

For Information	
Public/Non Public*	Public
Report to:	Police and Crime Panel
Date of Meeting:	29 March 2021
Report of:	Update on Domestic Abuse Helpline demand during Covid and PCC Domestic Abuse Position Paper Action Plan
Report Author:	Nicola Wade and Dan Howitt
E-mail:	nicola.wade14231@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
Other Contacts:	
Agenda Item:	5

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UPDATE ON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE DEMAND DURING COVID AND PCC DOMESTIC ABUSE POSITION PAPER

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Police and Crime Panel about the demand for Nottinghamshire's Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Helpline during Covid and also on progress against the PCC's Action Plan for *Improving the Response to Domestic Abuse in Nottinghamshire, A Whole Systems Approach*, December 2020 ("DA Position Paper").

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Strategic Resources and Performance Committee note the demand on Nottinghamshire's DSVa helpline and progress of the Action Plan.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The updates are provided at the request of the Panel.

4. Summary of Key Points (this should include background information and options appraisal if applicable)

- 4.1 Nottinghamshire's DSVa Helpline is a key service within the city and county. It has seen significantly increased demand during Covid. The attached report provides an overview of demand during the pandemic as well as measures put in place to manage the additional demand.

- 4.2 The DA Position Paper takes a whole system approach to providing an overview of domestic abuse related activity in Nottinghamshire. It considers the current service landscape and opportunities to improve the response to domestic abuse and includes recommendations for Nottinghamshire Police and the PCC as well other public sector agencies.
- 4.3 The PCC published the Final Consultation Draft of the DA Position Paper in September 2020 for consultation. A range of responses were received which have been incorporated into the final recommendations. This paper and attached table provides an update on the action taken to date to achieve the recommendations.

5. Financial Implications and Budget Provision

- 5.1 The PCC secured additional funding from MoJ for the DSVA helpline in 2020-1. The funding expires at the end of March. However, the PCC is at the time of writing seeking further funding from MoJ including additional posts requested by Juno Women's Aid. A funding announcement is expected imminently.
- 5.2 Some of the recommendations in the Action Plan may require additional investment to achieve. Where this is the case, a business case will be developed, including an options appraisal. Local funding may be identified if appropriate and budget provision allows, subject to formal decision making. National funding opportunities will be taken.

6. Human Resources Implications

- 6.1 There are no human resource implications for the Action Plan.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 The Paper highlights that some survivors with protected characteristics may not be currently accessing support services to the extent that demographics would suggest. The Paper includes a recommendation to work with partners to review the take up of support services across all of Nottinghamshire's communities and develop an action plan to improve access. The Action Plan reports that the PCC is currently applying for funding for specialist posts.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 Risks related to domestic abuse activity led by the PCC are managed through his standard risk management framework.

9. Policy Implications and links to the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

- 9.1 The Police and Crime Plan has strategic priorities to protect people from harm and to help and support victims. Tackling domestic abuse is a strategic priority in the Police and Crime Plan. The DA Position Paper provides an overview of

all activity related to domestic abuse, including prevention and protection activity as well as provision of support.

10. Changes in Legislation or other Legal Considerations

- 10.1 The Domestic Abuse Bill is in the House of Lords at the time of writing and is expected to become law in spring 2021. The DA Position Paper takes note of the Bill and recommendations reflect the current understanding of its implications.

11. Details of outcome of consultation

- 11.1 The final consultation draft of the DA Position Paper was published on the PCC's website in September 2020, with comments and questions invited until November 2020. In addition the Deputy PCC presented the paper to the DSVAs strategic and third sector meetings groups in the city and county, seeking feedback in and after the meetings.
- 11.2 Responses to the Consultation Draft were received from a wide range of stakeholders including public health, Crown Prosecution Service, clinical commissioning groups, community safety partnerships and third sector providers. Following feedback from health agencies the Deputy PCC met with representatives from clinical commissioning groups in January 2021 to agree health agencies' involvement in the final recommendations.
- 11.3 Feedback from stakeholders has been incorporated into the final Position Paper and recommendations and is reflected in the attached Action Plan.
- 11.4 In addition to the recommendations which have been amended following consultation with clinical commissioning groups, the recommendation in the Consultation Draft for the PCC to develop and seek funding to pilot a Respect accredited DV perpetrator programme has been amended. The PCC successfully secured Home Office funding for a DVA perpetrator programme in November 2020. The recommendation has been updated to ensure the successful roll out and evaluation of the programme.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 A separate DSVAs Helpline Demand Report and an Action Plan setting out progress against the recommendations is attached to this report.