

DECISION NOTICE

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

Subject: Variation of VRU Public Health Consultancy Contract			
Type of decision: Budget/financial			
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: The VRU wishes to vary its existing contract with Helen Lowey Consultancy Ltd by adding a value of £34,800 to extend the current contract beyond its current end date of October 2024 to 31st March 2025. The current value of the contact is £174,000 and the total new value of the varied contract will be £208,800.</p>
<p>The reasons for the decision are: 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. Until October 2022, 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.</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. It was established that the individual must be an 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 could be embedded into a system wide approach. It was established that 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.</p> <p>Since Helen Lowey Consultancy Ltd was appointed in October 2022, the VRU has reaped multiple benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of sufficient senior expertise to influence and negotiate with District Directors of Public Health and Strategic Health Leads across

a range of organisations and settings

- Representing 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
- Advising the Mayor and Deputy Mayor regarding opportunities and approaches to support reducing Youth Violence and Gender Based Violence
- Representing the 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.
- Providing oversight of all relevant data and ways to strengthen and improve the VRU understanding of all factors relating to violence.
- The consultant has overseen the production of two Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessments during her time with the VRU

The appointment of Helen Lowey Consultancy Ltd has brought added value to the VRU via unpaid Public Health Registrar placements. Whilst the VRU has been in receipt of one placement since Aug 2023 (due to end May 31st 2024) the qualifications held by Helen Lowey Consultancy Ltd allows the VRU to receive two unpaid Public Health Registrar placements at the same time from August 2024.

This extension is proposed to take the contract through to 31st March 2025, at which point the VRU will review its needs in relation to public health, by which time it will have benefited from almost 3 years of expertise to develop its public health approach to reducing serious violence.

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 5 strategic principles of the [Greater Than Violence Strategy](#).
- The [GM Integrated Health And Justice Strategy](#)

Financial comments:

The award will be funded from the VRU's 24/25 staffing budget, itself funded via the VRU's core grant funding from the Home Office.

Legal comments:

The funding will be allocated according to existing procurement rules. A variation has been agreed in principle by procurement & legal. There are no known legal risks.

Procurement comments:

Due to the urgency and the highly specialist nature of the requirement, it is considered reasonable to appoint Helen Lowey Consultancy Ltd to fulfil this requirement.

Should there be a requirement to continue this work going forward, a review of Procurement options should take place.

Commercial Services file ref: **GMCA 999.1**

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.

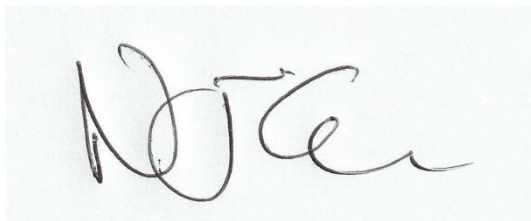
Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

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:

Date: 12th June 2024

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer



Signed:

Date: 13th June 2024

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

Signed: 

Date: 13th June 2024

Contact Officer:
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