

**DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer: Alison Connelly**

<b>Subject/ Title:</b>
<b>Sexual Violence Harm Reduction Communications and Engagement</b>

<b>Type of decision:</b>			
<b>Deputy Mayor's decision</b>		<b>Chief Officer's decision</b>	<b>X</b>

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

<p><b>The decision is that:</b> Funds are provided to be received by Survivors Manchester on behalf of the GM Sexual Violence Harm Reduction Group to provide resources across the support service sector for coordination and engagement activity. These funds are £23,797 from an MoJ Covid Grant</p>
<p><b>The reasons for the decision are:</b></p> <p>A GM Sexual Violence Harm Reduction Group has been established which brings together support services to consider :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications arising from the GM Sexual Violence problem profile</li> <li>• Collaboration opportunities</li> <li>• Increasing access to and diversity of services</li> <li>• Developing problem solving approaches</li> <li>• Better understanding of the link between domestic abuse and sexual violence</li> <li>• Exploring issues of inclusion for identifying 'hidden harm' in communities and across protected characteristics such as males/females including the development of a community champions programme</li> <li>• Advising on communications and awareness raising initiatives and programmes</li> <li>• Ongoing impact of Covid</li> </ul> <p>The group has been consulted and they have agreed that sharing communications and engagement resources will allow them: to be more resilient ; develop proactive campaigns; increase awareness of services; consider prevention strategies; independently organise themselves and; engender sector joint working.</p>

Survivors Manchester already have a communications suite including software which can then be utilised by other services which will reduce duplication. They can also identify and extend staffing resources who can be deployed across the sector.

The funds are enabling and the focus will be increasing access to support services for victims and survivors and diversifying offers of support. Further funding will be subject to a bid to NHSE and/or CA Police Property Act Fund requirements.

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

The work supports the following GMS Strategy priorities:

- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthy lives, with quality care available, for those that need it

Links to Police and Crime Plan:

Priority 1 – contributing to reducing victims of violence, increasing feelings of safety, and increasing confidence in community safety.

Priority –. Intervening early to reduce the harm caused by violence.

Priority 3 – Supporting community resilience by investing in local services and people.

In addition, this piece of work links closely with the national Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and; Men and Boys Plan and; the Greater Manchester Gender Based Violence Strategy. Strategic pillars of these strategies include changing the story; supporting victims and survivors; police and CJS; etc.

**Procurement comments:**

No Procurement concerns. This is a low value grant funding arrangement which only part-funds the requirement.

It is understood that the funding of this requirement may not recur in the same form. If it does, additional Procurement advice should be sought.

**Financial comments:**

All services were invited to bid but most were unable to satisfy the short term grant requirements. For the limited number who did express an interest some bids required staffing resources that are not sustainable. This option provides for further interoperability for the sector and also helps to create a sustainable option for a further business case.

**Legal comments:**

Grant conditions have been issued by the MOJ. The sector has been consulted on appropriate use prior to a request to the MoJ.

**Risk Assessment:**

All the services are funded in part by the CA and they are experts in their field.

The funding represents a contribution to the sector so that they can fully contribute to GM requirements and self-organise. There is minimal risk as assurance has been provided by Survivors Manchester that delivery can be achieved at this cost envelope.

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

Yes – Children and Young people can witness sexual violence and be subject to it. The Sexual Violence Harm Reduction Group are working collaboratively on approaches to disclosure and workforce training and awareness.

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

Yes – safeguarding of victims and vulnerable people is at the core of the work programme for the Sexual Violence Harm Prevention Group. Each organisation has appropriate safeguarding policies in place and safeguarding will be considered for any aspects communication and engagement.

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

Signed...  .....

Date...11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022.....

**Agreed by GMCA Treasurer**



**Signed**

**Date 23/02/2022**

**Agreed by Deputy Mayor**

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

**Signed: .....**

**Date: .....**

**Contact Officer:**