


DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Lisa Lees/ Dan Diamond

Subject/ Title:
To appoint a Public Health Consultant in the VRU

Type of decision:			
Deputy Mayor's decision	X	Chief Officer's decision	

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

<p>The decision is that: A Public Health Consultant is appointed for 2.5 days per week, for the VRU at a cost of £87,000 per annum for a period of 2 years.</p> <p>Total cost £174,000 (below the supplies and services threshold for public contracts)</p> <p>A business case to establish this capacity through a consultancy arrangement has been agreed. Whilst the business case is for three years, there will be a review at the 18 month point to determine future requirements beyond the end of the second year.</p>  <p>V3 Business Case - PH Consultant conti</p>
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<p>The reasons for the decision are:</p> <p>Public health expertise has been crucial to the development of the GM Violence Reduction Unit and the programme has greatly benefited from this since its inception in 2019. Throughout this time, input has been through a succession of Public Health Registrar appointments as part of the national registrar training programme. However, between January 2021 and May 2021 there was no Public Health Registrar available which highlighted the potential risk of solely relying on registrar support. The current Registrar is due to stay in post until Aug-2022 when the VRU will be faced with another gap in support, with no plans in place for a replacement, a process over which the VRU has limited influence.</p> <p>Therefore, to ensure a strong public health approach is adopted across Greater Manchester for Violence Prevention, it is critical to incorporate senior public health expertise and knowledge. The individual must be an</p>
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expert in the field of Public Health, (registered in GMC/UKPHR/GDC), with particular specialist knowledge in Violence Prevention, so that the public health principles can be embedded into a system wide approach. They must also be a senior and system leader with extensive knowledge and expertise of public sector, in particular NHS and local government, so that cultures and organisational boundaries are understood, yet can be challenged.

Benefits to the VRU:

- Provide sufficient senior expertise to influence and negotiate with District Directors of Public Health and Strategic Health Leads across a range of organisations and settings
- Represent GM wide public health agenda in relation to Police, Fire and Crime to support integration within the developing locality boards and development of an Integrated Care System
- Advise Mayor and Deputy Mayor regarding opportunities and approaches to support reducing Youth Violence and Gender Based Violence
- Represent Public Health agenda at the GM Violence Reduction Governance Board and provide credible leadership and guidance at a senior level to support systemwide change and improvement
- Provide oversight of all relevant data and ways to strengthen and improve the VRU understanding of all factors relating to violence
- Oversee the production of the Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

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

Reducing serious violence contributes in the following ways:

- Reducing crime against the most vulnerable people
- Reducing the risk of young people getting involved in crime and violence
- Improving life chances of vulnerable children
- Reducing Gender Based Violence

Procurement comments:

It is noted that between January 2021 and May 2021 there was no Public Health Registrar available which highlighted the potential risk of relying on registrar support. The current Registrar is due to stay in post until Aug-2022, creating a further gap. It is also noted that Helen Lowey, through her company Helen Lowey Public Health Consultancy, is deemed to be an ideal candidate due to her experience as Director of Public Health representative

on the Violence Reduction Governance Board since it was established back in November 2019.

As the proposed two-year arrangement is estimated to cost £174,000, (which is below the below the supplies and services threshold for public contracts of £177,897ex VAT / £213,477 inc VAT, above which exemption would not be possible), exemption can be considered.

It is considered reasonable under urgency stipulations to make this appointment, while the approach to provision of this support on an ongoing basis is considered.

However, proximity of the contract value to the threshold means that extension to this arrangement in its current form could not be considered.

If externally contracted provision of this service is deemed to be the appropriate way forward, please revert to Commercial services for further advice.

Financial comments:

The consultant costs would be funded through the Home Office grant and there are sufficient funds to cover this cost in all financial years from SV reserves.

Legal comments:

Standard contract terms to be used

Risk Assessment:

Without the Public Health Consultant, the VRU runs the risk of having a reduced influence embedding PH practices into mainstream services across the public and voluntary sectors.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

Appropriate policies will be in place; however, this role will not involve 1-1 contact with children and young people.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:
Appropriate policies will be in place; however, this role will not involve 1-1 contact with vulnerable adults.

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



Signed...

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Date...13th July 2022.....

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer



Signed

Date 28/07/2022

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

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



Signed: ...

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Date: 28th July 2022.....

Contact Officer: