

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
Date:	21 September 2021
Title:	Sexual Violence Services
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Executive Member for the award of 2 grants totalling £589,386 over a seven year period, on a 3+2+2 basis, from 1 April 2022 to the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in respect of the Rape and Sexual Assault Counselling (RASAC) Services and Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) Service.
2. This report will set out the background to the Sexual Violence Support services and provide the local context whilst outlining the finance for the services and the impact on the Adults' Health and Care budget.

Recommendations

3. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health gives approval for a grant of up to £471,786 to the OPCC over a maximum seven year period, for the delivery of Rape and Sexual Assault Counselling Service.
4. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health gives approval for a grant of up to £117,600 to the OPCC over a maximum seven year period, for the delivery of Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy service.

Contextual information

5. NHS England and Improvement (NHS E&I), Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Local Authorities and the Criminal Justice System jointly commission integrated responses to sexual violence and rape to meet the needs of local populations.

6. This report covers two separate contracts, both of which contribute to the overall provision of Sexual Violence services across Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. The Rape and Sexual Assault Counselling (RASAC) service provide therapeutic support to individuals who have experienced rape, sexual abuse/violence or sexual exploitation. The Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) service offers practical support and advice to individuals who have experienced rape, sexual abuse/violence or sexual exploitation; including support to those whose case is progressing through the criminal justice system.
7. The current commissioning arrangements for these two services are complex, potentially adding confusion for both service users and stakeholders. The County Council currently commissions four RASAC services jointly funded by two CCGs and NHS E&I, as well as one ISVA service jointly funded by the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Portsmouth City Council (PCC). These contracts come to an end in March 2022. The OPCC commissions three further RASAC services across Hampshire and NHS E&I commission a separate ISVA service attached to the Hampshire Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). All partners are keen to address this and make better use of collective resources.
8. The Police and Crime Commissioner published a Sexual Crime Strategy for Hampshire in 2017. The aspirations for victim support services include the development of a standard specification for specialist counselling services across the pan Hampshire area, increased co-commissioning arrangements and a need to address the differences in access arrangement across the Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton geography.

Future Service Delivery

9. Although the County Council currently holds the main ISVA contract, the County Council is a minor funding partner and overarching responsibility for victim support sits with the OPCC. Similarly, the County Council has also historically led on the commissioning and procurement of the RASAC services. As therapeutic services, this provision should sit under the OPCC or CCGs as an integral part of the mental health pathway.
10. Discussions with partners have resulted in agreement to align all funding streams and progress joint commissioning of all sexual violence services from April 2022.
11. The OPCC will lead on the commissioning of two separate, pan-Hampshire services. This would result in a more co-ordinated and cost-effective approach to the delivery of these services.
12. The ISVA service will be funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and the County Council.

13. Similarly, the RASAC will be primarily commissioned by the OPCC in partnership with the County Council, Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG, Frimley CCG, and the NHSE&I.

Finance

ISVA

14. While the County Council will carry out the procurement exercise on behalf of the partnership, the contract will be held by the OPCC who will have responsibility for management of the contract for the new ISVA service from April 2022. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that the County Council is able to support the OPCC as flexibly as possible, to give both them and the successful provider confidence regarding ongoing funding arrangements.
15. The contribution from the County Council to support the ISVA provision is proposed to be up to £16,800 per annum. To ensure consistent service delivery and enable the efficient procurement of the service, it is proposed that this be made available up to a maximum of seven years, on a 3+2+2 basis. Therefore, the total contribution from the County Council for up to seven years will be £117,600. This level of contribution does not represent an additional cost pressure, it is consistent with the current planned annual budget provision. In year one of the contract, County Council funding for the ISVA contract is estimated to equate to just over 6% of the total contract value. While management of the contract will rest with the OPCC, we will retain the ability to jointly assess performance of the contract and review if required.

RASAC

16. The contribution from the County Council to support the RASAC service is proposed to be up to £67,394 per annum. It is proposed that the County Council make this funding available for up to a maximum of seven years, meaning the total contribution from the County Council would be up to £471,758, subject to contributions from other partners being confirmed. This level of contribution does not represent an additional cost pressure, it is consistent with the current planned annual budget provision. At the time of writing, funding levels for the RASAC service had not yet been confirmed from all partners. While management of the contract will rest with the OPCC, we will retain the ability to jointly assess performance of the contract and review if required.

Legal

17. In exercising its functions an authority must have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act and advance equality of opportunity and

foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Consultation and Equalities

18. Stakeholder consultation was carried out in April 2021 via an online survey. The respondents were from people who had used ISVA services, professionals who have or are working in services, professionals who refer clients or professionals with an interest in services. 48.8% of responders agreed with the proposal to bring existing services together, 27.9% did not agree and 23.3% neither agreed nor disagreed/other. Of those professionals referring to the service, 90.9% found it easy to refer to the service, 9.1% did not. Respondents also commented on having a single point of access, easier referral pathways and providing additional staff across the county.
19. Most of the impacts recorded for these services are neutral due to the same service offers continuing, with few changes for individuals using the services. The main changes will be to the commissioning arrangements which will bring together funding of current same/ similar services. This should enable future services to take a more consistent countywide approach and for resources to be used more flexibly and allocated where they are most needed. The impacts will be monitored via contract monitoring meetings by all funding partners.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

20. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
21. An initial climate change assessment has taken place, and it is considered that the tools were not applicable due to the nature of this report being a financial one, amending or proposing budgets for programmes and individual schemes and therefore does not require a climate change assessment.

