



## Executive Director/Director Non-Key Executive Decision Report

**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Ann Ellis

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**Report to:** Director - Commissioning, Inclusion & Learning

**Date of Decision:** 26 February 2018

**Subject:** Department of Communities and Local Government Domestic Abuse Fund – Award of Grant to Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd, for support around Psychological Informed Environment (PIE) for Sheffield Area Refuge and Support (SARAS)

Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? Health and Social Care  
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?

Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? Yes  No

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 1232

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes  No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

### **Purpose of Report:**

In November 2016 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) invited bids for a national £20 million fund to help support victims of domestic abuse.

The Housing Independence Team submitted an application on behalf of Sheffield City Council and was successfully awarded a grant of £93,500, to be spent over a two year period (2016/17 and 2017/18). Permission has been granted to allocate £83,500 of the grant and to retain £10,000 pending the outcome of a tender of a contract to inform psychologically based therapeutic support. The tender is now complete and the contract was awarded to Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd.

This report seeks permission for Sheffield City Council to pass on the remaining £10,000 and pay this as a grant to Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd, for the

delivery of support and consultancy to staff at Sheffield Area Refuge and Support (SARAS) and other refuges, to help them deliver more psychologically informed therapeutic support.

**Recommendation:**

To approve the award of a grant of £10,000 to Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd, to support for the delivery of support and consultancy to staff at Sheffield Area Refuge and Support (SARAS) and other refuges, to help them deliver more psychologically informed therapeutic support.

**Background Papers:**

Grant Application Form - DCLG Domestic Abuse Fund – Funding to help support the victims of domestic abuse

Offer Letter and Grant Determination (May 2017) - DCLG Domestic Abuse Fund – Funding to help support the victims of domestic abuse

Form 4 – DCLG Domestic Abuse Fund – Funding to help support the victims of domestic abuse, 16 March 2017

Department of Communities and Local Government Domestic Abuse Fund – Form 2A - Award of Grant to Sheffield Area Refuge and Support (SARAS) and Expansion of Sanctuary Scheme, June 2017

Form 4 – DCLG Domestic Abuse Fund – Funding to help support the victims of domestic abuse, 23 June 2017

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>Paul Jeffries</i>
		Legal: <i>Henry Watmough-Cownie</i>
		Equalities: <i>Louise Nunn</i>
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Ann Ellis	<b>Job Title:</b> Strategic Commissioning Manager
	<b>Date:</b> 22/01/18	

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The grant from DCLG is aimed at increasing refuge spaces and other accommodation for women fleeing domestic violence. It covers service provision that provides somewhere safe to live, life and skills training to victims to help them rebuild their lives and staff development.
- 1.2 The grant awarded by DCLG is for the period March 2017 until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018, comprising £23,500 for the financial year 2016/17 and £70,000 for the financial year 2017/18. The funding will be used as follows:

	<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>
Broadband and wi-fi to the two refuges	£12,500	
IT – computers, fittings for the refuge		£ 2,500
Childcare support (1post) for the refuge	£500	£ 24,000
Translation services for the refuge		£ 1,000
Refuge staff training, consultancy and materials to provide more psychologically informed therapeutic support	£ 10,000	£ 10,000
Sanctuary Scheme	£500	£ 32,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 23,500</b>	<b>£ 70,000</b>

- 1.3 Previous approvals were given as follows:

- on 16 March 2017 to accept the grant in totality and to approve the expenditure of £23,500 in 2016/17
- on 23 June 2016 Sheffield City Council to pass on £27,500 (of 2017/18's funding) to Sheffield Area Refuge and Support (SARAS) for childcare support, IT equipment and translation services within the refuge service and £32,500 (of the 2017/18 funding) by way of contract variation to Action to expand the Sanctuary Scheme to target people in areas of the city popular with BME communities
- a final instalment of £10,000 was retained by the Housing Independence Service in order to extend the support to provide support to staff that informs psychologically based therapeutic support.

- 1.4 The grant released so far has been used by SARAS to:

- a) Improve internet connectivity and wi-fi at both refuges and basic training for service users on the use of computers.
- b) Additional childcare provision in order that women based at the refuges can take advantage of the new support offer
- c) Initial Training course and purchase of some training materials for refuge staff to embed Psychologically Informed Environment to improve the support they provide to service users
- d) Enhanced access to translation and interpreting service to help women without English as a first language to access training and the support offer

- 1.5 The money released for the expansion of the Sanctuary scheme have provided:
- a) Additional resources to expand the service to the private sector, registered housing providers and owner occupiers targeted at areas of the city popular with BME communities

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 This report now seeks the approval for the payment of the retained £10,000 to include services for domestic abuse within a wider psychology service that the Council was commissioning.
- 2.2 The wider psychology service was to work with supported housing providers to provide professional supervision and action learning sets to embed psychological Informed practice into supported housing services.
- 2.3 At the time of the initial grant payment the Council was in the process of commissioning this wider service for three years. It was therefore decided to retain this funding to allow for this service to be integrated within the wider psychology service.
- 2.4 In 4 August 2017 Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd, won the contract through a competitive tender. This contract started on 30 October 2017 and is now working with a number of supported housing providers.
- 2.5 Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd will provide a bespoke service to the refuges and to other supported housing services that are accommodating women and children affected by domestic abuse.
- 2.6 This element of the service will run alongside the other services from February until September 2020, providing approximately two hours a week support to the domestic abuse supported housing providers.
- 2.7 Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd will undertake an initial familiarisation exercise with the service, staff and service users to establish a benchmark to evaluate the project over the period of the contract.
- 2.8 Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd will modify their approach to specifically meet the needs of women experiencing domestic abuse as this will require a greater trauma informed approach.
- 2.9 Weekly support will be provided alternating between group practice sessions and individual staff case support sessions.
- 2.10 Data will be collected through the contract period to assess effectiveness in line with the wider contract.

## **3. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE TO THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

- 3.1 The expenditure, will contribute to the Corporate Plan priorities for focussing on

better health and wellbeing, thriving neighbourhoods and communities and tackling inequalities. The Corporate Plan also recognises that to achieve these outcomes we will need to do things differently and this includes how we work collaboratively with our partners and individuals facing the greatest challenges. The planned expenditure aligns with the following Corporate Plan objectives:

- **An in-touch Organisation** – using our customer insight to ensure that we develop services that meet the needs of our diverse communities will be a key part of developing the Action Plan to support the delivery of the Strategy.
- **Better Health and Well-Being** – Work with others to keep adults at risk of abuse and neglect safe and Help thousands of people to get early help and access services to remain independent, reducing hospital admissions
- **Tackling Inequalities** – we want to ensure that the proposal is used as a tool to tackle inequality through identifying the need for targeted interventions for our most vulnerable customers. We also want to support those who face obstacles to find lasting work in gaining financial independence.

#### 4. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

4.1 Consultation specific to the bid took place with SARAS. However the bid has also been informed by consultation carried out prior to this:

- Meeting of SCC Drug and Alcohol/Domestic Abuse action Team (DACT) with Roshni and BME groups in November 2016
- Call for Evidence held August 2015, which revealed that there is growing research evidence that clients with histories of neglect, abuse and trauma benefit from an approach which creates an enabling environment where practice supports the management of psychological and emotional difficulties but not in the structured way that clients would reject.

#### 5. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

##### 5.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

5.1.1 There are positive implications for women and children, fleeing and/or recovering from abusive relationships. There are positive implications for BME women and men recovering from domestic abuse. There are positive implications for the VCF sector in terms of staff training and support and the recruitment of childcare staff.

##### 5.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

5.2.1 The total grant is £93,500, received in two instalments: £23,500 (2016/17) and £70,000 (2017/18). Approval was given on 16 March 2017 to accept the grant in totality and to approve the expenditure of £23,500 in 2016/17; On the 23 June 2017, approval was given to pass on the £27,500 of 2017/18's funding to Sheffield Area Refuge and Support (SARAS), to pass on £32,500 of 2017/18 funding to Action to expand the Sanctuary Scheme and to retain £10,000 for future payment for the implementation of psychologically informed practice.

5.2.2 This £10,000 is linked to specific requirements and it is the intention of SCC to

pay up to this allocation to Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd to deliver staff development work that helps staff at SARAS and other services accommodating people at risk of domestic abuse to improve their psychologically informed practice.

5.2.3 No alternative funding sources have been identified should there be any ongoing costs after the grant allocation has ended.

5.2.4 The Business Unit Manager will need to comply with all of the relevant SCC financial processes and procedures when paying grant monies to a third party.

### 5.3 Legal Implications

5.3.1 The Council has a duty under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 to secure that advice and information about homelessness and the prevention of homelessness is available to persons in its district, and powers to give assistance by way of grant or loan to any persons providing such advice and information and to voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness or matters relating to homelessness. Utilising the Grant Money for the purposes as set out in the DCLG application form attached, will be in accordance with this duty and allow the Council to develop and expand existing support where gaps in current service provision have been identified.

### 5.4 Other

5.4.1 Within the Council the Housing Independence Service has contracts with:

- SARAS for provision of refuge services for women and the Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Team
- Action for high risk domestic abuse services
- Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd for the provision of support to staff that informs psychologically based therapeutic interventions.

5.4.2 The organisations mentioned above will work in partnership on this project to ensure value and sustainability in accordance with the Council's objectives. HIS will monitor expenditure, outputs and outcomes and report to the DCLG Domestic Abuse team.

## 6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 Approval has already been given to accept the grant, and the expenditure for 2016/17 and 2017/18 have been processed. As part of this process it was agreed that £10,000 was held back pending the outcome of a tendering process for a separate contract for services to improve psychologically informed practice amongst staff. The remaining £10,000 could have been used to pay to refuge providers to purchase their own staff development but this would have given SCC less control over the type of work that was commissioned. SCC could procure the services from an independent provider, but a recently procured provider is already in place with the skills and capacity to deliver the required services.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The grant from DCLG allows the Council to test new approaches to support, and to enhance existing service provision to victims of domestic abuse. This will help to mitigate against any future budget reductions.
- 7.2 The intention in retaining the £10,000 was to use this to enhance the contract that has been procured to improve psychologically informed practice among staff, and Paradigm Psychological Services Ltd were the successful bidder.