

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing
Date:	3 December 2024
Title:	Approval to spend for Domestic Abuse Services
Report From:	Director of Public Health

Contact name: Simon Bryant, Director of Public Health

Email: Simon.Bryant@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing provides approval for permission to spend up to £38,500,000 on domestic abuse services from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2033. This spend covers support services for victims and survivors as well as behaviour change services for perpetrators of abuse.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing gives approval to spend up to £1,500,000 of the total amount over the same seven-year period on perpetrator behaviour change services. This spend would be via a change in the commissioning arrangements as set out in the report, with the final amount to be delegated to the Director of Public Health.
- 1.3. That the Director of Public Health has delegated authority to spend for domestic abuse services within the overall approval value, noting that the amount and service level will be dependent on national domestic abuse funding allocated to Hampshire County Council.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Since the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act in 2021, Hampshire County Council has had a specific statutory duty around the commissioning of support in safe accommodation for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children. The current contract which enable the County Council to meet these duties expire in 2026.
- 2.2. Hampshire County Council currently commissions services for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and services for people using abusive behaviour (also known as perpetrator services). The services for victims and survivors include support in refuge accommodation across the Hampshire County Council area as well as community support for adults and children. Services for people using abusive behaviours include specialist behaviour change programmes and support for partners and ex-partners.

- 2.3. Currently, Hampshire County Council is the lead commissioner for the service for victims and survivors, as well as the service for people using abusive behaviours, working in partnership with the co-funders. It is proposed that the Council will continue to be the lead commissioner for the service for victims and survivors from April 2026, but that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will take the lead for commissioning perpetrator services from that date, with continued co-funding from Hampshire County Council. This will enable economies of scale and consistency for perpetrator services across the Hampshire Constabulary geography, which also includes Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.
- 2.4. The future services to commence in April 2026 are being informed by the voices of victims and survivors of abuse, engagement with the provider market, the specific needs of the Hampshire population (assessed through data and intelligence) and the statutory requirements.
- 2.5. The current commissioned domestic abuse services for the Hampshire county area is primarily funded by the Public Health Grant and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, and the additional MHCLG funding. Given the uncertainty over the national funding allocation for domestic abuse services, the future services from April 2026 are being planned to use a range of funding scenarios. The upper limit for approval in this paper is based on the current core funding with the maximum allocation received from MHCLG in 2024/25.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. None.
- 3.2. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to commission support in safe accommodation for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and their children.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: N/A
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: N/A

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: None

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by: ----- Councillor Russell Oppenheimer Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing	Date: 3 December 2024
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