

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE  
AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL  
NOTICE OF DECISION  
027/2014**

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**Victims Services**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Funding for victims of crime transfers to Police and Crime Commissioners (Commissioners) on the 1 October 2014 along with 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. These services help victims to cope with and recover from the impacts of crime.

CRASAC is the only specialist sexual violence agency within Coventry. It was established over 33 years ago and provides multiple services to victims of sexual violence, many of whom are repeat victims and all are vulnerable and intimidated victims. People living in Coventry are more likely to be the victims of rape and sexual assault than people living in the rest of the West Midlands and the UK as a whole, (Stay Focused, Public Health Coventry, 2011) and it is estimated that over 38,000 adults and 100,000 children living in Coventry have been victims of sexual violence. In 2013-14, CRASAC supported 5,780 victims/survivors throughout all its services.

The projects outlined in Appendix A support victims of the serious crime of rape and sexual violence, and clients are some of the most vulnerable and intimidated victims of crime. Many are victims of repeat victimisation and sexual violence, with 60% of clients suffering child sexual abuse, 45% have experienced multiple sexual violence attacks, 20% are under 18, over 40% have formally diagnosed mental health issues and 42% report having a disability (physical/learning/mental).

**DECISION**

I have considered the funding request for the projects as set out at Appendix 1 and approve the allocation of £54,435.

**Acting 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.....Yvonne Mosquito.....**

**Date.....22 July 2014.....**

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

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Funding for victims of crime and responsibility for services for victims of crime transfers to Police and Crime Commissioners on the 1 October 2014. They will take 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 in their area. These services help victims to cope with and recover from the impacts of crime. Cope and recover are the outcomes which services for victims should be aiming to achieve as far as possible.
2. Across the country, local commissioning is replacing the old system of grant-funding by the Ministry of Justice, although some services will still be commissioned nationally, including the witness service, homicide service, trafficking service, rape support and some victims' helplines. £22 million of the core budget has been allocated for these national services. Support includes services for those bereaved through homicide, rape support centres, court based witness services, human trafficking and some telephone helplines such as BRAKE.
3. The total MoJ budget for commissioning services at both the national and local level consists of £50m core victims' services budget and up to a further £50m of additional revenue to be raised from offenders through the Victims Surcharge, and increases to the value of penalty notices for disorder and motoring fixed penalty notices.
4. PCCs will be responsible for commissioning both a 'non-specialist' overarching victim referral mechanism including onward support and more 'specialist' services for victims of crime in the West Midlands, including Restorative Justice services.
5. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will retain responsibility for commissioning certain specialist services

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The total budget for Victims Services in 2014-15 is £1,172,137 and is split in the following way:

Funding period	Purpose	West Midlands Funding
Oct 2014 - Mar 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build restorative justice capacity and activity</li> <li>• Support Services for victims</li> <li>• 50% of the victims allocation will be retained for the national referral mechanism (Victim Support)</li> </ul>	Total Victims Allocation £1,172,137 50% kept for Victim Support £586,068 £586,068 for Victims Services Restorative Justice* £305,244 SV/DV £63,491 Total £1,540,871

\*Funding for Restorative Justice is not ringfenced

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. The funding will be issued as a grant under s56 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.
- 8 .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 and wider priorities.

## **Schedule of Background Papers**

1. None

### Public Access to Information

2. 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.

### **Family Support & Advocacy Worker supporting the Children and Young People's Counselling Service.**

The Children and Young People's Counselling service has been established at CRASAC for over two years. This service supports children who have experienced rape and sexual violence from the age of 5 years old onwards. CRASAC developed this work for children between the 5-18 years age range when a national children's charity stopped their post trauma work with young children, leaving no provision for this age group within Coventry. As a specialist sexual violence agency CRASAC developed its counselling service to meet this clear community need. In Coventry there are an estimated 10,000 victims of rape and sexual abuse in the 0-16 year age band (Cawson et al,2000 & NSPCC 2011). National research indicates 21% of girls & 11% of boys experience some form of childhood sexual abuse (Taskforce Alberti, DOH 2010). CRASAC supports over 5,000 victims throughout all of its services each year. In 2013/14 For the counselling service of the 580 clients supported in this service alone in 2013/14, over 20% of these counselling clients were children and young people aged 18 and below. In the two years since the children's and young peoples counselling service began it has supported 406 children and young clients.

