

DECISION NOTICE

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

Subject/ Title:
2022-23 Support Services costs to St Mary’s SARC for Victims of Rape and Sexual Assault in Greater Manchester

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:</p> <p>To allocate a funding envelope of £1,950,000 to St Mary’s SARC for the provision of support services to victims of rape and serious sexual offences to cover the period of 1st April 2022-March 31st, 2023. This covers the quarterly contract payments for the service incorporating the main staffing costs with overheads, ISVA provision and therapeutic support, and also minor elements of overlapping costs of the Forensic Medical Examinations.</p> <p>The SARC service is jointly funded by the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership on a 50/50 basis and as such, the amount indicated above is the total SARC budget. The GMCA contribution is half of this. (£975k).</p> <p>It is important to note that actual costs for the SARC service for 2022-23 are still being finalised. This decision notice has been estimated to cover expected costs, however with some shortfall possible. This will be funded by reserves where necessary.</p>
<p>The reasons for the decision are:</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor for Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire has a responsibility to provide services for victims of crime, including victims of rape and sexual assault.</p> <p>The amount to be invested is a provisional figure for 22-23 to enable payments to be made to the provider whilst final contract value negotiations are concluded. This forms part of the strategic financial review that GMCA</p>

and GMHSCP have been undertaking for services that support victims of rape and sexual offences. Any further funding required will be the subject of a separate decision notice.

This budget is allocated to the Greater Manchester Sexual Assault Referral Centre, based at the St Mary's Centre at Manchester Foundation Trust. The provision is an all-age service which provides support for victims of rape or sexual assault in terms of a forensic examination and crisis support, support for people going through the criminal justice process and therapeutic/counselling support. The service can be accessed by a referral from an agency, including but not exclusive to Greater Manchester Police, or victims can also choose to self-refer. The service currently supports anybody who lives in Greater Manchester in addition to providing support for individuals who were assaulted in Greater Manchester, but do not reside in the area.

Demand

There were just over 11,000 sexual offences reported to GMP in 2021-2022, of which 36% were rape. 55% of these offences were committed against adults whilst over 5000 sexual offences were committed against children. This included 1400 offences which were rape against a child. Approximately 950 forensic medical examinations are undertaken by SARC each year

Attached is a statement from colleagues at NHS Integrated Health Trust around the selection of St Mary's as the Greater Manchester SARC.



StMarysSelectionStatement.pdf

Progress towards agreeing a full Service specification for SARC and Implementing a 3 year contract

Over the course of 2022/23 we have been working with SARC to both document the service provision with the associated costings, and also outline the service needs to improve operational delivery to meet demand. This is with a view to move to an agreed position over a fixed rate contract until 2026.

In order to progress this work, we have been documenting SARC's services based on the segregation of the service into the below 4 pillars:

1. Forensic medical examinations for adults
2. Forensic medical examinations for children / young persons
3. ISVA provision

4. Therapeutic counselling support

We have moved to a position where we are on the verge of agreeing the service specification for pillars 1 and 2 and 3. Once we have finalised this work, a contract will be drawn up to cover 3 years and will be in place for financial year 2023/24

Pillar 4 The Therapeutic counselling support has inherent complications as demand has stripped capacity at SARC. We will seek procurement advice on meeting commercial compliance regulations with any agreed way forward for this work.

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

SARC services delivered by St Marys contributes to the delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy. The core purpose of this service is to support individuals to help them cope and recover from being a victim of crime and to feel safe and secure in their homes and communities they live in.

Specific Key priorities include:

- Safer and Stronger Communities – the SARC provides the baseline of support that rape and serious sexual assault victims of crime in GM receive
- 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.

Procurement comments:

Commercial Services have been consulted on the proposed contracting approaches in relation to the 4 pillars of this work. While the current position of operating without a formalised contract is not compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations (2015), it is important to note that the move to institute a 3-year contract via the ongoing process of negotiation will be no more compliant with those Regulations, and it is important for decision makers to understand this.

However, it is recognised that new arrangements will be a significant step forward in regularising contracting provision in this service area. Commercial Service look forward to supporting the directorate in moving forward to compliant Procurement solutions.

Financial comments:

SARC invoices to be paid from CC3029 and allocated against the following account codes where there will be sufficient funding to cover costs.

4905 SARC contract

Legal comments:

On completion of agreements on the SARC service specification and a final contract value, legal colleagues will be consulted on the contract drafting process to ensure compliance.

Risk Assessment:

- It is recognised that the continued absence of a formal contract with St Marys for SARC services represents risk in potential lack of full compliance with commercial regulations. Procurement colleagues have been consulted to find the most suitable rationale for progressing payment in the stop gap until a contract is agreed in the coming months.
- It has been noted that operational costs at SARC have generally been increasing on year, addressing a need to formalise a contract
- There is an acknowledged capacity issue for therapeutic support for both adults and children which has resulted in waiting lists and protracted times in victims receiving support. Options for diverting this pressure to other providers is being scoped.

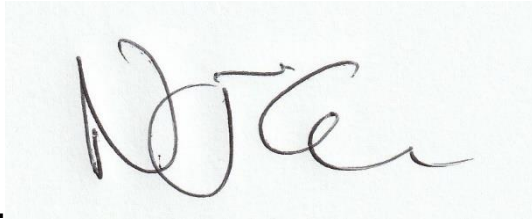
Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

St Mary's Centre has policies and procedures in place in relation to safeguarding children and adherence to these is monitored at the quarterly contract monitoring meetings.

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

St Mary's Centre has policies and procedures in place in relation to safeguarding adults and adherence to these is monitored at the quarterly contract monitoring meetings.

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



Signed...
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Date 3rd March 2023.....

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer



Signed:

Date: 07/03/2023

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

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



Signed:

Date: ...8th March 2023.....

Contact Officer:

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