

**DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer: Matt Berry, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer / Alison Connelly, Principal Offenders and Criminal Justice**

<b>Subject/ Title:</b>
Independent review of SARC CYP case management -Dr Alex Chard YCTCS

<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>£60k be committed from NHSE GM Health &amp; Justice Budget to fund an Independent review of case management of SARC Children Young Persons therapeutic support for rape and other sexual offences. This is to be conducted by Dr Alex Chard, Director YCTCS Ltd.</p>
<p><b>The reasons for the decision are:</b></p> <p>From working with St Marys SARC, our provider of therapeutic support services of rape and other sexual offences for children and young people, a number of agreed challenges have been identified in this sector that require fully scoping in order to identify ways forward. This includes a lack of capacity to regularly monitor waiting lists, to review suitability, assess risk, and refer victims to more appropriate services where necessary. There is also a gap in terms of GM wide local protocols between SARC and Children's Services/CAMHS.</p> <p>There is recognition that there is significant complexity and high levels of need of the children and families that utilise the St Marys SARC service, with many unknowns about the collective profile of children and parents and the appropriateness of current pathways. GMCA Police and Crime Team have engaged with external consultants and particularly the NHS Integrated Care to scope out an independent review of SARC CYP case management.</p> <p>This proposed review will deliver the following outcomes:</p>

- Recognition of the importance and responsibilities of the range of partner agencies (health, education and social care) towards these children and their families;
- A clear articulation of the extent of the need of children (and parents) on the waiting list including how they profile in the range of children's and adult services.
- A clear plan to safely reduce the child waiting list for CYP SARC counselling services;
- Options appraisal for the prompt delivery of services to children on the waiting list and the capacity within SARC to deliver this;
- Adequate escalation process for all agencies

This joint independent review will be conducted with a collaborative "critical friend" approach that draws on the expertise of the service to co-create a reflective learning process. This will include:

- Review of CAHMS eligibility in each area
- Identification of potential barriers from triage to onward referral
- Review of multi-agency safeguarding responsibilities
- Deep dive case review
- Review current case management systems and mechanisms to analyse patient demographics and trend data
- Consideration of the needs of parents including addressing their possible traumatisation and potential re-traumatisation in the context of their own history;
- Consideration of the role of SARC and other services in helping to educate parents on how to keep their children safe from further harm;

The review will be undertaken by Dr Alex Chard, Director YCTCS Ltd. He is a systemic organisational consultant, independent academic and professional author. He has a Professional Doctorate in Systemic Practice and is a member of the Society of Authors and the Institute of Directors. is recognised as a national expert in this field and has extensive experience including undertaking reviews into 2 London boroughs and reporting to a Home Office Minister.

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

Priority 8 of the Greater Manchester Strategy outlines the vision to have safer, stronger communities where every community and person can feel safe and secure in their daily lives.

The effectiveness of therapeutic support to CYP RASSO victims 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 – therapeutic support to CYP RASSO victims is often an essential component on their recovery journey
- 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 and wellbeing support for those who have been a victim of crime.

**Procurement comments:**

No significant Procurement concerns. An Urgency justification for direct award by exemption is being applied and this is considered reasonable. This urgency has not been caused by GMCA but rather stipulations placed on it by its funder.

Commercial Services file ref: **GMCA 991**

**Financial comments:**

Funding is available from NHSE SARC funding for 23/24- Funded from NHSE GM Health & Justice Budget (not ICB Budget).

**Legal comments:**

It has been advised from the Procurement team that Exemption approval form is proportionate to appoint supplier, further advice from legal colleagues not deemed to be required.

**Risk Assessment:**

Without undertaking this work, the known challenges around capacity of therapeutic support to CYP will continue such as;

- no capacity to regularly monitor waiting lists, to review suitability, assess risk, and refer to more appropriate services where necessary.
- no local protocols in place between SARC and Children's Services/CAMHS (apart from in Manchester)
- unsuccessful recruitment over the past 2-3 years of counselling staff to permanent roles in St Mary's SARC team

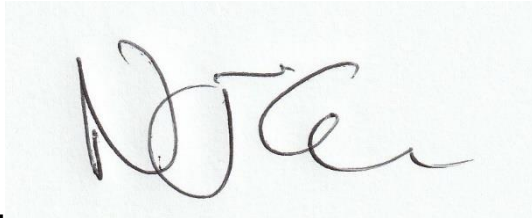
**Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:**

This initiative is designed to increase access to services in order to reduce harm to vulnerable children and young people.

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

Out of scope for this work, a separate piece of work is being proposed to address therapeutic capacity for adult RASSO victims.

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



Signed...

.....

Date...27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.....

**Agreed by GMCA Treasurer**



**Steve Wilson**

Signed.....

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Date.....

**Agreed by Deputy Mayor**

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

Signed: ...  .....

Date: ...4<sup>th</sup> April 2024.....

**Contact Officer:**

Matt Berry

Senior Partnership and Policy Officer

Mobile: 0797 656 0954

[Matt.berry@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Matt.berry@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)