



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 21 September 2017

## **Successful bid to the Home Office VAWG Transformation Fund**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) of the successful bid to the Home Office VAWG (“Violence Against Women and Girls”) Transformation Fund, for £400k, and the subsequent arrangements to deliver the ‘Cambridgeshire and Peterborough VAWG Prevention and Intervention project’.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the commencement of work which aims to reduce the harm, risk and costs of VAWG to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

### **3. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Needs Assessment**

3.1 In 2016/17 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“OPCC”) commissioned a ‘needs assessment’ for victims of VAWG (including men and boys). This identified the need to better support young people impacted upon by VAWG issues in a bid to get upstream and reduce current and future demand on statutory and third sector services.

3.2 The OPCC and Cambridgeshire County Council led a partnership bid into the VAWG Transformation Fund in April 2017. The bid specifically aimed to address the lack of support provision for young witness/victims within domestic abuse households and/or young victims of sexual violence. It also planned to provide early intervention where young people were displaying low-level perpetration type behaviours against siblings or parents as a result of their experience.

- a. The core focus of the bid was to ensure young victims aged 13-19, (24 where there are additional needs) would be identified and supported to access **trauma-focused one-to-one CBT counselling services** and group work. This evidence-based intervention is designed to improve their mental health and prevent further escalation of risk and need. It would also enable young people to address 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' and reduce the impact of these experiences in their future lives.
- b. It was estimated that over the life of the funding (three years) a potential 750 victims could be triaged and appropriately supported through either escalation into services or a step down in other methods of support.

#### **4. Progressing the support for young victims and witnesses**

- 4.1 In July 2017 the OPCC were informed that the bid was one of only 41 successful bids with the project receiving £400k over the next three years. The conditions of the Home Office grant were such that any partner named on the bid could be funded direct through a grant agreement with the OPCC.
- 4.2 The twin-track work (supporting victims and low-level perpetrating behaviour) will be delivered by locally-based charities Embrace – Child Victims of Crime and Ormiston Families with support from the county's Youth Offending Service. It will form part of the wider integrated model of support for victims and witnesses and work in partnership with specialist providers such as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Rape Crisis.
- 4.3 As the bid was submitted as implementation ready the charities will start accepting referrals from September 1, 2017 using a framework of accredited counsellors based across the county.
- 4.4 The overarching governance of the work will be carried out through the county's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Group which reports into the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board.
- 4.5 The work will be independently evaluated locally with support from staff at Anglia Ruskin University.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the commencement of work which aims to reduce the harm, risk and costs of VAWG to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-service-transformation-fund">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-service-transformation-fund</a>
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