



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Alison Higgins
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Report of: Dawn Walton, Head of Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning

Report to: Councillor George Lindars Hammond, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Date of Decision: 31st March 2020

Subject: Grant award to Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? <i>Health and Social Care</i>		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>Safer and Stronger Communities</i>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>781</i>		
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-		
<i>"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."</i>		

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award a grant totalling £175,500 over three years to Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre for the provision of counselling to victims of sexual abuse and violence.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care:-

- 1) approves the payment of grant funding in the sum of £58,500 per year over three years to the Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre to provide counselling to people who have been victims of sexual abuse.*
- 2) approves Sheffield City Council entering into a grant agreement with Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre.*
- 3) to the extent not already delegated to them by the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, delegates authority to the Director of Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Commercial Services, to take any other decisions necessary in order to meet the aims and objectives of the report.*

Background Papers:

Grant proposal from Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre February 2020

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>Gemma Day</i>
		Equalities: <i>Ed Sexton</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	EMT member who approved submission:	<i>John Macilwraith</i>
3	Cabinet Member consulted:	<i>George Lindars Hammond</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Alison Higgins	Job Title: Strategic Commissioning Manager Domestic and Sexual Abuse
	Date: 31/3/2020	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 It is proposed to award a grant of £58,500 per year for three years to Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (SRASAC) in order for them to provide counselling to victims of sexual abuse and violence.
- 1.2 SRASAC has been contracted to provide counselling for this client group since 2016, prior to which it was grant aided. We are extremely confident in the high level of quality of the service and the provider has consistently delivered in excess of the contract requirements. E.g. our contract commissions them to work with 90 referrals a year and they are in fact managing in excess of 500 referrals – an increase of 65% since 2016/17.
- 1.3 SRASAC are a key element in the city around sexual violence and also bring funds into the city of close to £500,000 per year some which includes nearly £96,000 from central government (rape support fund) and £204,000 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner as they are contracted to provide the Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy Service for Sheffield.
- 1.4 SRASAC offers a flexible provision to victims of sexual abuse regardless of when the abuse took place including: stabilisation sessions, pre-court support, packages of counselling ranging from 6-20 weeks, post therapy support groups, support groups for parents of children who have been sexually abused and therapeutic activities such as singing groups.
- 1.5 SRASAC is consistently offering a high quality service. Indicative of this is that 91% of client exits are planned and in response to feedback requests 100% of clients reported they felt counselling with SRASAC had helped them 'a lot' or 'in some ways'. SRASAC have achieved the Rape Crisis National Service Standards (RCNSS). By being affiliated with Rape Crisis have access to a wide network of research and wider service developments.
- 1.6 The proposal to offer SRASAC a grant follows consultation with Commercial Services and Legal.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 The service contributes to the strategic priorities of reducing health inequalities and thriving neighbourhoods and communities. The impact of trauma – recent or historic – on all aspects of people's lives is increasingly recognised¹. Sexual Abuse is an extremely traumatic experience for most people – particularly if this is experienced as a child or young person e.g. when it is an Adverse Childhood Experience which can have long lasting consequences for attainment, employment and

¹ <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/impact-traumatic-events-mental-health>

health and wellbeing.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 Consultation with users took place as part of the consultation around the development of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy in 2018. The focus group members that Officers met with were all extremely positive about SRASACs services and the difference getting the support had made to their lives.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 The service works with vulnerable people across the Equality Act protected characteristics. The counselling service is offered to people aged 13 upwards and to all genders. Currently 13.2% of users are male, 17.35 are LGBT+ (which is good compared with the 5% of domestic abuse service users who identify as LGBT+) and 16.5% are BAME is below the 20% local prevalence and we will continue to monitor this and work with the service to increase the proportion of BAME. Male service users have only been able to access the service since 2016 so this is a growing client group.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 The proposed grant of £58,500 per year is equivalent to the existing contract with SRASAC and is already budgeted for in the Domestic Abuse service budget
The grant will be awarded on an annual basis and will be confirmed each year during the three year period.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The Council is able to award the grant to the Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre by virtue of Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. This provides Local Authorities with a “general power of competence” and allows them to “do anything that individuals generally may do”.
- 4.3.2 Should the Cabinet Member approve the recommendations within this report, a grant agreement would be put in place with the SRASAC to set out the terms and conditions on which the grant is made. The grant must be used by the SRASAC for the purposes intended, the project. The project will be detailed in the grant agreement.
- 4.3.3 The grant will be paid in quarterly instalments in advance, subject to the necessary funds being available when payment falls due and the Council being satisfied that the payment will be used for the delivery of the project. A review of the project progress will be carried out with the Council and SRASAC each quarter before that quarters’ instalment is paid.

4.4 Other Implications

4.4.1 There are no HR or property implications.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 Alternative option 1 – Go out to tender for the service.

Officers considered going out to tender for the service. This has been rejected because if SRASAC are not successful and the Councils funding goes to an alternative provider there will undoubtedly be fragmentation of the current system; since SRASAC's current funding from the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner means that they will continue to be present in Sheffield regardless.

SCC commissions SRASAC to provide support to 80 individuals per annum and contributes £58,500 to their funding. However, as SRASAC also receives funding from other organisations they are able to support many more people than SCC can afford to fund. The money available from SCC to commission this service would not be enough for this level and type of support service to survive without funding from alternative sources. SRASAC secure this additional funding due to their specialist expertise in this subject area.

5.2 Alternative option 2 – Direct award.

Officers worked with Commercial Services to consider if there was a case for a direct award to mitigate the issues above. However Commercial Services felt that awarding a grant would be the more appropriate course of action.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 A sexual abuse counselling service is a clearly identified need in the city and supports extremely vulnerable people to recover from trauma and rebuild their lives in a positive way.

6.2 SRASAC are a vital component in the city's wider response to sexual violence and abuse and as a specialist service awarding a tender to another service would fragment the current system and result in poorer outcomes for victims.

6.3 Awarding a grant rather than a contract does not allow for the same level of scrutiny of service provision and performance management however officers are confident that because of our strong working relationship with the provider they will share a similar level of detail regarding demand etc. that we receive now.