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| **Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision** | |
| PCCG-2023-044 | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision |
| Subject | Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) Service |
| Summary | To record the decision made within the Wales Sexual Assault Services Programme meeting in January 2023. |

**DECISION**

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| 1. | The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides under sections 9 and 10 that the Police and Crime Commissioner for a police area makes crime and disorder grants and acts in co-operation with responsible authorities and makes arrangements with criminal justice agencies for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the area. This provision was further supplemented by virtue of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which provided specific arrangements for the provision of funding for victims. | |
| 2. | The offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners (OPCCs) for Gwent, Dyfed Powys and South Wales are jointly commissioning a criminal justice focussed Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy Service (ISVA). The contract will be for a duration of 3 years, with an option to extend for 2 additional 12-month periods.  We will be utilising funding received from Ministry of Justice (MoJ), including core MoJ and ringfenced funding received for ISVAs within the financial envelope for the ISVA service. The intention is to commence commissioning of the new service from 1st May 2024, subject to timescales of completion of necessary implementation and transition activities. | |
|  | **Background**  Following an (unpublished) review of Independent Sexual Violence Advocate services (2021) and agreement at a multi-agency Wales Sexual Assault Services Programme Board meeting in Spring 2023, the OPCCs in Gwent, Dyfed Powys and South Wales are jointly commissioning a Criminal Justice Focussed Independent Sexual Violence Adviser/Advocate (ISVA) Service. The South Wales OPCC is leading on the procurement and contract management process on behalf of the other OPCCs.  At present, the majority of Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) across South Wales, Gwent and Dyfed Powys are grant funded by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), with a small number funded via Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.  **Approach**  Following a successful tender exercise during Autumn 2023, the contract for the provision of criminal justice focussed ISVA services has been provisionally awarded to New Pathways. Representatives from each OPCC are supporting all current services during the transition period and meeting with New Pathways on a weekly basis to receive updates relating to the implementation plan and communications with partner agencies, incumbents, staff and current clients. The intention is to commence the new service from 1st May 2024, subject to timescales for completion of necessary implementation and transition activities.  **Benefits**  By implementing a collaborative commissioning approach, the ambition is to better target resources and provide an integrated, joined up offer that seeks to minimise fragmented service delivery. Feedback from services, survivors and key partners has facilitated the development of a service specification to support a consistent offer, clear expectations relating to quality and standards and formal commissioning arrangements that will provide clear monitoring and evaluation opportunities across the regions.  The commissioned ISVA service will have a focus on criminal justice advocacy and support, with wider needs being supported through robust referral pathways to suitable services. These referral pathways and wider support services form part of the focus of the Wales Sexual Assault Services Programme, to ensure that work takes place to support a whole system approach to addressing the needs of victims and survivors of sexual assault, with clear and consistent remits for each service that can be communicated to victims, professionals and the wider public. | |
| 3. | **Financial Implications**  The financial envelope for Gwent OPCC is made up of funding received from the MoJ which is currently utilised to support ISVA and other sexual violence services. The total annual contribution agreed from Gwent OPCC is £510,734. Should there be a delay to the contract start date (currently set at 1/5/24), there may be a corresponding change to the financial envelope for Year 1 agreed with the Contractor. | |
| **Jeff Cuthbert B.SC., MCIPD, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent** | | |
| I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.  Any such interests are recorded below.  The above request has my approval. | | |
| Signed | | Date  22.03.2024 |
| **Contact Officer** | |  |
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| **Background papers** | |  |