


<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>LEADER'S URGENCY REPORT</p> <p>8th May 2019</p>	
<p>EXTENSION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS SERVICES CONTRACTS</p>	
<p>Report of the Leader – Councillor Stephen Cowan</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Decision</p>	
<p>Key Decision: Yes</p>	
<p>Other services consulted: Finance & Governance, Adult Social Care, Adult Social Care (Supporting People), Children's Services, Community Investment Team, Public Sector Reform, VAWG Strategic Board.</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Steve Miley, Director for Children's Services; Sharon Lea, Strategic Director for Residents' Services</p>	
<p>Report Author: Pat Cosgrave, Community Safety Commissioning & Performance Officer</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 2810 E-mail: pat.cosgrave@lbhf.gov.uk</p>
<p><u>Reasons for Urgency:</u></p> <p>The decision to extend report was drafted based on this decision being delegated to relevant Cabinet Member(s), as was the provision when the original Cabinet Decision was made in 2015. This provision is no longer available. The current contract expired on 30th March 2019 and a LUD is required to extend the current arrangements for a further year, which will be the final year of the current service delivery arrangements</p> <p><u>Date by which decision is required:</u></p>	

AUTHORISED BY:

The Leader has signed this report.

.DATE: ...14 May 2019.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. The Violence Against Women and Girls (‘VAWG’) service contract is split into two parts:

- **The Coordination Service which undertakes the;**
- Coordination of three separate Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC). The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing between statutory and voluntary agencies to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase the safety of high risk victims of domestic abuse and their children as well as to assess the risk that the perpetrator poses;
- Coordination of the Shared VAWG Risk and Review Operational Group; and
- Coordination of the criminal justice response which includes coordination of the domestic abuse response within the Courts and coordination of the Shared Criminal Justice Operational Group.
- **The Integrated Support Service (‘ISS’);**
- The ISS includes a range of services to support adults and young people, children and families who are victims or affected by gender-based violence including but not limited to:
 - Women experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence and assault;
 - Women experiencing stalking and harassment;
 - Women who have been subjected to or at risk of harmful practices including female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour-based violence;
 - Young women and girls aged 13-21 who are experiencing or are at risk of a range of issues including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, gang related abuse and harmful practices;
 - Women with children aged 0-5 and also those with older children;
 - Women experiencing intersectional violence (multiple forms of VAWG).

The above services contracts were awarded to Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (‘STADV’) and the Angelou Partnership respectively (‘AP’) by Cabinet decision on 27th April 2015. The shared services are delivered across three boroughs: the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster City Council.

- 1.2. The initial contract period was from 1st July 2015 to 31st March 2017. The decision report contained an option to extend the contracts for up to three further years.
- 1.3. The extension recommended in this report is the final extension allowed under the terms of the contract and new services will be procured for April 2020 onwards.
- 1.4. The decision to extend the contract was delegated to the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and the Cabinet Member for Children and Education. They have agreed two contract extensions:
 - To 31st March 2018 via a Cabinet Member Decision on 26th January 2017
 - To 31st March 2019 via Cabinet Member Decision on 30th November 2017.However, due to a change in standing orders, Cabinet cannot now delegate to Cabinet Members, and therefore a Leaders Urgency decision is sought to approve the extensions of the two contracts.
- 1.5. In 2018 the Shared VAWG Strategic Board asked providers and officers to make a reduction of 10% to the overall contract values for both services.
- 1.5. Section 4 of this report details how underspend from other funding streams is being used to offset the contract value reduction, minimising the impact on service users. Where there is a shortfall between the reductions providers have been able to achieve, and the required 10%, it has been made up by community safety.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Leader:

- 2.1. Approves the extension of the contract period in respect of the contract with Standing Together Against Domestic Violence for the provision of the Coordination Service, for a duration of one (1) year, for a total sum of £50,000;
- 2.2. Approves the extension of the contract period in respect of the contact with Angelou Partnership for the provision of Integrated Support Services for a duration of one (1) year, at a total value of £233,319.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. The VAWG Strategic Board has recommended extending the contract for its final year extension. During this extension period the services will be reviewed and a new commissioning model for April 2020 onwards developed.

