


|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p align="center"><b>London Borough of Hammersmith &amp; Fulham</b></p> <p align="center"><b>DIRECTOR DECISION</b></p> <p align="center"><b>January 2018</b></p> |  |  |
| <p><b>EXTENSION OF CONTRACT TO DELIVER IMPACT PROJECT CASE PROGRESSION SERVICES</b></p>  |  |   |
| <p><b>Report of the Director for Environmental Health – Nicholas Austin</b></p>  |  |   |
| <p><b>Open Report</b></p>  |  |   |
| <p><b>Classification: For decision</b><br/><b>Key Decision: No</b></p>   |  |   |
| <p><b>Consultation:</b><br/>H&amp;F Police</p>   |  |   |
| <p><b>Wards Affected:</b><br/>All</p>  |  |   |
| <p><b>Accountable Director:</b> Nicholas Austin, Director for Environmental Health</p>   |  |   |
| <p><b>Report Author:</b><br/>Claire Rai, Head of Community Safety</p>  | <p><b>Contact Details:</b><br/>Tel: 020 8753 3154<br/><a href="mailto:Claire.rai@lbhf.gov.uk">Claire.rai@lbhf.gov.uk</a></p> |   |

AUTHORISED BY:  
Nicholas Austin has signed his report

DATE: 26 January 2018

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Impact Project is designed to support victims of domestic violence and domestic abuse (DVA) through the court system. Its key priorities are to:
  - Reduce the risk posed by perpetrators of domestic violence/abuse;
  - Increase victims' confidence in the criminal justice response to DVA; and
  - Hold perpetrators to account and reduce/cease further violence.
- 1.2 The Case Progression Service tracks cases through the criminal justice system from arrest to case disposal. Officers work with the police to ensure that all relevant information is brought forward to the Crown Prosecution Service for DVA court cases. They pre-empt any Criminal Justice Service blockages at the Specialist Domestic Violence Court to ensure that DVA cases are held promptly, minimising the impact of the court process on victims and reducing the risk of cases failing at court.
- 1.3 The contract to deliver Case Progression Services for the Impact Project was awarded to Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (STADV) by Cabinet Member Decision on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (report attached as Appendix 1).
- 1.4 The contract length was for one year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, with an option to extend the contract for a further year, to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The decision to extend the contract was delegated to the Executive Director for Safer Neighbourhoods. As this post no longer exists the decision to extend is delegated to the Director for Environmental Health.
- 1.5 The service delivers excellent outcomes.
- 1.6 The cost of extending the contract is £25,000. This will be met by MOPAC via the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) settlement to community safety for 2018/19.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Director approves the extension of the Case Progression Services contract to Standing Together Against Domestic Violence for a period of one year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The service delivers excellent court outcomes against perpetrators of DVA by ensuring that as many cases as possible result in a judicial disposal. This contributes to Hammersmith & Fulham having the highest percentage of cases resulting in a charge in London.
- 3.2 The most recent performance data for the project is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1 (April – December 2017)

|                                  | LBHF   | Comparison Borough |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Convictions                      | 75.44% | 68.14%             |
| DV history provided              | 97.4%  | 94.7%              |
| MG2 for special measures         | 61.5%  | 5.3%               |
| Information on restraining order | 69.2%  | 36.8%              |

MG2 is a police form for witness assessment

### 3.3 Criminal Justice Outcomes

- 3.3.1 Hammersmith & Fulham has experienced the second largest percentage increase across London in reported domestic abuse offences between financial year to date (fytd) 2016/17 and 2017/18. An increase in recorded offences can be viewed positively. VAWG and DVA crimes are amongst the most under reported of notifiable offences. An increase in recorded offences indicates an increasing willingness to report these crimes.
- 3.3.2 75% of sanctioned detections fytd 2017/18 were charges, whilst 25% were cautions. This combination is the highest charge rate as a proportion of sanctioned detections in London and the highest in this borough in the last seven years.
- 3.3.3 In the first six months of 2017/18, LBHF recorded the highest conviction rate for DVA offences in London, peaking at 83.5% and averaging at 75.44%. This can be attributed to the work of the Impact case progression service supporting DVA cases from arrest and helping ensure they reach a case disposal at court.

