of the county (Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield) and to WAIS in the south of the county (Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe).
5. Services that can respond to and provide support to adults and young people experiencing DVA and children that are affected by DVA have been commissioned. The contract requires the provision of services at all levels of risk for female and male survivors albeit recognising the variation in prevalence. In addition to this there are additional responsibilities to provide workforce development and training to improve identification and referral across Nottinghamshire. The commissioned services will deliver a range of evidence based interventions and both organisations are contracted to deliver services that meet quality standards such as National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Women's Aid Quality Standards.
6. The tender process placed a significant emphasis on commissioning for outcomes and both Nottinghamshire Women's Aid and WAIS have been working with Women's Aid England during the pilot stage of establishing 'On Track' a national outcomes reporting framework to

be launched across the DVA sector from October 2015. Allowing for an initial phase of embedding this into their work the contract ensures providers report on outcomes from October 2016 onwards.

7. The outcomes and quality standards relating to the contract were consulted on prior to the tender. The feedback received supported the identified outcomes and quality standards stipulated in the service specification.
8. The contract is for three years commencing on 1st October 2015 with an option to extend for two further years 12 months at a time. The mobilisation phase has been underway since July and is nearing completion.
9. Out of scope of this tender were the provision of the Nottinghamshire 24 hour free phone domestic and sexual violence Helpline and the provision of specialist DVA support services within refuges. Both of these services form part of an effective local response to DVA and have been contracted by NCC separately with £53,600 per year of Public Health funds committed by the PHC to Helpline and £175,000 per year to DVA services within refuge.

Other Options Considered

10. An option to delay the re-procurement process by 12 months was considered as there was an option to extend current NCC DVA contracts by a further year. However, PCC were not in a position to delay their commissioning of DVA services and were the joint commissioning to have not been considered viable then providers would have had to undertake competitive tender process in the county twice in less than a year. The option of delaying tendering for DVA service was discounted at the Public Health Committee in September 2014.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

12. Tendering for a provider of DVA services required the assurance from Nottinghamshire Police that whichever organisation(s) were to be awarded the contract there would be continuity in terms of access to Police systems and ways of working such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) would continue. Joint commissioning with the PCC provided assurance of this.

Financial Implications

13. The contract award came in slightly under the joint budget envelope of £1.2m.

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

14. Services working with and for victims of DVA are required to work in accordance with local safeguarding arrangements.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that members of the Community Safety Committee:

- 1) Note the content of this report.

Chris Kenny
Director of Public Health

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Constitutional Comments ([AK 2/09/2015])

15. The Community Safety Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (DG 2.09.15)

16. The financial implications are contained within paragraphs 9 and 13 of this report.

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.

- Public Health Committee paper (11.09.14) – Nottinghamshire County Council Domestic Abuse Services
- Public Health Committee paper (21.1.15) – Nottinghamshire County Council Domestic Abuse Procurement
- Public Health Committee amendment paper (21.1.15) – Nottinghamshire County Council Domestic Abuse Procurement
- Public Health Committee paper (2.7.15) – Nottinghamshire County Council Domestic Abuse Services Commissioning Update
- Public Health Committee paper (10.9.15) – commissioning of specialist DVA services within refuge

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- 'All'