

**DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer: Martin Nugent, Senior Policy and Partnership Officer**

<b>Subject/ Title:</b>
<b>Funding for the Vulnerable and Marginalised Women’s Whole System Approach</b>

<b>Type of decision:</b>			
<b>Deputy Mayor’s decision</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>Chief Officer’s decision</b>	

**In all cases this will need to be approved by the Assistant Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.**

<p><b>The decision is that:</b></p> <p>Approve the use of £181,249.50 from the allocated funds to support the WSA (including RIF) as a contribution towards the extension of the grant funding with the Women’s Support Alliance from 26<sup>th</sup> June until 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021.</p> <p>The funds will be paid to the GM Women’s Support Alliance.</p>
<p><b>The reasons for the decision are:</b></p> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>1.1 The Women’s Support Alliance is a group of organisations that run eight women’s centres providing support to vulnerable and marginalised women across all GM districts. The women’s centres provide an access point for support for a significant number of women that experience complexity in their lives, most notably those that have a history of offending, those that have experienced domestic abuse and those that are vulnerable to exploitation.</p> <p>1.2 Whilst the Women’s Support Alliance was originally established as a collective in order to provide coordination across the women’s centres it has recently formally established itself as an organisation in its own right in order to strengthen its function over the next few years.</p> <p>1.3 The Women’s Support Alliance delivers GM’s whole system approach to female offenders that has consistently seen GM achieve better female re-offending rates than other parts of the country.</p> <p>1.4 The current contract with the Women’s Support Alliance is due to end in June 2021 to co-incide with the reunification of probation services and the letting of a new contact to support vulnerable and marginalsided women</p>

## **2. CURRENT FUNDING SITUATION**

2.1 To support the new contract the JRE agreed to joint funding of £850,000pa for 3 and a half years to deliver the service. This funding consists of contributions from GMCA (FIM and RIF) and the NPS.

2.2 A funding 'gap' has occurred due to the delayed letting of the GM IRS women's support services. The new contract will not commence until the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This leaves a 13 week period where no funding is in place. To maintain and ensure a consistent service offer for women it has been agreed that the existing provider will continue to deliver the service until the new contract commencement date.

2.3 It has been agreed that £181,249.50 from the overall funding pot can be used to fund this period.

### **This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:**

Through assisting the Alliance to be funded it will continue to work with some of our most vulnerable women and contribute to the following priorities;  
Priority 8 Safer and Stronger Communities.  
Priority 9 Healthy Lives with quality care available for those that need it.

### **Financial comments:**

The Deputy Mayor and partners have agreed in principle to allocate reserves to support the whole system approach for vulnerable and marginalised women. Funding is to be drawn down from the funding that has been agreed by the JRE to deliver the new Women's Support Services as part of the GM IRS. This is a combination of HMPPS funding and GMCA funding (including FIM and RIF). This specific payment will be paid from the RIF contribution and has been agreed by Steve Wilson

### **Legal comments:**

As part of the GM IRS the CA and partners are moving towards a new commissioning framework that will ensure that legal and procurement advice is considered as part of the process which will protect the CA from a legal perspective.

The co-commissioning process currently being undertaken is designed to ensure that the wider market has the opportunity to engage in the procurement process.

### **Risk Assessment:**

The Alliance is at risk of collapse if funding is not secured to bridge the funding gap from 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021. This has meant that the Alliance needs to consider issuing redundancy notices to its' staff under employment

legislation in anticipation of the potential ending of the contract on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The re-allocation of funding will prevent this happening and allow service delivery to continue until re-commissioning is completed via the GM IRS in September.

**Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:**

The Alliance works with adult women and recognises some of these women are vulnerable adults and have children that may be in or at risk of entering the care system. The Alliance has extensive experience of safeguarding issues.

All safeguarding protocols of each provider are checked as part of ongoing performance management requirements. All safeguarding protocols reviewed and monitored as part of ongoing performance management requirements.

**Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:**

The Alliance works with adult women and recognises some of these women are vulnerable adults. It often advocates on their behalf and supports them into statutory safeguarding services where appropriate.

All safeguarding protocols of each provider are reviewed and monitored as part of on-going performance management requirements.

**Agreed by Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire**



Signed.....

Date.....21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.....

**Agreed by GMCA Treasurer**



Signed.....

Date.....25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.....

**Agreed by Deputy Mayor**

**Only required for a Deputy Mayor Decision on amounts of £50,000+**

Signed: ..... *Bob Hughes* .....

Date: ...5<sup>th</sup> July 2021.....

Contact Officer: