


<p align="center">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p align="center">DIRECTOR DECISION</p> <p align="center">January 2018</p>		
<p>Extension Of Contract To Deliver Impact Project Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy</p>		
<p>Report of the Director for Environmental Health – Nicolas Austin</p>		
<p>Open Report</p>		
<p>Classification: For decision Key Decision: No</p>		
<p>Consultation: H&F Police</p>		
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>		
<p>Accountable Director: Nicolas Austin, Director for Environmental Health</p>		
<p>Report Author: Claire Rai, Head of Community Safety</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 3154 Claire.rai@lbhf.gov.uk</p>	

AUTHORISED BY:

Nicholas Austin has signed this 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 Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service provides service users with:
 - advice on police procedures and the court process;
 - legal and civil protection advice on injunctions;
 - re-housing and emergency accommodation advice; and
 - safety planning, including referrals to the sanctuary scheme to improve home safety.
- 1.3. The contract to deliver IDVA Services for the Impact Project was awarded to Advance Advocacy Services by Cabinet Decision on 6th March 2017 (report attached as Appendix 1).
- 1.4. The contract length was for one year to 31st March 2018, with an option to extend the contract for a further year, to 31st March 2019. The decision to extend the contract was delegated to the Executive Director for safer Neighbourhoods. As this post no longer exists the power to extend is delegated to the Director for Environmental Health.
- 1.5. The cost of extending the contract is £75,000, for which funding has been allocated from the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) settlement to community safety for 2018/19.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Director approve the extension of the contract with Advance Advocacy Services for IDVA Services for the Impact project to Advance Advocacy Services for a period of one year from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The support and advice for victims ensures that as many cases as possible come to court and that victims are supported before and after the trial. The service delivers excellent outcomes.

- 3.2 Recent performance data for the project is summarised below.

3.3 Outcomes for Victims

- 3.3.1 There were 72 referrals to the criminal justice IDVA service in the first 2 quarters of 2017/18. 90% of victims contacted engaged with the IDVA service.

3.3.2 The percentage of victims who report feeling safer after the case has gone to court has increased from 86% to 100% in the same period.

3.3.3 The percentage of victims that report reduced risk after the case has gone to court has increased from 86% to 100% in the same period.

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 post.

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 31st March 2019.

3.4.4 The required level of funding for the Impact IDVA Service (£75,000) 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 31st March 2019 once the LCPF settlement for 2019 – 2021 is confirmed by MOPAC.

3.5 Conclusion

3.5.1 Based on the high levels of engagement with the service, the increased positive outcomes for victims, and the availability of grant funding to continue the project, officers recommend that the contract is extended 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 terminating the service would reduce the number of perpetrators being charged as well as reducing victim's feelings of safety.

4.3. **Extend the service beyond 2019** – The most recent report only gave provision for the contract to be extended until 31st 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 31st March 2019** – This option is 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. If they are not steps are taken to address this.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The proposed recommended in this report is made in accordance with the approved Cabinet Decision of 6 March 2017 and the contract terms and conditions with Advance Advocacy Services.
- 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 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 Advance Advocacy Project to deliver the IDVA 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 6th March 2017 to delegate the decision to extend the contract for a further 12 months to 31st March 2019 to the Director for Safer Neighbourhoods.
- 10.5. *Implications verified/completed by: Joanna Angelides, procurement Consultant, 020 8753 2586.*

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) is one of the most pervasive crimes in society. The harm resulting from domestic violence and abuse can have a lasting impact of families and victims and preventative action to reduce the number of incidents remains a priority for both local agencies and Government departments. The impact of domestic violence and abuse can be devastating. In the worst instances, it results in serious injury or even death. Victims of domestic abuse can not only suffer from physical violence but also of coercive control. There are long term implications for the health and wellbeing of victims, including poor physical and mental health conditions, isolation and often substance misuse.
- 11.2 Implications verified by: Michael Sloniowski, Risk Manager, 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

(Delete box and write none if no background papers were used)

Please complete the table listing the background documents you have used. You do not need to list documents which are already in the public domain or documents which are exempt from publication. All background documents listed in the box will be published on the website. Therefore, they must be submitted with the final report. They must not contain confidential information. All documents listed must be retained

for public inspection for four years. If there are no background documents, please delete the box and add none.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Cabinet Decision to award



Impact IDVA Award
Report (01 02 17).pd

(Please submit appendices with the main report. Appendices should be numbered clearly and consecutively on the top right hand corner of the page, i.e. Appendix 1, Appendix 2, etc. There should be a clear reference to the appendix in the body of the report.)