

## REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION – DMPCD 2015 107

### Title: Funding for Havens and Rape Crisis Centres in London

#### Executive Summary:

In his manifesto, the Mayor pledged to guarantee funding for London's four Rape Crisis Centres (RCCs). In order to fulfil these commitments, in January 2014 the DMPC agreed decision DMPCD 2014 – 04 approving the allocation of £1,260,000 per year, for two years to support four Rape Crisis Centres in London until March 2016. This decision included an option to extend the grant agreements for up to 12 months, enabling continued service until March 2017.

In addition, the Mayor's refreshed VAWG strategy also contains a commitment to ensuring continued funding for London's three Havens (Sexual Assault Referral Centres) in partnership with NHS England (London). The budget for this provision was transferred from the MPS to MOPAC in 2014/15.

Given the increase in demand for services and the inherent risks of shutting valuable services if the Havens and Rape Crisis Centres were decommissioned at this point, this decision report seeks approval to extend the funding and grant arrangements for both services up to March 2017.

Alongside this, and in order to deliver against the Police and Crime Plan commitment to create a sustainable funding model for the Rape Crisis Centres in London beyond 2016, MOPAC intends to co-commission a joint sexual violence needs assessment with NHS England, London region. The assessment will underpin a new commissioning strategy and sustainable funding model for sexual violence services in London. This decision seeks approval of £40,000 as a MOPAC contribution to this needs assessment.

#### Recommendation:

That the DMPC approve:

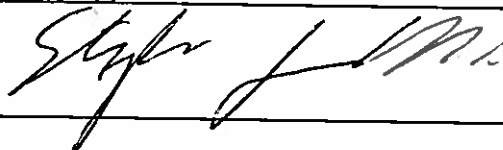
1. The release of £1,260,000 to continue the funding and extend current commissioning arrangements for the four separate service providers of rape crisis centres in London for up to 12 months, April 2016 – March 2017.
2. The release of £4,330,000 to continue funding of the three Haven Centres in London for up to 24 months, April 2015 – March 2017.
3. The release of £40,000 to fund the sexual violence needs assessment alongside NHSE which will inform future funding and commissioning.
4. Delegation of authority to sign individual grant or contract agreements relating to the work, to the Chief Operating Officer.

#### 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

4/9/2015

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

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1. The Mayor is committed to addressing Violence against Women and Girls and in his manifesto he pledged to guarantee funding for London's four Rape Crisis Centres (RCCs) for the entirety of his mayoral term. This service was to offer counselling, outreach, advocacy and helpline support to women affected by sexual violence. The Mayor's refreshed VAWG strategy also commits to ensuring continued funding for London's three Havens (Sexual Assault Referral Centres) in partnership with NHS England (NHSE), London region. Havens offer a forensic facility to meet the needs of men and women who have recently been raped; the service also offers support and psychiatric support to help victims. Services across the three Haven's site are provided by King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.
- 1.2. In 2014/15 following the DMPC decision regarding the provision of grants funded by MOPAC and the MPS, £2.165 million which supports the provision of London Havens was transferred to MOPAC. This funding is matched by an equal contribution from NHSE London region. NHSE London is the direct commissioner of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, which provide the service in the three Haven sites.
- 1.3. In order to fulfil the Mayoral commitments pertaining to rape support services and his manifesto commitment, and in order to ensure continuity of service and prevent imminent service exit and the negative impact this would have on victims, it is recommended that the DMPC grant the extension of funding to the current providers of Havens and Rape Crisis Centres in London.
- 1.4. To date both services have been delivering interventions as demonstrated through performance data provided through the formal grant management process. Services have also managed an increase in demand for victim support following a 28% increase in reporting sexual violence in London between 2013/14 and 2014/15 and delivering on key outcomes.
- 1.5. During the next six months both a specific Havens Estate Review, led by NHSE London alongside a jointly commissioned broader sexual violence needs assessment (commissioned by MOPAC and NHSE London) will be completed to inform future commissioning decisions. This will enable MOPAC to consider how best services for victims of rape and serious sexual offences should be delivered in order to drive further efficiency and value for money.

