

**DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer: Matt Berry – Senior Partnership Officer / Alison Connelly – Principal**

<b>Subject/ Title:</b>
Extension of the Victim Service Coordinator service from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022

<b>Type of decision:</b>			
<b>Deputy Mayor’s decision</b>	x	<b>Chief Officer’s decision</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></p> <p>To extend the funding of the GMP Victim Services Transformation Lead role and 11 Victim Services Coordinators posts, for a further 6 months (1st April 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022), as in interim measure whilst commissioning for the multi-crime gateway service for victims in GM is implemented.</p> <p>The proposed funding extension of the above posts also intends to align to the extension of both the Assessment and Referral Service and the grant funded victim services operating across Greater Manchester.</p> <p>Total funding to be approved is for the Victim Services Transformation Lead role and the 11 Victim Services Coordinators is £291,000.</p> <p>The extension of the posts will be funded via the annual MOJ Victims Budget allocation for 22/23.</p>
<p><b>The reasons for the decision are:</b></p> <p>The Victim Service Coordinators and Lead role were introduced in Sept 2017, as a pivotal element of the Assessment and Referral Model. They are employed by GMP and fully funded by GMCA. The team are led by the GMP Victim Services Strategic Lead and are responsible for the leadership and oversight of the victim services work at a divisional level, to improve partnership working and align services more effectively to improve pathways for victims.</p>

During 2019/2020, GMCA lead a review of victim services across Greater Manchester. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the commissioned services and grant fund are: aligned to the Standing Together priorities; cost effective; achieving the desired outcomes in the Victims Outcome Framework and; most importantly were supporting the needs of victims'. The outcome of the review was to agree a recommissioning process for victim services in Greater Manchester.

The impacts of Covid19 have resulted in delays to the timelines of delivering the commissioning exercise, therefore it is recommended that the Victim Services Coordinator posts and Victim Services Transformation Lead post be extended for a further 6 months (1st April 2022 to end of September 2022). This is to act as an interim until the newly commissioned service has been put in place to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

In addition to a number of key successes and activity that the Victims Coordination Team have carried out, partners have also identified a number of key challenges and opportunities that GMCA will consider as part of the broader redesign work and shape commissioning of how this service is delivered after September.

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

The Victim Service Coordinators and Lead role play a significant and instrumental role in delivery the priorities of the Greater Manchester Strategy at a divisional and regional level. Key priorities include:

- **Safer and Stronger Communities** – the team support the delivery of the police and crime plan at a district level.
- **Young people** – ensuring young victims of crime have access to support to help the cope, recover and move on from the crimes committed.
- **Healthy lives** – improving pathways to health for those who have been a victim of crime.

**Financial comments:**

The funding for the above posts will be provided via the annual MOJ victims budget (cost code 3011), GMCA have had confirmation of core grant from the MoJ for 2022/23, there is sufficient funds to cover this.

The current contracts for the staff are in place until March 2022 and GMCA will liaise with GMP to ensure that the relevant staff are notified of the funding extension, once approved.

The cost of extending the Victim Services Coordinators and Lead role from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 are as follows:

- **Victim Services Coordinators x 11 = £260,000 (6 months)**
- **Victim Services Lead - £ 31,000**

**TOTAL: £291,000 (6 months)**

**Procurement comments:**

Procurement have been consulted on the extension of the service, and have advised that this arrangement falls outside of scope of procurement regulations.

**Legal comments:**

Legal consultation not required.

**Risk Assessment:**

- The current funding for the above posts ends in March 2022; a delay to the extension of the team will result in GMP serving notice to their employees. Any such temporary interruption in the continuity of the posts may result in a degree of uncertainty for individuals and significantly disrupt ongoing activity and projects.
- Given that the funding is currently for a 6-month period, there is a risk that there is still a degree of uncertainty for individuals which could disrupt ongoing activity and projects, however this will be managed via regular engagement and communication with GMP via GMCA.
- It is also intended that we will notify the Victim Services Coordinator Team and Lead once any further decisions around extension of funding is agreed to reduce the risk of uncertainty.
- There is limited risk involved in delivery, as all the 11 Victim Services Coordinators and Transformation Lead are already in post.
- A journal transfer is between GMCA and GMP takes place to release the funds and is monitored in line with the MOJ requirements.

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

Safeguarding is a core aspect of the Victim Service Coordinator and Lead role and will continue to be so, as a result of the extension of funding

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

Safeguarding is a core aspect of the Victim Service Coordinator and Lead role and will continue to be so, as a result of the extension of funding

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



Signed... ..

Date...1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.....

**Agreed by GMCA Treasurer**



Signed

Date 07/04/2022

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



Signed: ... ..

Date: ...7<sup>th</sup> April 2022.....

**Contact Officer:**

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