

REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION - DMPCD 2015 10

Title: Harmful Practices Pilot grant awards

Executive Summary:

In July 2014 the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) approved decision DMPCD201474 which authorised the release of £239,200 over two years to implement a Harmful Practices Pilot Initiative.

MOPAC went out to tender for a core element of this work (training and advocacy) in November 2014 to the amount of £200,000 with the caveat that a separate, additional £39,200 would be allocated for community engagement work at a borough level.

After an open, competitive grant award process a panel of key partners scored the bids independently and have selected a preferred provider, to deliver the training and advocacy element.

Recommendation:

The DMPC is asked to:

Approve an award of £200,000 to Iranian Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) to deliver the advocacy and training elements of the Harmful Practices pilot.

That MOPAC allocate £39,200 to the Tri-borough partnership (Westminster, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Hammersmith & Fulham) and East London partnership (Tower Hamlets & Waltham Forest) for community engagement activity to be commissioned by the respective local authorities.

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

26/1/15

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

1.1. In his manifesto, the Mayor of London made a commitment to establish a Harmful Practices Taskforce to confront female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices including forced marriage, so-called witchcraft killings and “honour” crimes. The Harmful Practices Taskforce was established in March 2013 and partners from a broad range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies have worked together to design and develop a pilot initiative to improve the way agencies in London tackle harmful practices.

Further to an open process inviting all London boroughs to submit expressions of interest, the Harmful Practices Taskforce has identified two areas to implement a pilot.

- Tri-borough partnership (Westminster, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
- Hammersmith & Fulham) East London partnership (Tower Hamlets & Waltham Forest)

1.2 The pilot will be delivered through;

An award of £200,000 to Iranian Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation (IKWRO) to deliver:

- Two comprehensive harmful practices training packages; the first targeted to health professionals and the second focused on a broader scope working with local multi agency partnerships in the pilot boroughs.
- A specialist harmful practices Advocacy/Educator service; that can offer support and guidance to victims of harmful practices, whilst also supporting a broader array of professionals in effective case management.

Grant agreements with local pilot areas totalling £39,600 to deliver:

- Community engagement activity; to support the training and advocacy elements it was agreed that bespoke work with local communities in the five pilot boroughs was required to ensure support and engagement in the model. The preferred bidder for the wider advocacy and training elements will be contractually obliged to support this.

2. Commissioning Process

2.1. The proposed pilot model has been shaped around the findings and recommendations of the *Missing Link* study that was commissioned by the GLA in 2010.

2.2. Harmful Practices Taskforce (established in March 2013) has worked in collaboration with partners from a broad range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies including Public Health Minister, Jane Ellison to develop this pilot initiative. The proposed model adopts key recommendations of the *Missing Link* study and will improve the way agencies in London tackle harmful practices.

2.3. This grant that has been awarded through an open and competitive process the requirements of which were reviewed and approved by the Violence Against Women and Girls Panel in July 2014. MOPAC consulted widely involving key partners and pilot boroughs. The contract went out to tender through competitive grant award on the 25th November 2014.

Two bids were received by the deadline (12 January 2015) and were scored against a set evaluation criteria that was published with the tender specification; **Early identification and reporting; Enforcement and Safeguarding; Performance and Service Improvement; Relevant Experience; Value for Money.**

- 2.4. The recommendation of the panel, which was made up of a number of independent evaluators from partner agencies alongside the MOPAC lead is to appoint The Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) to undertake both elements of the specification; training and advocacy at a cost of £200,000 over 2 years.
- 2.5. IKWRO presented a consortia bid with six other key specialist agencies highly capable of addressing the four named forms of Harmful Practices this pilot seeks to address. The tender outlined extensive experience both nationally and internationally, with regard to VAWG and Harmful Practices services. The consortia offers the mix of skill sets required to engage with diverse communities across the pilot boroughs; matching specialist skills and experience to the training and advocacy requirements as set out in the specification. IKWRO were also able to demonstrate their experience and capability in developing an integrated service offers to victims of harmful practices at a local level, working proactively within the statutory parameters of safeguarding, ensuring maximum value to the client. Finally in terms of value for money. IKWRO have demonstrated added value in terms of broader research and models that can be applied within the context of the pilot, whilst also recognising that quality services in this field need to be costed accordingly.
- 2.6. The provider will be required to deliver a pilot that meets the following outcomes:
- **Outcome 1:** Greater awareness and understanding of how to identify and respond to harmful practices
 - **Outcome 2:** An increase in the number of women and girls at risk that are identified as a result of the training
 - **Outcome 3:** An increase in the number of cases of harmful practices that are identified and offered early interventions to prevent the practice.
 - **Outcome 4:** An increase in the number of S47 child protection investigations into child abuse related to VAWG
 - **Outcome 5:** Increase in confidence to engage with statutory/voluntary sector agencies resulting in an increase in disclosures to a professional by women and girls
 - **Outcome 6:** Women are better able to identify what has happened to them, have a better understanding of its impacts and consequences and their rights
 - **Outcome 7:** Communities are more confident in communicating their needs and views to statutory and voluntary sector agencies on these issues after engaging with the pilot
 - **Outcome 8:** An increase in the number of cases reported to the police and referred onto the CPS
 - **Outcome 9:** Improved safeguarding processes and interventions to respond to harmful practices
 - **Outcome 10:** Identification of learning to support a consistent pan-London approach to these issues