#### **The current Service Picture**

- 1.6. RCCs provide a number of services which include confidential helplines, long and short term specialist counselling, practical support through the CJS, group support and prevention work including awareness rising with professionals and work in schools.
- 1.7. Havens are the only service in London that provides forensic examination and follow up services for victims of rape and serious sexual violence.
- 1.8. The Mayor's investment in both RCCs and Havens has ensured services were in place to manage the rising number of victims post Jimmy Saville Inquiry and the resultant 'Operation Yewtree effect' of increased reporting.

- 1.9. Increasing demand for these services was highlighted by the recent Elish review into the investigation and prosecution of rape in London. This report was commissioned by the MPS and published in April 2015, demonstrating the heightened policy focus on sexual violence services in light of a national increase in demand for services.
- 1.10. By way of an example, London RCCs provided services to 2165 women last financial year which represents a 20% increase on previous years figures. The impact of these vital services is demonstrated by the 86%-90% of service users that report an increase in emotional, physical and/or mental wellbeing at the end of service engagement.

### **Added Value of the extension of funding**

- 1.11. The extension of both funding for Havens and Rape Crisis Services enables MOPAC not only to ensure a continuous service offer for victims of rape and serious sexual offences but also to seek additional value and innovation in 2015/16 from the commissioned providers.
- 1.12. Extending current funding and commissioning arrangements for up to 12 months will enable MOPAC to maximise the value of both services to victims of rape and serious sexual offences. As an example, there will be a focus on improving the collaborative approach between the two services and improving provision for under 18 year olds.

## **2. Financial Comments**

- 2.1. In 2014/15 the budget of £2,165,000 for the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (Havens) was transferred to MOPAC from the MPS along with the responsibility for commissioning the services. This was a permanent budget which MOPAC will use to fund the service in 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- 2.2. MOPAC have provided funding to the 4 Rape Crisis Centres since 2014/15 from core MOPAC budget. MOPAC will use £1,260,000 of this to fund the 4 Rape Crisis Centres in 2016/17.
- 2.3. Funding of £40,000 for the sexual violence needs assessment will be met by the 2014/15 London Crime Prevention Fund underspend.

## **3. Legal Comments**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The powers in section 143 were given to MOPAC following the Government's response to the consultation *Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses* (2 July 2012) in which it set out a package of reforms to the way in which support services for victim of crime are to be provided. Section 143 creates a clear statutory basis for the proposals set out in this decision form, namely to award grant funding as set out above for the provision of victim-support related services.
- 3.3 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 DMPC. The delegation of responsibility for the finalisation of planning and contractual/grant arrangements, including relevant terms and

the signing of agreements, to the Chief Operating Officer is in accordance with the general power of delegation in paragraph 1.7

4.4 As noted in the executive summary, the DMPCD 2014 – 04 the award of funding to the providers of the rape crisis centres was made following a competitive process . The grant put in place following this process allowed for a 1 year extension, of which this decision relates to.

4.5 It should be noted that MOPAC is a part funder of the Haven's provision in London and that NHS England as the co-funder have sole responsibility for commissioning and have conducted a competitive process in line with their policies.

## **5. Equality Comments**

4.1 RCCs and Havens provide a vital service for victims and survivors across London and their continued delivery is important aspect of the Mayor's commitment to tackle violence against women and girls and ensuring that victims of crime are effectively supported to cope and recover from their experiences.

## **5 Background/supporting papers**

5.1 COO Decision 2014-04 re: 2014/15 and 2015/16 rape crisis provision

5.2 DMPCD 2013-125 re: Crime & Disorder Reduction Grant — NHS London, Sexual Assault Referral Centres/Havens

**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? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date (if known):

Is there a **part 2** form – NO

If yes, for what reason:

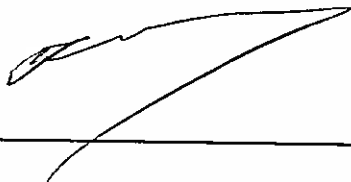
**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

	Tick to confirm statement (✓)
<b>Head of Unit:</b> Marie Snelling has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓
<b>Legal Advice:</b> The TfL legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
<b>Financial Advice:</b> The Head of Strategic Finance and Resource Management has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
<b>Equalities Advice:</b> 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 04/09/15