Conclusions

22. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health gives approval for a grant of up to £471,786 to the OPCC over a maximum seven year period, for the delivery of Rape and Sexual Assault Counselling Service.
23. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health gives approval for a grant of up to £117,600 to the OPCC over a maximum seven year period, for the delivery of Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy service.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	No
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

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.)

<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:

Geographic Impact - All Hampshire

Engagement/Consultation – Yes

Details of Engagement/Consultation

Stakeholder consultation was carried out in April 2021 via an online survey. The respondents were from people who had used ISVA services, professionals who have or are working in services, professionals who refer clients or professionals with an interest in services. 48.8% of responders agreed with the proposal to bring existing services together, 27.9% did not agree and 23.3% neither agreed nor disagreed/other. Of those professionals referring to the service, 90.9% found it easy to refer to the service, 9.1% did not find it easy.

Respondents also commented on having a single point of access, easier referral pathways and providing additional staff across the county.

Additional Information

Most of the impacts recorded for these services are neutral due to the same service offers continuing, with few changes for individuals using the services. The main changes will be to the commissioning arrangements which will bring together funding of current same/ similar services. This should enable future services to take a more consistent countywide approach and for resources to be used more flexibly and allocated where they are most needed. The impacts will be monitored via contract monitoring meetings by all funding partners.

Overview Statement

1. Age

Public Impact - Positive

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

The new ISVA and RASAC services will bring together existing services into one contract and be an all age service available to adults, children and young people. The provider will have a pool of workers including CYP ISVAs to ensure that individuals are matched appropriately with a worker according to their age and will be offered relevant and appropriate support according to their needs.

2. Disability

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

In the last quarter, of 174 ISVA referrals, 21 had a physical or sensory disability, 12 had a learning disability, 7 had a long term condition and 83 had a mental health condition.

In the last quarter, of 235 RASAC referrals (not including NHSE&I), 13 had a physical or sensory disability, 13 had a learning disability, 74 had a mental health condition, 20 had multiple disabilities. The new ISVA and RASAC services will bring together existing services into one contract and will continue to be accessible to people with disabilities. The provider will ensure services are accessible according to individual need and will offer relevant and appropriate support.

3. Gender Reassignment

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

The service will continue to respect the diversity of local communities and provide services in a safe environment free from discrimination where all individuals are treated fairly, with dignity and respect appropriate to their needs. Where people are identified they will continue to be supported appropriately and signposted to appropriate groups locally.

4. Pregnancy & Maternity

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

Pregnancy is a risk factor for individuals accessing this service, those affected will be supported appropriately. However changing commissioning arrangements for these services should not impact on the support available for this protected characteristic group.

5. Race

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

The service will continue to respect the diversity of local communities and provide services in a safe environment free from discrimination where all individuals are treated fairly, with dignity and respect appropriate to their needs. Race and cultural issues will be taken into account to ensure the most appropriate service and support is offered. Other than White British (67.2%), the largest numbers accessing the ISVA service in the last quarter were White European/Irish/Other (2.3%), African/Caribbean/Black British (4.6%) and Asian/Asian British (0.6%).

6. Religion or Belief

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

The service will continue to respect the diversity of local communities and provide services in a safe environment free from discrimination where all individuals are treated fairly, with dignity and respect appropriate to their needs. Religion and beliefs will be taken into account to ensure the most appropriate and suitable support is offered.

7. Sex

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

ISVA and RASAC services will continue to support both women and men who who have experienced rape, sexual abuse, assault, violence or sexual exploitation at any point in their lives. In the last quarter, only 4.6% of those who accessed the ISVA service were men but a male ISVA will continue to be available for anyone using the service.

8. Sexual Orientation

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

In the last quarter, 9.2% of people referred into the ISVA service, identified themselves as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual. However, an additional 44% either did not state or identified as Other. Both the ISVA and RASAC services will continue to support people in this protected characteristic group to ensure the most appropriate service and support is offered and signpost to other appropriate services.

9. Marriage & Civil Partnership

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

Both the ISVA and RASAC services will continue to support people in this group to ensure the most appropriate service and support is offered.

10. Poverty

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact - Neutral

Decision Rationale

Both the ISVA and RASAC services will continue to support people in this group to ensure the most appropriate service and support is offered and that individuals are signposted to other services for further support where appropriate.

11. Rurality

Public Impact - Neutral

Staff Impact – Neutral

Decision Rationale

The new services will continue to offer support across all areas of the county through a variety of methods and will be contactable via helpline, email, website and social media. They will also continue to offer face to face services which people can access easily across all areas of the county via private or public transport.