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1. This is a complex project which involves multiple partners across sectors. Local authority partners have formalised their buy-in to this programme through Memorandum of Understanding signed by a senior level local area champion. They have agreed to work at a local level proactively with the successful provider.

3.2. If successful, this is a pioneering initiative that would make London a national leader in tackling harmful practices. The model has been developed by a group of specialists, which have continued their engagement into the procurement process; collectively reaching a consensus on the appointment of the IKROW consortia.

a) Links to Police and Crime Plan and MOPAC priorities

- It is a Mayoral priority to improve services for victims of crime.
- The Harmful Practices pilot initiative is a key commitment in the Mayor's revised VAWG strategy (2013-2017).

b) Consultation

MOPAC officers have consulted widely on the proposed pilot model which has been developed by a multi-disciplinary group of experts ranging from safeguarding professionals, health, criminal justice, VAWG experts and boroughs. This engagement has continued through the procurement exercise to ensure a collective view on the preferred provider.

c) Impact assessments / implications

See Equality comments below.

4. Financial Comments

4.1. The estimated cost of the contract award and grant agreement is upto £239,200 as per the previously approved budget. This cost will be met from Victims funding.

The IKWRO contract is estimated to cost £200,000 over the 2 years of the contract. A further £39,200 is to be allocated to local areas on a grant agreement basis.

5. Legal Comments

5.1. 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 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.

5.2. Section 143 (1) (b) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides an express power for MOPAC, as a local policing body, to provide or commission services "intended by the local policing body to help 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.

5.3. Under MOPAC's Scheme of Delegation, approval of the strategy for the award of individual grants and the award of all individual grants (for crime reduction or other purposes) is a matter generally reserved to the DMPC (paragraph 4.8). The release of funding in accordance with the proposals set out in this decision form is accordingly to be approved by the DMPC.

5.4. Under the heading "Background" above, the paragraph headed "Commissioning Processes for 2014/15 and 2015/16" refers to a competitive process having taken place for the determination of providers to receive grants. This minimises the likelihood of any dispute about the allocation of grants. If there is any change in grant recipient, consideration will need to be given to the application of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006

("TUPE"). Legal advice should be sought in respect of the drafting and conclusion of any grants awarded.

10.6 In formulating the proposals in respect of which DMPC's decision is sought, officers must consider the duty set out in section 149 Equality Act 2010 (the Equality Act) referred to in more detail below. Due regard to equalities impacts must be had at the time a particular decision is being considered and the duty is non-delegable and must be exercised with an open mind. The decision must take account of relevant evidence as to any impact on groups with protected characteristics within the scope of the Equality Act.

6. Equality Comments

- 6.1. As decision-maker for a public authority, DMPC must comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires DMPC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. The pilot is committed to addressing specific safeguarding needs of London's diverse communities, some of which may be harder to reach.

7. Background/supporting papers

N/a

Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the MOPAC website within 1 working day of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of **this** form to be deferred? YES

If yes, for what reason: Contract has not yet been awarded to the successful provider

Until what date (if known): 2nd February 2015

Is there a **part 2** form – Yes

If yes, for what reason: Commercial

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
Head of Unit: Samantha Cunningham has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓
Legal Advice: The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
Financial Advice: The Head of Strategic Finance and Resource Management has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Operating 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 26/01/2015.

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