

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR COMMUNITIES

20TH MARCH 2017

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| Executive Board Member: | Portfolio: |
| Cllr. Pam Palmer | Communities |

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES GRANT 2017/18 FROM WELSH GOVERNMENT

To decide on allocation of the funding to support strategic co-ordination, Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) provision and direct service commissioning.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

1. To note the Council's proposal to continue to fund the two currently funded projects. These are the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator role and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service. Confirmation of the allocation is awaited and the delivery plan is based on the same level of funding continuing - £112,750.
2. Both services are currently provided by Hafan Cymru and it is proposed to continue with the current service provider for this year, prior to a regional commissioning approach being undertaken from 2018. This is the subject of an exception report which has been approved by the Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Administration and Law.

Reasons:

Both the current projects can be evidenced as providing good outcomes (as reported to Welsh Government).

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|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Directorate Wendy S Walters | Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy) | 01267 224112 wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
| Kate Thomas | Community Safety Manager | 01267 224202 khthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |

Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):

None

Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):

N/A

DECISION MADE:

Signed:

DATE: _____

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

The following section will be completed by the Democratic Services Officer in attendance at the meeting

| | |
|---|----------|
| Recommendation of Officer adopted | YES / NO |
| Recommendation of the Officer was adopted subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified: | |
| Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was not adopted: | |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR COMMUNITIES
20TH MARCH 2017

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES GRANT 2017/18 FROM WELSH GOVERNMENT

Summary

Welsh Government confirmed mid-December that 2017/18 is considered to be a further transitional year with funding continuing to be allocated to Local Authorities prior to a regional funding approach being introduced from April 2018. Welsh Government will be working with all Local Authorities, relevant Authorities and stakeholders to move to a regional funding and commissioning model.

Following the request from Welsh Government to submit a delivery plan to confirm how the Council wishes to allocate the funding which will be available again in 2017/18 on a Local Authority level, the Council has confirmed its proposed use of the Domestic Abuse Services Grant. This has been based on the assumption that the same level of funding will be received as in 2016/17 - £112,750, as advised by Welsh Government. This funding is to support strategic co-ordination, IDVA provision and direct service commissioning. Confirmation of the level of funding available will be confirmed following agreement of the Welsh Government Final Budget.

Proposal

The proposal is to continue to fund Hafan Cymru to provide the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator's post (£34,516) and the IDVA service (2.2 FTE IDVAs £78,234) and this has been submitted to Welsh Government as a draft delivery plan in order to meet its deadline. Both the current projects can be evidenced as providing good outcomes.

The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator provides a strategic co-ordinating service as required by Welsh Government. This is a strategic role in supporting the implementation and development of the Welsh Government's key priorities relating to the county.

The IDVA service provides short term support to the highest risk victims of domestic abuse with the focus of safety and reducing the risk.

During 2017/18, a mapping exercise and development of a regional Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy will ensure an evidence based approach can be taken regarding future allocation of funding across the region.

It is therefore considered prudent to continue with the existing service delivery arrangements in the interim for a further year, provided by Hafan Cymru, prior to a regional approach.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Wendy S Walters

Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy)

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Policy and Crime & Disorder | Legal | Finance | ICT | Risk Management Issues | Organisational Development | Physical Assets |
| YES | YES | NONE | NONE | YES | NONE | NONE |

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Tackling violent crime continues to be a priority for the Community Safety Partnership and domestic abuse is considered to be a key area which needs to be addressed. The continuation of the strategic role and dedicated IDVA service to deal with high risk victims are considered to be essential services

2. Legal

An exception is being considered to the Requirement of Competition – Contract Procedure Rules and Quotation Procedure Rules. It is requested that there is an extension to an interim arrangement with Hafan Cymru continuing to provide the services for one year until April 2017.

This is as a result of the change to regional funding and commissioning from April 2018. With the short timescales, the requirement to continue with the service provision and need to protect the staff concerned against redundancy in the interim, it is considered to be the most appropriate way forward.

5. Risk Management Issues

If the exception is not agreed and the services are subject to a procurement exercise, there is a risk that the postholders will be made redundant and service delivery affected.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Wendy S Walters
Policy)

Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A

2. Local Member(s) N/A

3. Community / Town Council N/A

4. Relevant Partners N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|---|--------------|---|
| Domestic Abuse Services Grant 2017/18 letter from Welsh Government – request for delivery plan and confirmation of funding at Local Authority level | | Available through Kate Thomas, Community Safety Manager |