

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 4 February 2020

Subject: Domestic violence & abuse funding and commissioning review

Report of: The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)

Summary

This report provides a response to questions raised at the Scrutiny Committee meeting in September 2019 about the review of domestic violence and abuse funding and commissioning arrangements.

Recommendations

To consider and comment on the contents of the report.

Wards Affected: Deansgate and Piccadilly

Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The review of funding and commissioning has the aim of achieving a cohesive and co-ordinated approach to ensuring that victims, children and families affected by domestic violence and abuse, across the city, benefit from the best possible service and support response
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity	

to drive growth	
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Contact Officers:

Name: Fiona Worrall
Position: Strategic Director – Neighbourhoods
Telephone: 0161 234 3926
E-mail: f.worrall@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Mark Leaver
Position: Strategic Lead Integrated Commissioning
Telephone: 0161 234 5325
E-mail: m.leaver@manchester.gov.uk

Name: Ian Halliday
Position: Community Safety Policy and Performance Manager
Telephone: 0161 234 1284
E-mail: i.halliday@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the meeting in September 2019, Members made the following decisions:

- (1) Recommend that the Deputy Leader (Councillor S Murphy) and Officers look to ensure the continuation of all Domestic Violence and Abuse services until the strategic review has concluded, including but not limited to those services where funding is sourced from other agencies and is due to expire in March 2020;
- (2) Recommend that whilst the Committee is cognisant of budgetary pressures, the Deputy Leader (Councillor S Murphy) and Officers undertaking the review do not restrict the review to its current financial envelope;
- (3) Recommend that Officers take on board the concerns of the committee in relation to the delivery of specialised commissioned services; and
- (4) Requests that Members be provided with an update that will provide information on:-
 - When the review will commence and conclude;
 - Who will be involved in the review; and
 - The budget provision afforded to the review

2.0 Response

2.1 In response to (1), Members can be assured that:

- Re-tendering and re-commissioning of domestic violence and abuse accommodation services has been progressed satisfactorily, with contracts being awarded to the successful bidders and mobilisation arrangements being implemented, in advance of commencement in April 2020.
- Negotiations are ongoing with the Director of Population, Health and Wellbeing regarding allocation of contributory funding to enable further continuation of the MiDASS service.
- Confirmation of the CSP grant that provides for a range of other services and initiatives such as behaviour change programmes, counselling for children affected by DV&A and intervention for those affected by child to parent violence is expected by the end of January at latest.

A table setting out for Members information the current range of domestic violence and abuse service, how they are funded and provided, is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 In response to (2), the review team have noted Members comments and reflected them in the drafting of the scope and terms of reference of the review, which is to be approved at the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group on 23rd January 2020. It is intended that review encompass all aspects

of domestic violence service provision, including those areas where there are known gaps or shortfalls, or emerging issues and threats.

2.3 In response to (3), the comments and concerns of Members regarding specialised commissioned services are noted and will be taken into account as the review is progressed.

2.4 In response to (4), Members are advised that:

- The review team were authorised by the CSP Board at its meeting on to combine the two tasks of i) reviewing and refreshing the Delivering Differently Strategy, and ii) reviewing the funding and commissioning arrangements for domestic violence and abuse services, into one co-ordinated piece of work, with one set of terms of reference and timescale for completion.
- As the re-tendering and re-commissioned of the existing services has been undertaken on a two year basis to allow time for that part of the review, it is likely that the publication date for the updated Strategy may move into the first half of 2021, so that the outcomes of review of the funding and commissioning arrangements can be fully reflected and incorporated into the final version.
- The review team have had two exploratory meetings in December and January, with the aim of developing a draft terms of reference and timescale. As mentioned in 2.2 above, it is anticipated that these will be approved by the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group on 23rd January 2020.
- The merged task and finish group will work under the auspices of and report to the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group, chaired by Fiona Worrall and represented at Elected Member level by the Deputy Leader Councillor Sue Murphy.
- Initially, that task and finish group will comprise:
 - Mark Leaver – Strategic Lead, Integrated Commissioning
 - Karina Carter – Commissioning Officer, Directorate of Homelessness
 - Delia Edwards – Domestic Violence Reduction Manager
 - Ian Halliday – Community Safety Policy and Performance Manager
 - Leanne Conroy – Policy Specialist, Community Safety
 - Karen Palmer – Project Manager, Integrated Commissioning
- It will, however, be expanded as required, to ensure that conduct of both elements of the review benefit from the widest possible range of knowledge, experience and expertise.
- One of the tasks the group will incorporate into its work will be to reach the basis of a case for investment to tackle identified current shortfalls in provision, and to facilitate greater emphasis on early help and intervention

whilst not, in the short-term, downscaling the response to our existing high risk demand.

- In terms of costs and budget attached to the review, costs over and above staff time should be minimal, save for some modest expenditure that may be incurred in carrying out consultation and engagement activity with partners, providers and other stakeholders.
- In the short-term, whilst the funding and commissioning review is completed and its recommendations finalised, a table setting out provisionally intended spend on domestic violence and abuse services from known / predicted 2020-21 funds available is attached at Appendix 2.

3.0 Conclusions and recommendations

- 3.1 The work of the review team to carry out all aspects of the co-ordinated review of strategy, funding and commissioning will be monitored throughout by the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group, chaired by Fiona Worrall and with Member representation and input from Councillor Sue Murphy.
- 3.2 Once the review is completed, the findings and recommendations, and the updated Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy, will be submitted to the Strategy Group for endorsement and to the CSP Board for final ratification and, in the case of the Strategy, approval to launch and publish.
- 3.3 Members are asked to note and comment on the contents of the foregoing paragraphs.