

## Operational Decision Record

<b>Publication Date</b> 03 July 2023	<b>Decision Reference Number</b> 4981
<b>Decision Title</b>	
Public health grant contribution towards domestic violence and sexual abuse services	
<b>Decision Value</b>	
£182,478	
<b>Revenue or Capital Spend?</b>	
Revenue	
<b>Department</b>	
Public Health, People Community Safety, Communities, Environment & Resident Services	
<b>Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)</b>	
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<b>Decision Taken</b>	
To approve the spend of an additional £182,478 public health grant on non-statutory domestic violence services in Nottingham;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) £87,478 (£17,496 per annum x 5 years) on services set out in Table 1</li> <li>b) £70,000 (£14,000 per annum x 5 years) in the provision an IDVA service within the Emergency Department (NUH)</li> <li>c) £25,000 (non-recurrent) contribution towards a comprehensive evaluation of preventative healthy relationships programme delivered in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire schools</li> </ul>	
See appendix attached with more detail on the services and procurement advice on compliance.	
<b>Reasons for Decision and Background Information</b>	
Public health grant is allocated to local authorities to support their statutory responsibilities relating to the health and wellbeing of their local population. Public	

health grant conditions require the main and primary purpose of all spend from the grant to be public health. The grant conditions include a list of functions against which public health grant spend must be reported – the miscellaneous category specifically references ‘community safety, violence prevention and social exclusion’.

A review of the use of the public health grant in Nottingham was conducted in during the Summer 2021. This found that contributing to non-statutory domestic violence services was an eligible use of public health grant. However public health grant cannot be used to fund statutory duties of the local authority. Public health grant constitutes 100% of the Councils contribution to non-statutory domestic violence services, alongside contributions from the OPCC. This funding is discharged via the Crime and Drugs Partnership, in line with the approved Partnership Agreement.

If approved the changes to public health grant contribution to DVSA services will be reflected in a service level agreement between public health and community safety, as per the Public Health Commissioning Framework requirements.

- a) Spend of £87,478 (£17,496 per annum x 5years) on the non-statutory DVSA services as set out in Table 1

Current DVSA services were commissioned in 2018 with a contract start date of 1 April 2019 for a maximum length of nine years (3+2+2+2). The financial envelope for these services was unchanged from the previous commissioning round (2012) but there was no change in expected delivery. 2023/24 is the second year of the first two-year extension. If all extensions permitted within the current contract are actioned there is five years remaining (including the current year). The per annum contract value is static across the lifetime of the contract, including possible extension periods. Additional Ministry of Justice and Home Office funding into the sector has provided some mitigation for the Statutory Services which are not Public Health funds.

Since the contracts commenced services have experienced significant increases in demand:

- The 24 hours free phone helpline is currently receiving on average 4,000 calls from Nottingham City residents per year (from a baseline of 1,300 in 2012).
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference referrals of the highest risk survivors has risen from 500 per year to over a 1000, with a 10% increase in the last year.
- Reports to the Men’s Service and the Prevention work in schools has also increased during this time period.

There is no requirement within the contract to provide an uplift. However, it is the responsibility of the commissioning organisation to ensure that contracts are adequately funded to safely meet the required specifications. As such this decision asks that an uplift of 3% of the contract value is awarded to these services in

2023/24, in recognition of the exceptional circumstances. This does not set a precedent for further year on year increases, which would require a further decision.

An increase of 3% equates to £17,494 x 5 years (maximum remaining lifetime of the contract) = £87,478 additional spend approval required. Table 1 (below) provides a breakdown of this by contracted service.

The proposal is to vary the contract for the DV Female Service ( now the SASS team who deliver outreach and IDVA support) 2019-28 and also the ED IDVA service 2020 – 28 and for the Prevention Service 2021 - 30. The proposal includes an increase in grant funding into the helpline.

Table 1:

<b>Service</b>	<b>PH grant contribution – per annum</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>Over remaining lifetime of contract – end date 31 March 28</b>
Domestic Abuse Outreach Team (inc IDVAs)	£439,312	£13,179	£65,897
Prevention (Professional & Communities, Children & Young People)	£41,791	£1,254	£6,269
DVSA 24-hour help line	£102,085	£3,063	£15,313
		<b>£17,496</b>	<b>£87,478</b>

- b) £70,000 (£14,000 per annum x 5) additional funding to cover the full costs of 1fte ED IDVA

Public Health grant currently contributes £36,000 per annum to fund the provision of 1fte Independent Domestic Violence Advisor, within the Emergency Department at Queens Medical Centre (NUH). The actual cost of this provision is £50,000 per annum, a difference of £14,000 per annum. This decisions asks for approval to award an additional £14,000 per annum for the remainder of the contract (5 years), totalling £70,000 to reflect the actual costs of providing the specified service.

*Note for Programme Board: Public health will also support discussions with NUH re their commitment to funding a second IDVA post to provide resilience to the service.*

- c) £25,000 (non-recurrent) contribution towards a comprehensive evaluation of the preventative healthy relationships programme delivered in schools across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

The Joint Commissioning Group has requested that a comprehensive evaluation of the existing schools based healthy relationship programmes delivered in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire schools is conducted to inform future commissioning decisions. This decisions requests approval to spend £25,000 on this evaluation. The evaluation will be jointly funded by the OPCC (50%) and Nottinghamshire County Council (25%). Nottingham City Council's contribution will be provided to the OPCC who will lead on the procurement of an appropriate provider.

### **Other Options Considered and why these were rejected**

- (1) End the DVSA contracts referred to in section a and b early and recommission based on current levels of need.

This option has been rejected due to the recognised need for stability within the sector. It would also disrupt long-term strategic plans to introduce a Framework arrangement for DVSA/VAWG services (concept agreed by CPEC) and plans for a co-ordinated approach to commissioning across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County partners via the Joint Commissioning Group.

### **Reasons why this decision is classified as operational**

Value of decision less than £250,000 and within existing policy

### **Additional Information**

See appendix.

### **Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)**

Lucy Hubber, Director of Public Health

### **Scheme of Delegation Reference Number**

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### **Date Decision Taken**

30<sup>th</sup> May 2023