

DMPC Decision – PCD 1306

Title: Violence Against Women and Girls Support Services – 23/24 Commissioning Decisions

Executive Summary:

The Mayor has committed to continuing to make Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls a top priority as part of London's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and as cases continue to rise. This decision requests continuation and extension of funding to the end of March 2024 to the following projects and services for victims and survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls, to ensure they continue to have access to specialist support needed to help them cope and recover from crime or trauma and/or reduce risk of victimisation and exploitation.

The following 5 services have been identified as key programmes supporting the delivery of the Mayor's ambition to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls and support victims and survivors:

- the four London Rape Crisis Centres, covering north, south, east and west London.
- Survivors UK, specialist support for male victims of rape and sexual abuse
- London Survivors Gateway, a partnership providing services for survivors of sexual violence
- Galop, specialist support for LGBTQI+ victims of rape and sexual abuse
- Pan London Housing Reciprocal supporting victims and survivors of VAWG and youth violence into accommodation

The total financial commitment will be £4,642,689 in 2023/24.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

1. Approve 12 months funding and service extension for projects relating to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, at a total financial commitment of £ 4,642,689;
2. To note that whilst the MoJ have confirmed that MOPAC will be in receipt of the MoJ RSF in 2023/24, in the event the level of funding assumed is not received, the balance of funding required will be met from the budget resilience reserve.
3. To note this assumes funding of approximately £102,000 from the Domestic Abuse Safer Accommodation (DASA), we are still in the process of finalising the final allocation from DASA in the event sufficient funding is not identified the balance of funding required will be met from PPAF.
4. Delegate responsibility for agreeing the specific terms relating to individual grants, contracts or extensions to the Director of Commissioning and Partnerships.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

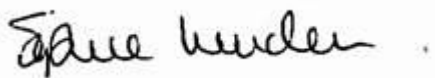
I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date

25/11/2022



PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Our first principle for tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is not for women to change the way they live their lives in order to feel safe - it's men that need to change – to challenge their attitudes and to challenge sexist, harassing and demeaning behaviour amongst their peers. The [Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy](#) has taken a public health approach – focusing on the complex underlying causes of these offences, alongside tackling perpetrators and ensuring that victims have the support they need. The Mayor's, 'tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime' approach recognises that protecting Londoners is not just about policing.
- 1.2. Much as we don't view other types of violence as isolated incidents or solely as a police enforcement problem, we need to treat violence against women and girls in the same way. We need to approach the problem as a preventable consequence of a range of factors, from adverse early-life experiences to harmful social or community experiences or influences, looking at its root causes and opportunities for prevention. The funding outlined below takes into consideration the compounding effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on rates of exploitation and harm to Londoners.
- 1.3. In order to expedite the decision process the projects and services for which extension is requested have been grouped into themes. This decision relates to delivery of services relating to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls through provision of support to victims and survivors.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 All funding arrangements to projects and services which are due to expire in March 2023 have been considered under their own merits; how these contribute towards the Mayor's aims to make London the safest and most welcoming city in the world; and to ensure that they have demonstrated satisfactory performance and value for money. The projects and services below are requested for extension to the end of March 2024.

2.2 Rape Crisis Centres

London's four Rape Crisis Centres, run by Women and Girls Network, Nia, Solace Women's Aid and RASASC, provide specialist support, including counselling and the provision of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA), to women and girls who have experienced rape, sexual violence, or sexual abuse at any time

2.3 London Survivors Gateway

London Survivors Gateway is a partnership arrangement (led by Women and Girls Network) between the four London Rape Crisis Centres, Galop and Survivors UK. The London Havens (SARC) are affiliated to the partnership but are not a delivery partner. The Gateway delivers initial and enhanced support to survivors of sexual violence through a pan London single point of contact.

2.4 Survivors UK

Provision of specialist support, including counselling, an ISVA service and groupwork, to male victims of sexual violence and abuse.

