

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker</b>	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
<b>Date:</b>	22 July 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Variations to Stop Domestic Abuse Contract utilising New Burdens Funding from Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Public Health

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval for additional spend on the Domestic Abuse contract in both 2022/23 and for future years, in anticipation of additional funding expected from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), to fulfil our obligations as detailed under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health approves the proposed additional spend to Stop Domestic Abuse for services provided on Domestic Abuse support, to a maximum of £1,500,000 additional spend for 2022/23.
3. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health delegates authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Executive Member, to approve the exact figure of additional spend on this contract for each future year (from 2023/24 onwards), dependent on the level of available government funding provided each year under the New Burdens Fund, up to a maximum of the total funding provided each year, over the remaining years of the contract.

## **Executive Summary**

4. This report sets out the background to the proposal for additional spend on the Domestic Abuse contract with Stop Domestic Abuse, including new obligations on Hampshire County Council as under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
5. Part 4 of the new Domestic Abuse Act (2021) places a duty on the County Council to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation and to improve the types of safe accommodation accessible to adults and children experiencing domestic abuse.
6. In April 2021, the DLUHC allocated £2,300,222 to Hampshire County Council and circa £30,000 to the Tier 2 Authorities in Hampshire to deliver the new local authority statutory duty. A further £2,306,590 has been allocated to Hampshire County Council for 2022/23.
7. Domestic Abuse services in Hampshire are currently commissioned through Stop Domestic Abuse. This contract was given Executive Member approval on 25 July 2018, with the original contract award specifying that although the total contract value was £13.4 million, “significant additional external grant funding for Domestic Abuse is anticipated over the life of the contract which the Council intends to channel via the contracted providers”. The contract started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 and is in place for 5 years with the option to extend for 2 further years. Additional spend through this contract has taken place, totalling £1,239,170, up to and including the financial year 2021/22.
8. In anticipation of future funding from DLUHC with regards to Domestic Abuse, the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to approve future additional spend to the Domestic Abuse contract, in consultation with the Executive Member, up to the maximum funding provided by DLUHC (approximately £2.3 million was awarded to Hampshire County Council in 2022/23), over the remaining years of the contract.

## **Contextual information**

9. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 seeks to raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families; further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice; along with strengthening the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies.

10. The County Council has a duty under the Act to assess the need and demand for safe accommodation and accommodation-based support and to subsequently develop and publish strategies, giving effect to these strategies by making commissioning decisions.
11. The Hampshire Safe Accommodation Needs assessment was undertaken in 2021, identifying key areas that would have a positive impact on the provision of safe accommodation for victims.
12. In April 2021, the DLUHC allocated £2,300,222 to Hampshire County Council and circa £30,000 to Tier 2 Authorities in Hampshire to deliver the new local authority statutory duty. A further £2,306,590 has been allocated to Hampshire for 2022/23.
13. According to the DLUHC, in the spirit of the New Burdens Doctrine, the new duty will be funded in future years. The amount of funding from April 2023 will be a matter for the next Spending Review.
14. Domestic Abuse services in Hampshire are currently commissioned through Stop Domestic Abuse. This contract started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 and is in place for 5 years with the option to extend for 2 further years. The original contract award specified that although the total contract value was £13.4 million, “significant additional external grant funding for Domestic Abuse is anticipated over the life of the contract which the County Council intends to channel via the contracted providers”.
15. Additional spend through this contract has taken place up to and including the financial year 2021/22 which totals £1,239,170. This has included spend on the following:
  - Increasing capacity in safe accommodation settings to provide advice, advocacy, and support
  - Increase capacity in addressing the increase in medium risk police referrals
  - Contractual transformation
  - Training in Trauma Informed Approaches.

16. The Executive Member is asked to approve the proposal for further additional spend through this contract, up to a maximum of £1,500,000 for 2022/23. This includes the following:

<b>Spend area</b>	<b>Estimated Cost/£</b>
Increasing capacity in safe accommodation settings to provide advice, advocacy, and support in relation to increasing safety, reducing risk, improving mental wellbeing, building healthy relationships, and preventing re-victimisation. Increased dispersed accommodation support	681,740
Specialists support posts for Children and Young People in Safe accommodation.	483,028
Domestic Abuse Advocates in clinical settings	66,282
Target Hardening posts	92,532
Contingency for error estimates	176,418
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

17. In anticipation of future funding from DLUHC with regards to Domestic Abuse, the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health is also asked to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to approve future additional spend on the Domestic Abuse contract, in consultation with the Executive Member, up to the maximum amount of budget received by DLUHC each year over the remaining years of the contract.

## **Finance**

18. The proposed additional spend will be solely funded through the DLUHC New Burdens Fund for Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation. Total allocation to Hampshire in 2022/23 of £2,306,590.
19. The DLUHC allocation for Domestic Abuse to Hampshire County Council, which is funding the proposal in this report has a total value of £2,306,590 in 2022/23. In addition to this report's proposals, there is a further report on this agenda which also utilises this grant. Together, these proposals support the improvement of Domestic Abuse services in Hampshire, in line with the intentions of the DHLUC grant. Please note there is further spend using this grant money, including the core Domestic Abuse contract, posts within the County Council to deliver on this work and the establishment of a Survivor Voice Forum for Hampshire.
20. The DLUHC New Burdens Funding is only allocated for one year at a time with the allocation for 2022/23 confirmed in March 2022. It is anticipated that

there will be future funding available, but this is expected to be confirmed at a similar point in 2023/24.

## **Performance**

21. The DLUHC has mandatory annual reporting on domestic abuse safe accommodation measures.
22. In addition, measures are collected quarterly including demographics, access indicators, risk and safety measures, measures of improvement in mental wellbeing and resilience to re-victimisation. Narrative information is also collected, for example case studies.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

23. This proposed additional spend through the Stop Domestic Abuse contract in 2022/23 will result in more support being accessible to victims including children, males (with/without children); LGBTQ+; those with a disability; multiple disadvantages, families with older adolescents; those from diverse ethnic backgrounds; older adults, and people who have limited access to support services due to rurality.
24. A consultation has not been undertaken as the service within these proposed variations are not significantly different to those in the core contract, instead providing an increase in capacity. Consultation has occurred with the provider for purposes of agreeing performance measures and risks management in respect of the proposed changes.

## **Conclusions**

25. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health approves the proposed additional spend to Stop Domestic Abuse on the Domestic Abuse Contract in 2022/23 (up to a maximum additional spend of £1,500,000).
26. In anticipation of future DLUHC funding being available for Domestic Abuse, the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health is also asked to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, to approve the exact figure of additional spend on this contract each year, in consultation with the Executive Member, over the remaining years of the contract and to a maximum of the total funding provided by the DLUHC each year.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u> <a href="#">Approval to spend for Domestic Abuse Services</a>	<u>Date</u> 25 July 2018
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u> Domestic Abuse act Part 4 (Safe Accommodation)	<u>Date</u> <b>2021</b>

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

These proposed variations to the Stop Domestic Abuse contract in 2022/23 will result in support being more accessible to victims including children, males (with/without children); LGBTQ+; those with a disability; multiple disadvantages, families with older adolescents; those from diverse ethnic backgrounds; older adults, and people who have limited access to support services due to rurality.