- 3.2. Stakeholders workshops are taking place on 15th May and 11th June 2019 to inform future commissioning priorities, and options for service delivery will be developed by the VAWG Task and Finish group by July 2019.
- 3.3. The current service model has increased the capacity for victims to access services. Last year the integrated support service dealt with 1338 Hammersmith and Fulham referrals, an increase of 60% since 2015.
- 3.4. A summary of headline performance for the integrated support service and multi-agency risk assessment conferences is contained in Appendix 3.
- 3.5. The current shared service model has enabled Hammersmith and Fulham to access greater funding opportunities, specifically:
 - 3.5.1 Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) underspend for a perpetrator pilot (£50,000 benefit to LBHF residents). This ran from November 2015 to October 2016.
 - 3.5.2 Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) funding for refuge provision and counselling services (£129,500 benefit to LBHF residents). This runs from 2018 – 2020.
 - 3.5.3 DCLG funding for engaging with female rough sleepers at the risk of becoming victims of VAWG (£33,714 benefit to LBHF female rough sleepers). This runs from 2018 – 2020.
 - 3.5.4 Home Office Transformation Fund to tackle gaps in service provision in health, working with young people, and working with women with complex needs (£226,666 benefit to LBHF residents). The award of the Transformation Fund monies is contingent on a continuation of the current contractual arrangements. This runs from 2017 to 2020
- 3.6. Not extending the current contracts beyond March 2019 is likely to have a significant negative impact on both service users and those organisations delivering VAWG services on behalf of LBHF. For example, organisations who provide a part equivalent full-time post across all three boroughs dealing with specialised services for minoritized communities, such as African Women's Aid, would be unlikely to be able to employ a part time post to staff a service on a single borough basis.
- 3.7. The recommended extension will enable the council to commission an independent review of the current service which will help us develop a business case for a future service model designed around the needs of LBHF service users.
- 3.8. The review will allow any new service to be procured through the full commissioning cycle. The intention is to serve the contractual six months-notice on the current providers in September 2019, with any new service commencing in April 2020.

3.9. The current VAWG Strategy has been extended to March 2020. It is important that commissioned services are aligned with the strategic priorities directed by the strategy.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

Background

4.1. Funding for VAWG services comes from a variety of sources. Officers have been liaising with funders to confirm levels of funding. The protracted nature of these discussions has resulted in the delay of the contract extension report being finalised.

Budgetary Allocation and Requirement

4.2. Of the £5,500 required saving per borough for Coordination Services, the provider, STADV, identified £15,000 from the MHCLG Whole Housing project fund to offset most of the required reduction (9% rather than 10%). The remaining 1% reduction (£500) has been found from existing funding streams detailed in table 1.

4.3. Of the £65,019 saving required for the Integrated Support Service across the three boroughs, the provider, the Angelou Partnership, identified £50,000 from the Home Office Transformation Fund that had been set aside for future service evaluation. The remaining £15,019 has been found by reallocating existing budgets, as show in Table 1 below.

4.4. Table 1 shows how LBHF VAWG Services are funded. Sections 4.5 to 4.9 explain the current status of each of the funding sources.

Table 1

LBHF VAWG Services	Co-ordination Service			Integrated Support Service		
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
MOPAC (LCPF)	£0	£0	£0	£85,000	£85,000	£67,013
Community Safety Unit	£7,859	£7,859	£2,859	£0	£0	£5,000
LBHF Children's Services	£12,800	£12,800	£12,800	£0	£0	£0
LBHF Adult Social Care	£12,800	£12,800	£12,800	£0	£0	£0
3 rd Sector Investment Fund	£21,541	£21,541	£21,541	£103,403	£103,403	£103,403
LBHF ASC – Supporting People	£0	£0	£0	£65,000	£65,000	£58,500
Sub Total	£55,000	£55,000	£50,000	£253,403	£253,403	£233,916
Offsets made by providers			£5,000			£19,487
Total			£55,000			£253,403
Grand Total						£308,403

* On award of the initial contract the Adult Social Care budgets were vired to community safety.

- 4.5. MOPAC – The Mayor’s Office for Policing & Crime London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) provides a significant portion of funding for the Integrated Support Services. The overall LCPF settlement to LBHF has been reduced for financial years 2019/20 – 2021/22. We will therefore allocate £67,013 from LCPF for the services for 2019/20. This is a decrease from £85,000 in previous years.
- 4.6. Community Safety Unit – This contribution will be found from the community safety general fund. The overall spend is the same as in previous years.
- 4.7. Children’s Services/Adult Social Care – This funding has been confirmed for 2019/20.
- 4.8. Third Sector Investment Fund – This is proportionately the most significant funding stream for both coordination and integrated support services. £124,944 was ring-fenced for VAWG services at the start of the current contractual arrangements. The funding allocation for VAWG services from this fund is ringfenced until March 2021.
- 4.9. ASC/Supporting People – This portion of funding has been reduced by 10% as recommended by the VAWG Strategic Board, and will contribute £58,500 to the ISS, as opposed to £65,000 in previous years.

5. **OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 5.1. Option 1 - Withdraw from the current arrangements and procure a single borough VAWG Service to commence in March 2019.

This option is not recommended because:

- Loss of economies of scale would result in a depleted service for LBHF residents.
- Local specialist provision for minority groups, such as Al Hasanaiya and African Women’s Care, may be lost.
- Time restraints relating to the procurement process.

- 5.2. Option 2 – Extend the current contracts for a period of less than one year (i.e. three months)

This option is not recommended because:

- It is not clear whether an extension shorter than one year would be allowed under the terms of the contracts.
- The contracts state that councils would need to give six months-notice in writing to providers to terminate the services.
- A shortened extension would likely result in a variation of the existing contracts, any additional costs arising from which would be borne by LBHF under the terms of the Inter Authority Agreement.

- Such an extension would not allow sufficient time to consult stakeholders on how H&F VAWG services should be modelled from April 2020 onwards.
- Such an extension would not allow sufficient time for the procurement cycle and necessary governance processes.

5.3. Option 3 – Extend the current contracts for one year to March 2020.

This option is recommended because:

- It protects victims by guaranteeing service continuity.
- It provides officers with an opportunity to explore additional funding streams.
- It is a no additional cost option
- It provides the VAWG Strategic Board with an opportunity to scope the most cost-effective commissioning and service delivery model for LBHF residents for 2020 onwards.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. The Third Sector Contracts & Performance Management Officer was consulted regarding the ongoing Third Sector Investment Fund (3SIF) contribution to the service. The Community Investment Team have confirmed that the ring-fenced funding for VAWG from 3SIF will remain in place until March 2021.
- 6.2. The Commissioning Manager for Supporting People has been consulted on the £58,500 annual contribution for floating support and has confirmed that funding will be made available for 2019/20. This contribution, however, will not be made beyond March 2020.
- 6.3. Children and Youth Services have been consulted regarding their £12,800 annual contribution and have confirmed that they intend to fund this amount in 2019/20.
- 6.4. Adult Social Care have been consulted regarding their £12,800 annual contribution and have confirmed that they intend to fund this amount in 2019/20.
- 6.5. Commissioning colleagues in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council have been consulted and all parties have agreed to recommend a one-year extension to the current contracts in their respective boroughs, subject to the 10% reduction recommended by the VAWG Strategic Board.
- 6.6. The Head of Governance & Scrutiny was consulted on decision to request a Leader's Urgent Decision.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no direct negative equality implications for protected groups because of the proposed extension of these contracts under the Equality Act 2010. A positive impact on vulnerable residents is anticipated through service continuity.
- 7.2. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the Cabinet award report on 27th April 2015 and is contained in this report as Appendix 2. The service will continue to support people with disabilities by making services accessible and those going through gender reassignment. It will also support people who cannot speak English and provide culturally specific services to tackle issues such as female genital mutilation and honour-based violence. Specialist services will also be provided for LGBT residents.
- 7.3. Implications verified by Fawad Bhatti, Social Inclusion Policy Manager, tel 07500 103617.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The Contracts for the services in this report contain provisions under clause 3.4 allowing the council to extend the contract period, at its absolute discretion, for a duration of 12 months on three consecutive occasions. Therefore, an extension of these contracts from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2020 is permitted under the terms of the contract. Furthermore, Regulation 72(a) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, allows for such modifications, irrespective of their monetary value, *“where such modifications have been provided for in the initial procurement documents in clear, precise and unequivocal review clauses, which may include price revision clauses or options, provided that such clauses state the scope and nature of possible modifications or options as well as the conditions under which they may be used and do not provide for modifications or options that would alter the overall nature of the contract”*. Regulation 72(a) has been satisfied here.
- 8.2. The extensions for the two contracts should be formally entered into by way of deeds of variation to the original contracts.
- 8.3 *Implications provided by: Hannah Ismail, Solicitor, Sharpe Pritchard LLP, external legal advisers seconded to the Council tel 0207 405 4600*

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The annual cost of extending the VAWG contract will be shared with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster City Council. The cost to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham will be £283,916. This represents a c.10% reduction in the contract price as recommended by the VAWG Strategic Board and will be funded within existing budgets from across the Council as detailed in Table 1.

