



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
18th March 2021

RECOMMISSIONING OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE
AND ABUSE SERVICES

REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the plans for the recommissioning of the domestic and sexual violence and abuse services (DSVA) and the proposed model for domestic and sexual violence and abuse services (DSVA).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The provision of domestic and sexual violence and abuse services aligns with Outcome 3 from the County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022; **Keeping People Safe:** People in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm.
3. A report was previously brought to Cabinet on 8th Feb 2019 by the Director of Children and Family Services that outlined the recommissioning work undertaken to date and to seek approval to consult on the proposed structure for domestic and sexual violence and abuse services to be commissioned across Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland (LLR). This was approved by Cabinet.

Background

4. While the overall strategic and operational function for domestic and sexual violence and abuse sits with the Community Safety team within Children & Family Services, commissioning is a key skill of the Public Health department and so Public Health is leading on the commissioning of domestic and sexual violence and abuse services.
5. Domestic and sexual violence and abuse services currently comprise the UAVA (United Against Violence and Abuse) Service jointly commissioned with Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Contract management is led by

Leicester City Council. The UAVA service provides the domestic abuse support service, the sexual violence support service, the helpline, and outreach services and is delivered by a consortium comprising Women's Aid Leicestershire Ltd (WALL), Free From Violence and Abuse (Freeva), and Living Without Abuse (LWA). In addition, Public Health commissions the Safe Places Accommodation Support Service providing supported refuge accommodation in the county.

6. Current contracts for all DSVAs were due to end on 31st March 2021 and have been extended to 31st March 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
7. Other partners in this recommissioning project are the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Leicester City Council, and Rutland County Council.
8. The Public Health annual funding envelope for domestic and sexual violence and abuse services is currently £385,907.
9. In February 2021 it was announced by Government that there would be additional funding for all Tier 1 and Tier 2 authorities for 2021/22 for domestic abuse safe accommodation and support. The allocation for Leicestershire is £1,127,205. Additional guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) suggests there will be additional funding allocations beyond 2021/2022 but there is no indication whether this will be at a similar level.
10. It is intended that some or all of future allocations (depending on the level of additional funding) will be included within the funding envelope for this recommissioning project.
11. Additional funding allocations will not change the service model described but will enhance service delivery and allow flexibility between service elements to best meet future need.

Service Model

12. The approach taken to recommission the service across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland allows for economies of scale where possible and ensures a co-ordinated pathway across different service provision and different geographical areas and needs. It also allows partners to retain control of specific elements of commissioned services for their locality including contract management and performance monitoring whilst ensuring a co-ordinated approach to delivery.
13. The model comprises 5 service elements;
 - a. Helpline and Engagement Service – an LLR wide service with a single specification. PCC will lead on procurement of this element. This is the ‘front-door’ that all potential service users

will engage with. The service will be responsible for assessment, referral to other parts of the service system relevant to needs identified, assertive engagement and support and maintaining a case management system.

- b. Domestic violence and abuse locality support service – 2 Lots (Lot 1 – Leicestershire & Rutland, Lot 2 – Leicester City) with a single specification. Leicestershire County Council will lead on procurement of this element. This service will provide more intensive and specialist support tailored to individual need and will include support throughout the criminal/civil justice system.
- c. Sexual violence and abuse support service – an LLR wide service with a single specification. PCC will lead on procurement of this element. This service will provide more intensive and specialist support tailored to individual need and will include support throughout the criminal justice system.
- d. Domestic abuse accommodation related support service – 2 Lots (Lot 1 – Leicestershire, Lot 2 – Leicester City) with separate specifications and procurement leads. This service will provide a variety of accommodation for victims without safe housing, and intensive on-site support to maintain safety, and enable move-on.
- e. Domestic violence and abuse Perpetrator Interventions – a single lot with a single specification. Leicester City Council will lead on procurement of this element. This service will deliver short-term and longer-term programmes with perpetrators to address abusive behaviour. Leicestershire County Council will not currently contribute to this service. The PCC contribution may enable a very limited provision for residents of Leicestershire. Additional funding opportunities are being explored.

Conclusion

14. There has been considerable discussion and modelling undertaken by commissioning partners to finalise the service model and contracting arrangements across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The proposed model allows for greater control for each commissioning partner whilst retaining the overall service system and economies of scale that commissioning with partners allows.
15. All commissioning partners are now securing agreement for the model and agreement to proceed with procurement through their respective governance procedures throughout February and March in preparation for tender publication in May 2021.
16. A paper will be presented to Cabinet on 23rd March 2021 to inform members of the model for domestic and sexual violence and abuse

services and to seek approval for delegation of authority to appoint the Preferred Bidder to the Director of Public Health.

Background Papers

Sexual and Domestic Violence and Abuse Needs Assessment for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (2017) <http://lrsb.org.uk/llr-dasv-strategic-docs>

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy (2018-2021) <http://lrsb.org.uk/llr-dasv-strategic-docs>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

17. None

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