

CABINET

Meeting Date: Thursday 7 March 2024
Issue Title: Funding of a Local Domestic Abuse Service
Report of: Executive Director - Community
Cabinet Portfolio: Community
Key Decision: No
Confidentiality: Non Exempt

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval to use New Burden's funding to match fund a Hampshire County Council (HCC) grant to enable the Council to provide a dedicated outreach and advocacy service to survivors of domestic abuse.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the use of the domestic abuse new burdens funding, totalling £36,606 to fund the proposed outreach and advocacy service.

Background

3. In 2023/24, the Council was awarded new burdens funding to deliver its new responsibilities relating to the Domestic Abuse Act and housing. The funding totals £36,606. The funding is "to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their children can access the right support".
4. Hampshire County Council has launched a bidding round for "Whole Housing Approach Grant" for tier 2 authorities to secure funding to provide additional services for survivors of domestic abuse.
5. In talking to colleagues in neighbouring authorities, an opportunity has arisen to provide a joint service with Basingstoke and Deane (BDBC), working in partnership with You Trust, who are specialist domestic abuse service providers.

The Proposal

6. The proposal is to deliver a dedicated outreach and advocacy service to survivors of domestic abuse who approach for support and where the option of refuge accommodation is inaccessible for them. A Domestic Abuse (DA) Worker, who is a specialist, will be employed and supervised by YOU Trust. This worker will be co-located within both housing teams.
7. The DA Worker will provide support to survivors who have been placed in safe accommodation by the local authority. This support will be given to those with no access to or availability of other specialist support due to the determination of risk and/or waiting lists for community support. The survivors may be placed in different types of accommodation such as bed and breakfast, temporary accommodation, permanent homes or within family settings.
8. The DA Worker will also offer therapeutic, practical, and emotional support and customised outreach assistance, advice, and referrals. This service will be accessible within 24 hours of a survivor approaching the housing teams. As refuge facilities may not always be available or nearby, this supplementary

service will help individuals obtain the assistance they require during a crucial period. The key benefits for service users will be the ability to stay local to receive domestic abuse support and the ability to access this support without the need to go into refuge either locally or elsewhere in England.

9. The Whole Housing Approach Grant allocated to Hart is £55,702.

Main Issues

10. The new burdens funding is ringfenced for use in providing services for survivors of domestic abuse. By using it as match funding with the HCC grant, the Council can achieve much more than simply using it on its own for in-house provision.
11. By pooling resources with BDBC, the councils can commission You Trust to provide services for residents of both areas.
12. HCC has approved the grant award, and the project will be ready to go live in April 2024, subject to Members approving the use of new burdens funding as match funding at Cabinet.
13. You Trust can provide the service for a period of 2 years.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

14. There is no other viable alternative use of the new burdens funding currently.

Corporate Governance Considerations

15. A grant funding agreement will be signed with HCC, and a Memorandum of Understanding will be placed between Hart, BDBC, and You Trust to support the project.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040

16. This proposal relates to the “People” element of the corporate Plan, focusing on “helping those in need”.

Service Plan

- Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan? NO
- Is the proposal being funded from current budgets? Yes
- Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal? Yes (to oversee the project)

Legal and Constitutional Issues

17. There are none arising from these recommendations.

Financial and Resource Implications

18. The service will be funded by new burdens funding of £36,606, which will be matched by HCC grant. There are no additional costs to the council.

Risk Management

19. There are no risks associated with this project. The council will fund a third party to deliver the service. Governance will be via a Memorandum of Understanding, and an officer in the Community Team will monitor outcomes.

Equalities

20. There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

Climate Change Implications

21. The recommendations have no direct carbon or environmental implications.

Action

22. Cabinet is asked to approve the request to use new burdens funding of £34,000 to fund this project.

Contact Details: Kirsty Jenkins, Executive Director - Community

Appendices

None

Background Papers:

None