

**DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer: James Carrick, VRU Project & Policy Officer**

<b>Subject:</b> OddArts work with Soul Sisters

<b>Type of decision: Budget/financial</b>			
<b>Deputy Mayor's decision</b>		<b>Chief Officer's decision</b>	<b>X</b>

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

**The decision is that:**

The GM VRU is seeking to award OddArts £500.00 to specifically fund the transport of women taking part in the Soul Sisters programme from Middleton to Rochdale once per week for 9 weeks.

To date, the VRU have previously awarded OddArts £2,800 in financial year 2023/24 to produce a short film. This new funding award takes the total amount funded to OddArts to £3,300 and the VRU will need to seek support from commercial services should any future funding amount take the VRU over established GMCA procurement thresholds.

**The reasons for the decision are:**

Odd Arts is teaming up with Soul Sister / Asma Begum (<https://soulsisters.org.uk/team/>) to support a forum theatre project (eventually leading to legislative theatre) piece, developed and performed by women from Rochdale all who have experience of domestic abuse. The play will explore some of the system barriers, challenges & inequalities the women have faced as female survivors of domestic abuse. There is no funding for this project, but OddArts are 'making it happen' by coming together and providing staff. The main barrier to delivery is transport costs to facilitate transporting participating women from Middleton to Rochdale 3-5 times a week over a 9–12-week period.

OddArts are part of the Manchester Peace Together Alliance, a member of the VRU's Community Led Programme in City of Manchester.

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

This programme of work will impact the following GM Strategies

- All four priorities in the [Standing Together plan](#)
- All priorities of the [Greater Than Violence Strategy](#).
- The [Gender Based Violence Strategy](#)

**Financial comments:**

£500.00 will be funded to OddArts out of the GM VRU's 2024/25 Serious Violence core Home Office grant funding.

To date, the VRU have previously awarded OddArts £2,800 in financial year 2023/24 to produce a short film. This new funding award takes the total amount funded to OddArts to £3,300.

**Legal comments:**

The funding will be allocated according to existing procurement rules. There are no known legal risks or concerns due to low funding amount.

**Procurement comments:**

No procurement comments due to low funding amount.

To date, the VRU have previously awarded OddArts £2,800 in financial year 2023/24 to produce a short film. This new funding award takes the total amount funded to OddArts to £3,300 and the VRU will need to seek support from commercial services should any future funding amount take the VRU over established GMCA procurement thresholds.

**Risk Assessment:**

The funding has been allocated according to existing procurement rules, with support from legal and Information Governance. There are no known wider risks been identified.

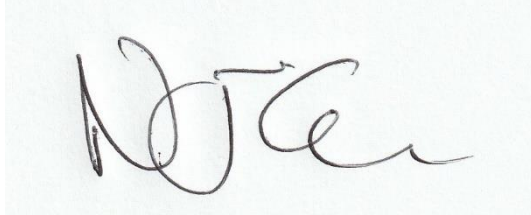
**Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:**

Safeguarding of children is paramount to violence reduction work, both as potential victims and perpetrators of serious violence. This funding is not intended to fund any project that interacts with children under the age of 18. OddArts' staff have DBS clearance.

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

As above. OddArts have a Modern Slavery Statement.

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



**Signed:**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Agreed by GMCA Treasurer**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Agreed by Deputy Mayor**

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

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Contact Officer:**

**James Carrick- [james.carrick@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:james.carrick@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)**