

## **DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer: Matt Berry / Alison Connelly: Victim Services Implementation Lead and Principal**

<b>Subject/ Title:</b>
Sexual Violence Harm Reduction Communications and Engagement post - Funding for 3 years

<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 Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.**

<p><b>The decision is that:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Commitment is for 3-year period – total envelope of £67k over 3 financial years funded by MOJ Victims Grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022/23 £7k</li> <li>• 2023/24 £30k</li> <li>• 2024/25 £30k</li> </ul>
<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> </ul>

- Advising on communications and awareness raising initiatives and programmes
- Ongoing impact of Covid

The Group have 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.

Having reviewed available options for the provision of the role, it was felt that in the interests of achieving the most impact / influence and delivering value for money, the role would be best positioned as an outsourced post within SV providers themselves rather than the GMCA recruiting in-house where there is segregation from practitioners and impact may be limited.

It was also felt that Survivors Manchester are best positioned to fulfil this role, as they already have a communications suite including software which can then be utilised by other services which will reduce duplication. They are also very well positioned to identify and extend staffing resources that 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 2** – 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.

<p><b>Financial comments:</b></p> <p>Sufficient funding of 3-year period has been secured, total envelope of £67k via MOJ victims grant funding. As stipulated by the funding conditions, a grant agreement will be put in place.</p>
<p><b>Procurement Comments</b></p> <p>No specific procurement concerns but should the arrangement need to be extended beyond the scope described here, please revert to Commercial/Procurement for further advice.</p>
<p><b>Legal Comments</b></p> <p>No legal consultation is required.</p>

<p><b>Risk Assessment:</b></p> <p>All the services are funded in part by the CA, and they are experts in their field.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p><b>Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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<p><b>Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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**Agreed by Interim Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire**



**Signed...** .....

**Date...9<sup>th</sup> August 2022.....**

**Agreed by GMCA Treasurer**



**Signed**

**Date 10/08/2022**

**Agreed by Deputy Mayor**

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



**Signed: ...** .....

**Date: ...11<sup>th</sup> August 2022.....**

**Contact Officer:**

**Contact Officer: Matt Berry / Alison Connelly**

**matt.berry@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk / Alison.connelly@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk**