

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### 11 May 2015

Item 6(a)

Domestic Violence  
Services – Procurement  
Exercise

<b>Portfolio(s):</b> Adult Social Care Children's Young People and Learning	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b> Councillor Lesley Spillard Councillor Ian Grayson
<b>Report from Service Area:</b>	Adult Social Care Children Young People and Learning
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Jacqui Old, Head of Adult Social Care (Tel: (0191) 6437317) Jean Griffiths, Head of Children Young People and Learning (0191) 6438782
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All

#### **PART 1**

##### **1.1 Purpose:**

The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to undertake a competitive procurement exercise for the provision of a Domestic Abuse service/s in North Tyneside.

The service/s will address all levels of risk and severity of domestic abuse, and be accessible by all victims of domestic abuse. The service will also provide interventions for perpetrators.

##### **1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Cabinet authorise the Head of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Head of Children, Young People and Learning; the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Children, Young People and Learning; the Head of Law and Governance and the Strategic Manager, Finance to undertake a competitive procurement exercise to appoint Domestic Abuse provider/s, as set out in paragraph 1.57 of this report.

##### **1.3 Forward Plan:**

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan published on 7 April 2015.

##### **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

This report relates to the following priorities contained within the 2014 - 18, Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our people:

- will be listened to by services that respond better and faster to their needs;
- will be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people;
- will be supported to live healthier and longer lives;
- will be cared for and kept safe if they become vulnerable; and
- will have local people that have the skills which businesses need

This report also relates to the following strategy in the Policy Framework:

- Children & Young People Plan 2014 – 18:
  - Priority 3 – Safe, Supported & Care For
- 3.1. The most vulnerable children and young people are protected

Domestic Abuse is also an indicator for Public Health relating to improvements against wider factors that affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities.

## **1.5 Information:**

### **1.5.1 Background**

Nationally each year, over one million women will suffer abuse and fewer than one in four will report this to the Police. In addition national data also suggests that one in six men will experience domestic abuse, however the reliability of that data is being reviewed by the Home Office. Domestic violence and abuse therefore has a profound impact on individuals, families and whole communities.

In November 2010 the Coalition Government announced its Violence Against Women and Girls strategic narrative and action plan ('the Action Plan') in order to have a comprehensive strategy to take a coordinated approach to tackling domestic abuse, sexual assault, prostitution and human trafficking. The Action Plan is reviewed and updated annually. The most recent updated 2014 plan remains focused on prevention, provision of services, partnership working, justice outcomes and risk reduction.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004), which came into force in April 2011. A DHR is a review of the circumstances of the death of a person due to violence, abuse or neglect due to domestic violence. DHRs aim to identify lessons learned and how policies and procedures can be changed to improve support and services to victims and their children.

Evidence shows that both nationally and locally most victims of domestic violence and abuse are women and most perpetrators are men.

Domestic violence and abuse imposes a significant cost on society which has been estimated to be over £15.7 billion per year nationally, with costs to North Tyneside public services estimated to be £20.5 million per year. Prevention and intervention to end domestic violence is more cost-effective than dealing with the consequences of long-term domestic violence. (Department of Health, 2011)

### **1.5.2 Domestic Abuse in North Tyneside**

In 2013/14 there were 3,875 reported domestic abuse incidents to Northumbria Police, on average 323 domestic abuse incidents a month:

- 82% of those involved a perpetrator who was a partner/ ex-partner;
- In 49% of these incidents there were children; and

- In total there were 2,557 victims; of which:
  - 78% - Female;
  - 22% - Male;
  - 87 were from Black Minority Ethnic communities;
  - 50 were aged 16 or 17 years old; and
  - 170 were aged over 55.

In North Tyneside there have been three DHRs implemented since June 2013. Statutory responsibility for the coordination and monitoring of the DHRs sits with the Community Safety Partnership. The learning from these and from other national DHRs has been used in the development of the new service model.

### 1.5.3 The current service

There are currently two main providers of domestic abuse support services in North Tyneside, funded by the Authority; Harbour Support Services and Acorns:

- Acorns Children's Service offers therapeutic counselling for children and young people 6 to 18 years old who have experienced and/or witnessed domestic abuse and/or sexual abuse;
- Acorns Outreach Service provides an immediate crisis intervention service; structured women's groups and 1:1 support to parents with children under 18 years old who are at risk of, or are suffering the impact of, domestic abuse. Since April 2013, following a change in the Government definition of domestic abuse, referrals are also accepted for 16 and 17 year olds who are at risk of, or are suffering the effects of, domestic abuse in their own relationships;
- Acorns Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) Service works primarily with high risk victims in the short term to assess and manage identified risk and where appropriate support them through court proceedings against the perpetrator. The service also employ a Children's IDVA (CHIDVA) who offers short term support for children and young people identified through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC); and
- Harbour NT provides 14 self contained units of refuge accommodation for women and children in North Tyneside. Harbour also offers an outreach service for women and men over 16 years old who live in North Tyneside.

### 1.5.4 The current demand for the service

In 2013/14:

- The outreach services were accessed by 362 adults, 360 were female and 2 were male;
- 66 women completed Freedom Programmes and 37 women completed Pattern Changing Programmes;
- 164 children referred to Acorns Children's Therapeutic service, 57% of these children were involved with Children's Social Care;
- 714 high risk referrals received by the IDVA service, 453 were referred into MARAC;
- 289 referrals were received by the IDVA service from the Specialist Domestic Violence Court;
- The CHIDVA supported 37 young people, offering a total of 138 sessions; and
- 62 women accessed the refuge with 65 children.