### 3.4 Funding

- 3.4.1 The total cost in grant funding for the Impact project is £100,000 per annum. This is made up of £25,000 for case progression services and £75,000 for Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy services.
- 3.4.2 The community safety unit provide the project management function for the initiative through the Victims Programme Coordinator.
- 3.4.3 The grant used to fund community safety related projects is the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF). The level of funding allocated to boroughs is set in two year tranches. The current tranche of funding runs to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
- 3.4.4 The required level of funding for the Impact IDVA Service (£25,000) has been budgeted for from the current tranche of LCPF funding (2018/19).
- 3.4.5 Officers will examine the options for continued funding of the Impact project beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 once the LCPF settlement for 2019 – 2021 is confirmed by MOPAC.

### **3.5 Conclusion**

- 3.5.1 Based on the excellent outcomes, and the availability of grant funding to continue the project, officers recommend a contract extension for a further year.

## **4 OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Officers considered three options in arriving at the recommendation made in this report.
- 4.2 **Discontinue the service** – After consultation with the police it was agreed that discontinuing the service would reduce the number of perpetrators being charged as well as reducing the victim's feeling of safety.
- 4.3 **Extend the service for a period of more than one year** – The most recent award report (appendix one) only gave provision for the contract to be extended until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. There is no guaranteed funding beyond that date. This is not, therefore, the recommended option.
- 4.4 **Extend the contract for one year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019** – This is the option recommended by officers for the reasons set out in Section 3.

## **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Officers consulted H&F Police Community Safety Unit, who work directly with all DVA cases on the borough who strongly support the continuation of the current arrangements.

## **6 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The project is particularly relevant to women and their children of all protected characteristics. Delivery of the project improves understanding of the needs of women who are experiencing domestic abuse.
- 6.2 The project records the protected characteristics of service users and tracks them to ensure that they are receiving appropriate outcomes.

## **7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The proposed recommended in this report is made in accordance with the approved Cabinet Member Decision of 26 March 2017 and the contract terms and conditions with Standing Together against Domestic Violence.
- 7.2 *Implications verified/completed by: Sharon Cudjoe, solicitor – 020 7361 2993*

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The proposed contract extension would be financed by grant funding from the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF). The LCPF funding is confirmed for the period of extension, April 2018 to March 2019, and the continued provision of the IDVA service is budgeted within this grant allocation.
- 8.2 *Implications verified/completed by: Lucy Varenne, Finance Manager, telephone: 020 7341 5777.*

## **9 IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS**

- 9.1 Given the nature and the small value of the contract there are not direct implications for local businesses.
- 9.2 *Implications verified/completed by: Albena Karameros, Economic Development Team, 020 7938 8583.*

## **10 COMMERCIAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 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 to deliver the case progression services for one year until 31st March 2019, as permissible under the Contract.
- 10.2 The report outlines that the proposed extension does not materially change the contract and informs that the current service is assessed as good.
- 10.3 Where there will be an increase in the contract value then the decision is reserved to the relevant Cabinet Member where the total value of the permitted extension is £25,000 or greater but does not exceed £100,000.
- 10.4 That Cabinet agreed on 26th January 2017 to delegate the decision to extend the contract for a further 12 months to 31st March 2019 to the Director for Environmental Health (previously the responsibility of the Safer Neighbourhoods Director).
- 10.5 *Implications verified/completed by: Joanna Angelides, procurement Consultant, 020 8753 2586.*

## **11 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Tackling domestic violence and abuse is a considerable challenge in the UK. This vital service provides continuity, minimising the impact of the court process on victims, reducing the risk of cases failing at court and contributing

positive outcomes to the community of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, meeting the needs and expectations of them.

11.2 *Implications verified by: Michael Sloniowski, Risk Manager tel: 020 8753 2587*

## 12 BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

| No. | Description of Background Papers | Name and contact details of responsible officer | Department/ Location |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
|     | None                             |   |                      |

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix one - Cabinet member Decision Award Report



Impact Case Prog  
Award (01 02 17).pdf