- 9.2. On award of the initial contract the Adult Social Care budgets were vired to the community safety team who manage the contract. As there has been a saving against the Adult Social Care Supporting People budget of £6,500 this will need to be vired back to the original budget to manage other Supporting People pressures.
- 9.3. In relation to the Children's Service budgets of £12,800, whilst there is a specific budget is available for this contribution within Family Services. This budget was overspent in 2018/19 however, with prudent financial management the service should be able to contain the spend within the budget in 2019/20.
- 9.4. The contribution of £125,000 from the Third Sector Investment Fund renewal was agreed by Cabinet on 5 February 2018
- 9.5. Westminster City Council and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have also made recommendations to extend the contract, but decisions are still pending. To minimise financial risk, it is recommended that any contract extension is not awarded until funding has been confirmed by all three boroughs.
- 9.6. *Implications completed by: Lucy Varenne, Finance Manager, telephone: 020 7341 5777.*
- 9.7. *Implications verified by: Emily Hill, Assistant Director, Corporate Finance, telephone: 020 8753 3145.*

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

- 10.1. No implications for local businesses.
- 10.2. *Implications verified by Albena Karameros, Earls Court Programme Manager. Telephone: 07739316957.*

11. COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Procurement

- 11.1. The author of the report is requesting approval to exercise a contractual option to extend a contract between LB Hammersmith and Fulham and Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (STADV) and the Angelou Partnership for one year until 31st March 2020, as permissible under the Contract.
- 11.2. Award of an extension is subject to satisfactory outcomes of contract monitoring. As detailed in the report at section 3.3 there have been no service or performance concern during the contract period and both contracts have achieved value for money.

- 11.3. The service area needs to develop a business case for a future service model designed around the needs of LBHF service users at the earliest opportunity.
- 11.4. A contract award notice must be published and an entry made in the Council's Contract Finder.
- 11.5. *Implications verified by Joanna Angelides, Corporate Procurement Consultant. Telephone 020 8753 2586*

12. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Violence against women and girls (VAWG) are serious crimes. These crimes have a huge impact on the local economy, health services, and the criminal justice system. Protecting women and girls from violence, and supporting victims and survivors of sexual violence, remains a risk management priority of this Council. Extension of the contract should enable there to be sufficient time to consider and respond to the wider funding and strategic commissioning issues in accordance with our responsibilities for Being Ruthlessly Financially Efficient.
- 12.2 *Risk Management Implications verified by Michael Sloniowski, Risk Manager, telephone 020 8753 2587.*

13 IT IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 IT Implications: There are no IT implications resulting from the proposal in this report
- 13.2 IM Implications: As the service providers are processing sensitive personal data on behalf of H&F, a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is required to ensure all potential data protection risks in relation to this proposal are properly assessed with mitigating actions agreed and implemented. It is likely the PIA has already been completed as part of the original contract, however, if not, this is required as a priority.
- 13.3 The contract extension should include H&F's data protection and processing schedule. This is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 13.4 *Implications verified/completed by: Karen Barry, Strategic Relationship Manager, IT Services, tel 0208 753 3481*

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

- 14.1 None

LIST OF APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Shared Services Violence against Women & Girls Contract Award – 27th April 2015

Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 - Performance

Appendix 1



PART A - Shared
VAWG Service Contr

Appendix 2



Shared EqIA Tool
FINAL - March 2015.

Appendix 3- Headline Performance for Integrated Support Service (ISS) and MARAC

ISS Performance 2017/18

Referral type to ISS – LBHF 2017/18	No of referrals
New referral	406
Repeat referral	246
Duplicate referral (from more than one referring source)	90
Mis-referral (and referred onto another service)	47
Referral for group work/awareness session	418
Referral for professional consultation on specific case	131
TOTAL	1338

Of new and repeat referrals (652 in total)

	Number	%
Contacted in 24 hours	482	74%
Engaged in support services (of those contacted in 24 hours)	427	89%

Over 65% of new and repeat referrals are engaged within services within 24 hours of the referral being made.

VAWG ISS Outcome Performance Measures LBHF	Baseline %	Achieved % 17/18
Women report increased physical safety and /or psychological safety and feelings of safety (as measured by exit surveys/ closing assessments)	65	93
Women report a reduction in abuse due to support and advice received from service (as measured by closing assessments)	67	100
Women are at reduced risk at case closure following the support of the service (as measured by professional judgement, risk and needs assessment and closing assessments)	62	93
Women and girls report their quality of life has improved (as measured by exit surveys)	55	91
Women and girls report improved confidence in reporting abuse and/or where to access help and support (as measured by exit interviews and evaluations)	72	100

MARAC Performance 2017/18

Number of MARAC meetings held	12
Number of MARAC cases heard	348
Number of MARAC case repeat victim/survivor	89 (25.57%)
% of cases with BME victim/survivor	44.5%
% of cases with disability victim/survivor	19.5%
% of cases with male victim/survivor	7.2%
% of cases with LGBT victim/survivor	2.3%
Number of LBHF professionals trained via induction/briefing/workshop	166