

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

11 DECEMBER 2020

**LSCSB UPDATE: DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE
RE-PROCUREMENT (PUBLIC HEALTH, LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL)**

Background

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress and plans in relation to the re-procurement of domestic and sexual violence and abuse services (DSVA) for Leicestershire. The Board was last updated in June 2020.
2. Commissioning partners are Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Responsibility for the commissioning of domestic and sexual violence and abuse services (DSVA) transferred from LCC Children and Families to LCC Public Health in September 2019. Due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic current contracts for DSVA services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) have been extended to 31st March 2022.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

3. An Exception to Contract Procedural Rules COVID-19 Report has been completed and fully signed off with input from LCC Legal and LCC Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) to allow for the extension to existing contracts and postponement of procurement for the 12- month period.
4. The existing Joint Working Agreement between all commissioning partners has been amended and agreed. The contract lead (City Council) has formally notified the provider (UAVA) of the intention to extend the contract for 12 months and the provider has agreed.

Coming Year

5. Since the last report the LLR DSVA Recommissioning Group has re-established monthly meetings and reviewed project timescales. A new Project Plan has been agreed and workstreams restarted.

6. A Soft Market Test (SMT) took place in Oct/Nov to explore two specific elements – Case Management and Case Tracking Solutions and, Learning from Covid.
7. The SMT assured the DSVA Recommissioning Group that appropriate case management systems are available, and a Case Management System Working Group has been established that includes IT Solutions ‘expert’ to draft a local proposal.
8. Learning from Covid included the increased use of digital interventions, and the challenge of balancing remote/digital and face-to-face service delivery.
9. Future work includes reviewing and rewriting service specifications in light of Covid-19 and feedback from the Soft Market Test, and continuing the workstreams in preparation for the procurement, currently planned for early summer 2021.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

10. Whilst there are challenges to an approach involving 4 commissioning partners, adopting an LLR approach where practicable will allow economies of scale and a co-ordinated pathway across different service provision and different geographical areas.

Recommendations for the Board

11. The Board is asked to note the work being undertaken to recommission the domestic and sexual violence and abuse services for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Officer to contact

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