

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE  
AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

029/2016

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**Title: Support Services for Victims of Sexual Abuse**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Police and Crime Commissioners took on responsibility for commissioning locally most of the emotional and practical support services for victims of crime that are provided by the voluntary and community sector, from April 1 2015.

The Commissioner has been allocated £3,319,355.03 in funding by the Ministry of Justice to commission victim services for 2016-17. Services commissioned form part of a complex and varied network of support that exists for victims, to ensure the needs of victims are met through improved services.

In 2015, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk administered two funds totalling £4.85m, in partnership with the Home Office, to support non statutory organisations supporting victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. The funding allocated was for 15 months. A number of projects based in the West Midlands were successful through the initial allocation process, and I will continue to fund them through the ringfenced amount of £230,139.92 within the Victims Fund. The total funding awarded to the successful organisations is £318,413. The shortfall in allocation will be made up from the main Victims Fund.

**DECISION**

**I approve the allocation of funding of £318,413 to the successful organisations as set out below.**

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**West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

Date.....5.10.16.....

**NON - CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. The Victims Abuse fund was launched in March 2015, due to the increase in reporting of child sexual abuse and rape and the resulting increase in demand for support services for victims and survivors across the country from non-statutory organisations.
2. The Child Abuse Victims Support Fund was established by the Home Secretary and was broken down into 2 components:
  - Fund 1: £2m to non-statutory organisations who reported an increase in demand as a direct result of the announcement of the Child Abuse Inquiry
  - Fund 2: £2.85m for non-statutory organisations providing support across England and Wales to meet increased demand for services from victims and survivors of sexual abuse.
3. Stephen Betts, Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk in 2015, administered Funds 1 and 2 and a list of successful organisations within the West Midlands is included in the table below.
4. CSA continues to be one of the priorities within my Police and Crime Plan and the West Midlands Sexual Violence Provider Consortium state that they have experienced a year-on-year significant increase in demand on services for the last five years. The OPCC has been working with the providers to develop a West Midlands response that will ensure a consistent response to victims regardless of which local authority area you live in.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. The West Midlands Victims Fund allocation is £3,319,355.03. £230,139.92 is ringfenced for CSA. The shortfall of £88,273.08 will be made up from the main Victims Fund budget.

<b>CSA Allocation 2016-17</b>	<b>£230,139.92</b>		
<b>Successful projects</b>	Fund 1	Fund 2	Total
<b>Birmingham Rape and Sexual Violence Project</b>  Expansion of counselling and advocacy support for adult and child victims of child sexual abuse  Expansion of counselling and telephone helpline support for adult victims of previous child sexual	£55,038	100,039	£155,077

abuse and adult victims of sexual abuse			
<b>Sandwell Women's Aid</b> Childhood Matters	£82,243	0	£82,243
Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre  Children and Young Persons Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CYP ISVA) Support Project	£42,729	0	£42,729
<b>Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid</b>  Independent Sexual Violence Advisor to support women affected by sexual violence within domestic violence relationships.	£38,364	0	£38,364
<b>Total</b>	<b>£218,374</b>	<b>£100,039</b>	<b>318,413</b>

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The Victims Fund is issued as a grant under s58 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

7. Schedule 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides Commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any organisations and projects they consider will help them achieve their crime prevention aims and wider priorities.

## EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

8. All agencies will ensure that, in conducting its work, it will integrate consideration of equality and diversity issues into each item of business, with a view to valuing and promoting equality and diversity and eliminating discrimination. The OPCC will monitor this area of business.

## Schedule of Background Papers

None

## Public Access to Information

Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.