2.5 Galop

Galop provides provision of specialist support (ISVA service, counselling provision, outreach and engagement) to LGBTQI+ and male survivors of sexual violence.

2.6 Pan London Housing Reciprocal

Alternative housing pathway coordinated by Safer London, for those holding a social housing tenancy, fleeing domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls, and other forms of serious violence. It ensures settled long-term accommodation, vital to enable survivors to cope and recover, particularly relevant in London where social housing is at a premium and survivors who lose their tenancies face insecure housing options such as the private rented sector, temporary accommodation or being pushed out of the capital. This decision requests for the reciprocal scheme to be funded for a further 12 months to enable a comprehensive review of the delivery model to be conducted and recommendations implemented responsibly and sustainably.

3. Financial Comments

3.1 This decision requests funding approval to enable the extension of Violence Against Women and Girls contracts or grants delivered across six services detailed in section 2.2 to 2.6 at a total cost of £4,642,689 for the period 2023/24.

3.2 A breakdown of the individual cost per service and how these will be funded is set out in the table below. This assumes:-

- Funding of £1,950,689 from the Rape Support Fund in line with the allocation received this year and previous years. Whilst the MoJ have confirmed that MOPAC will be in receipt of the MoJ RSF in 2023/24, they are yet to confirm the amount. In the event the level of funding assumed is not received, the balance of funding required will be met from the budget resilience reserve.
- Funding of £102,000 from Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA), please note this allocation requires GLA approval. In the event sufficient funding is not identified the balance of funding required will be met from PPAF.

Funding Source	Rape Crisis Centres £	Survivors Gateway £	Survivors UK £	LGBT Male Support (Galop) £	Pan London Housing Reciprocal £	Total £
MOJ Core	1,260,000	0	26,000	0	0	1,286,000
MOJ RSF	1,603,563	300,000	47,126	0	0	1,950,689
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation	0	0	0	0	102,000	102,000
PPAF	0	0	0	316,000	68,000	384,000
Core Budget	300,000	620,000	0	0	0	920,000
Total Cost	3,163,563	920,000	73,126	316,000	170,000	4,642,689

3.3 The funding for Pan London Housing Reciprocal is part funded by PPAF and part funded from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for delivery of the Tier 1 duty within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

3.4 Payments will be made in line with current arrangements in the contract or grant, following satisfactory performance and contract or grant management meetings.

3.5 Funding sources are provisional only and subject to change. Confirmation of funding sources will be finalised as part of the final budget submission.

4. Legal Comments

4.1 MOPAC's general powers are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). Section 3(6) of the 2011 Act provides that MOPAC must "secure the maintenance of the metropolitan police service and secure that the metropolitan police service is efficient and effective." Under Schedule 3, paragraph 7 (1) MOPAC has wide incidental powers to "do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office." Paragraph 7(2) (a) provides that this includes entering into contracts and other agreements.

4.2 Section 143 (1) (b) of the Anti-Social, Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides for MOPAC to provide or commission services "intended by the local policing body to victims or witnesses of or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour." Section 143 (3) specifically allows MOPAC to make grants in connection with such arrangements and any grant may be made subject to any conditions that MOPAC thinks appropriate.

- 4.3 There are further relevant powers set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 at sections 17(1) (a) to (c) which place MOPAC under a duty to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it can to prevent, crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), reoffending in its area, and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area. The proposed arrangements are consistent with MOPAC's duties in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 4.4 Under MOPAC's Scheme of Delegation, the approval of business cases for revenue or capital expenditure of £500,000 and above, are for the DMPC. The strategy for grant giving, the award of individual grants, all offers made and the award of grant funding are also for the DMPC. The decisions in this report can be approved by the DMPC.
- 4.5 Officers must ensure the Financial Regulations and Contract Regulations are complied with.
- 4.6 Officers should ensure that the funding agreements are put in place with and executed by MOPAC and each of the providers before any commitment to fund is made.
- 4.7 Officers confirm that sufficient assurance has been carried out to this decision to determine that the DMPC has legal authority to agree the recommendations on funding and the extension of grants and contracts.

