

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

5042

Author:

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Department:

Communities, Environment and Resident Services

Contact:

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Subject:

Slavery Exploitation Team County Expansion

Total Value:

£523,401 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1. To accept up to £523,401 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and District/County Councils to fund posts and travel for additional resource within the Slavery Exploitation Team to deliver the service county-wide from 2023-2025. The Proposal and expansion budget is attached.2 . In addition to accepting the income from the OPCC and County colleagues, there is a cost to Nottingham City Council of £36,833 (£10,833 for Nov 2023 - March 2024 and £26,000 for next financial year). Additional pressures will be met by a Public Health and Asylum Dispersal Grant, and further income from the Another Way Project. This will mean for every £1 we are investing as a city, we are accepting £14 to deliver public services and improve safeguarding outcomes.3. To delegate authority to the Head of Community Safety to recruit and spend the £523,401 on staff salaries and travel within the Slavery Exploitation Team to deliver the service county-wide from 2023-2025. The funding is as set out in the attached Draft Partnership Agreement.4. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Communities and Resident Services to enter into the appropriate grant agreement.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Nottinghamshire OPCC, Nottinghamshire County Council and Districts (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood and Rushcliffe) have provided confirmation of funding for 2023-2025 for the Slavery Exploitation Team to deliver the service county-wide. Initially the intention was to start the county-wide delivery from April 2023 but changes in budget and job regrades have delayed the start and created an underspend that can cover the shortfall - see attached. The team has dedicated officers who work with partners to identify and tackle exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking and offer support to survivors. To drive a multi-agency approach, the team co-ordinates and chairs a monthly SERAC (Slavery Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference) which unites agencies to discuss known or suspected cases and plan a joint response to manage risk, safeguard victims and intervene. This increases effectiveness and co-operation between agencies, resulting in better service provision and outcomes for vulnerable citizens who have been exploited. The work of the team and SERAC naturally incorporates identifying and appropriately dealing with a number of issues affecting individuals and the wider community including serious violence, domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, honour based abuse, substance use, mental health, homelessness, children's safeguarding, serious organised crime, recruitment of children and anti-social behaviour. The current model features in Local Government Association guidance on Tackling Modern Slavery as an example of best practice and the manager Chairs the LGA's National Modern Slavery Network. The team also has representation on a Home Office First Responder Organisation Forum. The estimated cost per modern slavery victim in the UK in 2016/17 (latest available data) was £328,720 - taken from the governments Economic and Social Cost of Modern Slavery. Some cases are referred to the SET when it is too late for early intervention or prevention and victims will fall into this cost evaluation. However, for the majority of cases the SERAC partnership is successful in implementing safeguarding, early intervention and prevention. Over the last year (01/09/2022-31/08/2023) SET has received 292 referrals, with an average cost of £637 per case. See attached annual review for further detail.

Briefing notes documents:

SET Expansion Budget.xlsx, Proposal SET expansion AW and County.docx, SET Review 2022-23 V2.docx

Other Options Considered:

1. Do not accept the funding and continue to pay £85,000 a year for service delivery in the city..2. Do not accept the funding and discontinue the Slavery Exploitation Team

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None.

Any Information Exempt from publication:

Yes

Exempt Information:

Description of what is exempt:

The Partnership Agreement and exempt legal advice

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because the grant funding is subject to Nottingham City Council (NCC) entering into a partnership agreement with the PCC and other named councils. The proposed partnership agreement will need revising before it can be signed as the proposed terms currently expose NCC to an undue level of risk.

Documents exempt from publication:

exemptlegaladviceslaveryexploitation10-10-23.docx, SERAC Draft Partnership Agreement v3 (EMPLS) 230523.doc

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

The aim of the funding is to reduce exploitation, slavery, trafficking and associated criminality and community impacts. Under the duty set out in section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, the Slavery Exploitation Team aims to protect vulnerable adults (and on occasion children, at the request of Children's Services), considering the impacts of trauma, violence, exploitation and potential grooming of associated children.

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA SET Expansion AG signed final.docx

Relates to staffing:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

30/10/2023

Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Human Resources, Equality and Diversity
Legal Advice:	This advice is exempt from publication and is contained within an exempt appendix Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 10/10/2023.
Finance Advice:	Advice provided by Susan Turner (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 11/10/2023.
	Advice documents: SET Finance Comments 2023-25.docx
HR Advice:	If the funding is not accepted then the work required will not be able to be carried out. Advice provided by Janade Akhter (HR Consultant) on 06/10/2023.
Equality and Diversity Advice:	Comments have been provided for the EIA that was submitted. This was sent directly to the author of EIA/ DDM. Advice provided by Nasreen Miah (Equality & employability consultant) on 29/09/2023.
Signatures	Sajid Mohammed (PH - Neighbourhoods, Safety & Inclusion)
	SIGNED and Dated: 23/10/2023
	Colin Parr (Corporate Director, CERS)
	SIGNED and Dated: 17/10/2023