This service provides specialist counselling support, including pre-trial therapy and also provides support to the non-abusive carers of the children. This service has grown considerably from its inception and has supported CRASAC to achieve the 183% increase in the number of under 18's that we have provided counselling for. Due to this on-going increase in demand this children and young peoples service currently has a wait list of approximately 4-5 months for some of CRASAC's most vulnerable clients.

Currently, a significant amount of the counsellors time is taken up attending multi-agency safeguarding meetings and advocacy work in relation to the young clients being appropriately supported and protected. In addition the counsellors also provide emotional support and awareness raising to the family and carers of young victims to ensure and to enable a holistic family approach to the support required within their key social/family network.

A time management analysis carried out for this work assessed that 40% of the counsellors time was spend in this support/advocacy role and 60% was spend in direct counselling support. It is also recognised that this work is not currently be adequately resourced to the extent that is required to effectively support the young clients and to create new and improve on existing links with partner agencies (including Local Authorities, Education, Criminal Justice agencies etc).

It has been identified that a Family Support/Advocacy Worker within this service could address the advocacy and the multi-agency and safeguarding liaison work as well as the family support and awareness raising functions. This new and innovative role would thereby ensure the young victims care pathway runs as smoothly and effectively as possible and will enable the freeing up of the specialist children therapists to concentrate on delivering the specialist counselling and pre-court therapy. This will significantly reducing the waiting time that the young people are currently experiencing to receive this crucial support.

The need for this role has been highlighted by not only the increase in the children's counselling waiting list, but also by service user questionnaires and feedback from carers, parents and partner agencies. This project would support these young victims of sexual to better cope with and recover from the harm they have experienced from sexual violence. It will enable an increase in the specialist counselling provision they require to move them from being victims of sexual violence to becoming survivors. It will also support an increased focus on the provision of emotional support and awareness raising to the victim's families and carers helping to ensure that these young victims are provided with the positive and

supportive environment and improvement in their social interactions that is required to heal from their trauma.

This project would also provide value for money and social value as it would enable the more expensive role of counsellor to focus purely on the provision of counselling and critically it will enable more children to be supported through the counselling service, thereby reducing the waiting list and supporting more children and young people to begin to heal from the trauma of sexual violence and abuse. This in turn will also help prevent repeat victimisation of these young clients.

£39,435

### **Counselling Provision for adult male victims**

Whilst CRASAC supports over 5,780 victims of sexual violence throughout all of its services, there is a clear gap in service provision for the counselling of adult male victims of sexual violence. Younger males (from 5-18) are supported through CRASAC's children's and young people's counselling service. Whilst sexual violence is clearly recognised as gendered based violence, disproportionately affecting women and girls, male victims also require the specialist support to enable them to cope and recover from the trauma they have experienced. National research indicates that approximately 6-8% of adult victims of rape and sexual violence are male (British Crime Survey 2012) and 11% of young boys will have experienced sexual violence between the ages 0-16 (Taskforce Alberti, DOH 2010). A recent National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal-3), reported that in their sample of over 15,000 women and men, 4.7% of men reported having experienced sexual violence.

CRASAC's ISVA service has supported men and boys since 2006 and during 2013/14 it supported 31 male clients. The children and young people's counselling service support a further 26 young males. The vast majority of adult male ISVA clients have expressed via service user questionnaires that they required counselling support from CRASAC to continue their journey to cope and recover. In addition, the helpline supported 162 males during 2013/14, 64 of which indicated they required a specialist counselling service within Coventry.

CRASAC is the only sexual violence specialist agency in Coventry and there is a clear need to fill the gap and provide adult male specialist counselling. This project will fund counselling to adult males.

The core outcomes that will be achieved through this project are outlined below. CRASAC has a number of robust processes in place to monitor and record outcomes relating to the impact of trauma on a client's health and wellbeing these will be utilised to measure outcomes for the adult male counselling project. The core outcomes that CRASAC measures are those identified within Rape Crisis England and Wales National Service. These core outcomes are in relation to:

1. Survivors are more in control of their lives
2. Survivors have better health and well-being
3. Survivors are more able to keep themselves safe
4. Survivors are more able to access further support
5. Survivors are more able to develop and maintain positive relationships with those who matter to them
6. Survivors are more able to assert their views and their rights

These outcomes are mapped against and align with other outcome frameworks for victims including Ministry of Justice outcome areas for victims (*Getting it right for victims and witnesses: a Government response* (July 2012) and the cope and recover outcomes.

£15,000