5. Commercial Issues

- 5.1 This decision requests to extend existing grants and contracts, as laid out in 2.2 to 2.6 or create new grants where needed.
- 5.2 There are no procurement issues with this decision, as where contracts are in place, the value of these contracts is not being increased by more than 50% of the current value, and is in line with the terms and conditions of the contract variations or grant agreements amendments, as relates to extensions.
- 5.3 MOPAC makes no commitment to fund the organisations listed in 2.2 to 2.6 above until grant amendment, contract variation letters or agreements have been signed by both parties. These will detail the new performance and payment schedules, in line with previous arrangements.
- 5.4 Further details on the commercial issues for each project or service can be found in the decisions referenced in 9.1 below.
- 5.5 The modification request to the grant agreement/contract will comply with the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation.

6. Public Health Approach

- 6.1 Violence against women and girls is a public health issue. Grant award to these services is informed by the Mayor's public health approach to violence reduction and therefore part of MOPAC's contribution to overall efforts support victims and perpetrators of violence. The public health approach to violence prevention is being led by London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), which supports the MOPAC work through preventative programmes supporting young people.
- 6.2 Further details on the public health approaches of each project or service can be found in the decisions referenced in 9.1.

7. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 7.1 The extension of the projects and services listed in 2.2 to 2.6 will not alter the data protection measures in place for each. Where required, DPIAs will be updated to reflect the extension of the corresponding project or service.
- 7.2 Further details on the data protection considerations for each project or service can be found in the decisions referenced in 9.1 below.

8. Equality Comments

- 8.1 Under s149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Equality Act), as a public authority the Deputy Mayor/MOPAC must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and any conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics under the Equality Act are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (the duty in respect of this last characteristic is to eliminate unlawful discrimination only).
- 8.2 The providers listed in 2.2 to 2.6 will be required to have due regard to the protected characteristics of the people and communities relevant to this piece of work.
- 8.3 Equality comments for each specific project or service can be found in the decisions referenced in section 9. As part of the quarterly performance monitoring of each service we collect demographics information, which helps us to understand who is accessing each service and how any barriers to accessing may be overcome

9. Background/supporting papers

9.1 Previous decisions relating to the programmes laid out in 2.2 -2.6 and their delivery are listed below:

- PCD 846 signed in October 2020 committed £2,609,563 to support the 4 Rape Crisis Centres in FY 2021/22.
- PCD 889 signed in November 2020 committed £674,734 to continue funding of the Drive programme in FY 2021/22.
- PCD 943 signed in July 2021 committed £252,805 to continue funding to the Male Rape and Sexual violence support service provided by Survivors UK in FY 2021/2022
- PCD 480 signed in October 2018 committed £514,095 to funding the pan London housing reciprocal for FY 2018/19 to 2019/20
- PCD 943 signed in July 2021 committed £510,983 to continue funding the LGBT+ and Male sexual violence support service provided by Galop in FY 2021/2022
- PCD 639 signed in November 2019 committed £925,000 to support the London Survivors Gateway in FY 2020/2021 to 2021/2022.
- PCD 1068 signed in November 2021 committed £4,378,735 for services to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in full year 2022/23
- PCD 1235 signed July 22 Ministry of Justice Funding for Services to Victims of Crime.

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
Financial Advice: The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.	
Legal Advice: Legal advice is not required.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
Public Health Approach Due diligence has been given to determine whether the programme sits within the Violence Reduction Unit's public approach to reducing violence. This has been reviewed and supported by a senior manager within the VRU.	✓
Commercial Issues The Contract Management Team has been consulted on the commercial issues within this report. The proposal is in keeping with the GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy.	✓
GDPR/Data Privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report A DPIA is not required. 	✓
Drafting Officer Jain Lemom has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.	✓
Director/Head of Service: The Head of Policy and Commissioning has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓

Chief Executive Officer

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature**Date 01/11/2022**A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Chetford'.