

12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016

<b>Executive Board Member:</b>	<b>Portfolio:</b>
<b>Cllr. Pam Palmer</b>	Communities

## **Domestic Abuse Services Grant 2016/17 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. Following the change in allocation from £37,500 to £112,750 for 2016/17, the Council has submitted a delivery plan to Welsh Government to confirm how it wishes to allocate the funding. The proposal is to increase the level of funding to the two currently funded projects – the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator role and IDVA service, based on the level of need evidenced. Estimated costs have indicated that funding for the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator would increase from £27,500 to £34,000 and the IDVA service from £10,000 to £78,750.
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 2017. This is the subject of an exception report to be considered 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) and needing additional funding. The increased allocation has to be evidence based and include proposed targets and outcomes for the period.

Directorate		
Name of Head of Service:	Designation	01267 224112
Wendy S Walters	Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy)	wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author:	Community Safety Manager	01267 224202
Kate Thomas		khthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**Declaration of Personal Interest (if any):**

None

**Dispensation Granted to Make Decision (if any):**

**N/A**

(If the answer is yes exact details are to be provided below:)

**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 <b>subject to the amendment(s) and reason(s) specified:</b>	
Reason(s) why the Officer's recommendation was <b>not adopted:</b>	

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR COMMUNITIES

### 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016

#### Domestic Abuse Services Grant 2016/17 from Welsh Government

##### Summary

There has been an increase in the allocation provided by Welsh Government to the Council to support strategic co-ordination, Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) provision and direct service commissioning. Previously, the £37,500 funded a Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator post (£27,500) and a contribution towards an IDVA service (£10,000 matched by a Home Office contribution.) The decision relating to the allocation has to be evidence based and include proposed targets and outcomes for the period.

##### Proposal

The proposal to increase the allocation to the Co-ordinator's post to £34,000 and the IDVA service to £78,750 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 (as reported to Welsh Government) and needing additional funding.

Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator - there is a need to increase the hours of the Co-ordinator back to full time to ensure the delivery of the strategic work needing to be undertaken. The hours had previously been reduced to come within the allocated funding. Additional strategic work to be completed in year includes a multi-agency local response to the new Welsh Government strategy due to be published in November and assistance with the requirement to develop a local strategy which will involve a significant level of preparatory work including a needs assessment and mapping of existing service provision.

IDVA - the current IDVA service is provided by approximately 2 FTE posts (a 21 hour per week IDVA and a support service - 56 hours per week - funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.) The recommended level for the casework in the county is 4 FTEs, as identified in a report by SafeLives, a national charity whose work includes leading on multi-agency approaches to help high risk victims and the provision of IDVA training.

This year is considered by Welsh Government to be a transitional year prior to a regional funding approach being introduced from April 2017. Welsh Government will be working with local authorities to move to a regional funding and commissioning approach and have indicated that the Co-ordinator and IDVA services will be commissioned regionally from 2017. During 2016/17, the needs assessment undertaken in preparation for the development of a local 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 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
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## 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 2017. 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. The current Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator has a number of years experience in the role and was recently transferred to the employment of Hafan Cymru.

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

Signed: Wendy S Walters

Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration and Policy)

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

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Domestic Abuse Services Grant 2016/17 letter - notification of funding from Welsh Government To be completed	Available through Kate Thomas, Community Safety Manager