

Fol ref: 2015-00592

Request received: 19 August 2015

Response sent: 10 November 2015

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the commissioning of sexual violence/abuse services or sexual violence/abuse. As requested, I have detailed below the services that we have commissioned in the West Midlands 2014-15 and how we are working in 2015-16.

In 2013-14, the previous Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones, passported the Victims Fund out to our 7 Community Safety Partnerships to undertake capacity building in the local areas. The reason for this was so that decisions based on need could be made locally. That funding was to make sure that the voluntary and community sector were up to speed and able to take part in the new local commissioning landscape. The Partnerships commissioned services and voluntary sector councils carried out capacity building on their behalf.

Fully commissioned services commenced from April 2015 and all our services are commissioned through a grant process. This ensures alignment with timescales for allocation of community safety grant funding, which is important given that much of this grant is used to respond to priorities within the local Police and Crime Plans. The PCC expects Local Police and Crime Boards to ensure that the services they commission through their passported Community Safety Funding is aligned to the work of the Victims Commission and the services that are being supported.

I have attached a link to our Victims Strategy, (currently being updated) which sets out the priorities of the PCC – of which sexual violence/abuse is one <http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/media/359356/pcc-victims-services-strategy-2014-16.pdf> We address the victims agenda through a Victims Commission, which has on it representatives from each of the priorities. Lisa Thompson, the CEO of RSVP is the sexual violence representative on the Commission, and feeds in ton behalf of the sexual violence consortium.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner engaged with previous MoJ funding recipients to ensure appropriate transitional arrangements were in place for the October 2014 – April 2015 period. This also meant that there was no breakdown in services for existing victims. Projects that have continued to be supported are Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid, Sandwell Women's Aid, Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, and Crispipoint. The formal decision made is here <http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/media/294301/wmpcc-015-2014-victims-services.pdf> That was part of the transition strategy and we are continually working with our partners to try and align strategies and commissioning processes to improve services and prevent duplication, encourage partnership working and collaboration and working with the voluntary and community sector to enable and ensure participation in the change process.

We are now working with our 4 main providers across the West Midlands to deliver a regional, collaborative response to sexual violence/abuse. We met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November to look at what the main issues are for them in delivery of services, what the critical need is, where services are delivered in terms of geography, what the outcomes have been in terms of funding received to date and what the risks are to service provision. The biggest issue raised by all 4 representatives is the long waiting lists for victims and therefore we are now working with them to look at how we address this. Once this piece of work has been addressed, I will come back to you and let you know how we have responded to the issues that have been raised. Funding allocated to these services now will be used to provide face

to face services: counselling, emotional support, group support, as well as direct ISVA services which we also provide. At this point we do not fund SARC provisions but are aware of the input from West Midlands Police and the services provided.

Funding is allocated on an annual basis, and therefore we are not in a position to be able to commit longer term than 12 months for each project.

Below is a breakdown of funding allocated to sexual violence/abuse services to date.

### Victims Fund 2014-15

Organisation	Service Provided	Crime Type	Total allocation for Oct-Mar 2015
Crisis Point	Provision of practical and emotional support to vulnerable victims of sexual abuse in Walsall and Wolverhampton	Sexual Violence	£87,617
Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC)	Provision of outreach, specialist support and counselling services in Coventry for vulnerable groups of BME women and young girls from the age of 11 who are victims of rape or sexual violence	Sexual Violence	£153,738
Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC)	Family Support & Advocacy Worker supporting the Children and Young People's Counselling Service. Counselling Provision for adult male victims	Sexual Violence	£54,435

**Competed Fund 2014-15** – one off MoJ funding allocated to the West Midlands PCC after a formal bidding process

<p>Competed Funding – a bidding process for PCCs to the MoJ to provide support services for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- victims of serious crime</li> <li>- the most persistently targeted and</li> <li>- the most vulnerable and intimidated</li> </ul> <p>We were successful with the following applications:</p>			
RSVP: Rape and Sexual Violence Project	Services to victims of sexual violence in Birmingham and Solihull	Sexual Violence	£160,875
Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid	Support services to high risk victims of domestic and sexual abuse	Domestic/sexual Violence	£108,612
CrisisPoint	Services for victims of sexual violence to address the needs of adults and children seeking criminal justice system and safeguarding interventions.	Sexual Violence	£58,512

**Victims Fund 2015-16**

We are in decision making process for funding now and will be in a position to update you once the PCC has made a final decision.

I do hope that this provides answers to all the queries that you have raised, however, please do not hesitate to come back to me if you have any further questions.