### 1.5.5 The identified issues with the current service

- The current service model is fragmented;
- Acorns Children's Therapeutic service has a waiting list. During 2013/14 there were 54 children on the waiting list and this has continued to rise during 2014/15;
- The number of North Tyneside IDVAs is currently 1.6 full time equivalents, short of the Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) recommendation of 4.5 full time equivalents based on the volume of referrals received; and
- North Tyneside does not have a non mandatory service for perpetrators.

### 1.5.6 Moving forward

Detecting domestic abuse and taking appropriate action will: save lives; reduce future risk; and improve the outcomes for victims affected by domestic abuse. "Safety in Numbers", the latest report on Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) services, presents strong evidence that the safety of women at high risk of death or serious injury is significantly improved through contact with an IDVA.

The needs assessment undertaken by the North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Commissioning group in 2014 has highlighted the need:

- to provide services that address all levels of risk, and severity of domestic abuse;
- for services to be accessible for all victims of domestic abuse regardless of age;
- to increase the capacity of the North Tyneside IDVA service to support high risk victims;
- to provide support for children and young people; and
- to provide a non-mandatory programme for male and female perpetrators in North Tyneside.

### 1.5.7 The new domestic abuse support service model

The proposed Domestic Abuse Support Service model has clear referral pathways and covers all the essential services for victims, children and perpetrators. This model will provide an increase in the capacity of the NT IDVA service to support high risk victims, in line with national recommendations, whilst ensuring that services to address all levels of risk, and severity of domestic abuse are available and accessible for all victims of domestic abuse. It will also establish a service to provide interventions for perpetrators (male and female).

The service comprises of three lots for which providers can tender. Service specifications have been developed for each lot:

- Lot 1 – North Tyneside domestic abuse service for victims of domestic abuse aged 16 and over. The service will have five elements:
  1. An Assessment and Immediate Crisis Service (with a response time of up to 2 working days);
  2. Refuge Support / move on resettlement;
  3. Outreach Service (short term up to 3 months);
  4. IDVA Service; and
  5. Delivery of recognised structured group programme (at least 2 session per week.
- Lot 2 – Children's therapeutic and support services for children and young people who have experienced and / or witnessed domestic abuse:

In 2014 Acorns secured funding for three years, from a partnership of grant making bodies to appoint a Young Persons Preventative Worker.

This role aims to increase awareness of domestic abuse with young people offering group work sessions in schools and youth settings, and one to one sessions for identified young people. It is intended that this Children's service will complement that service by meeting the needs of children and young people aged 4 – 18 who have experienced and/or witnessed domestic abuse. The service will offer a minimum of 950 individual sessions per annum.

- Lot 3 – North Tyneside Perpetrators service for perpetrators of domestic abuse who live in North Tyneside, are aged 16 year old and above and who show motivation and commitment to wanting to change their abusive behaviour. The service will support people, both male and female, who are perpetrating abuse within intimate relationships and will also support people perpetrating abuse towards family members.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

Agree the recommendation set out at section 1.2.

### Option 2

Not agree the recommendation set out at section 1.2.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

If Cabinet approves the recommended option, the procurement process will progress immediately and the Authority will be ready to award the new contract from September 2015.

There are a number of reasons to support this recommendation:

1. The current contracts have come to an end but have been extended to enable the procurement exercise to take place and therefore a tendering exercise must be undertaken to ensure value for money for the Authority;
2. The Authority is proposing to take a more innovative approach to how it commissions the service/services. This approach will ensure that the service/s addresses all levels of risk, and severity of domestic abuse, and is accessible for all victims of domestic abuse. The service/s will also provide a preventative focus, with interventions for medium risk perpetrators around domestic abuse, alcohol and mental health

## **1.8 Appendices:**

North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Strategic Commissioning Group 2014 - Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment.

[http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/pls/portal/NTC\\_PSCM.PSCM\\_Web.download?p\\_ID=560061](http://october.northtyneside.gov.uk:7778/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=560061)

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Sheila Watson, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Adults and Older People, Commissioning and Investment, Tel. (0191) 6437007

Lesley Pyle, Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, Commissioning and Investment, Tel. (0191) 6437383

Judith Robson, Procurement and Contracts Officer, Cofley. Tel. (0191) 6435660

Alison Campbell, Finance Manager, Finance, Tel. (0191) 6437038

Emma Simson, Solicitor, Commercial Team, Legal Services. Tel. (0191) 6435375

## **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers/information has been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

North Tyneside Domestic Abuse Strategic Commissioning Group 2014 - Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment.

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

As set out in 1.5.7, the new service model comprises of 3 lots:

- Lot 1 – North Tyneside domestic abuse service for victims of domestic abuse aged 16 and over.
- Lot 2 – Children’s therapeutic and support services for children and young people who have experienced and / or witnessed domestic abuse.
- Lot 3 – North Tyneside Perpetrators Service.

Each of the 3 lots identified above are expected to be fully funded from existing budget provision within the Adult Social Care (Adult Services Central), Commissioning and Investment (Child Protection Independent Assurance and Review) and Public Health budgets. Any potential variance will be reported back to Cabinet before any expenditure is incurred.

### **2.2 Legal**

This exercise will be carried out as an open procurement under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (‘the Regulations’). Notwithstanding that this service falls within the new ‘light touch’ regime under the new Regulations (which benefits from slightly less stringent rules), the procurement process will ensure that the Authority achieves value for money through an open, fair and transparent process.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

Internal consultation on the proposals contained within this report has been undertaken as part of a stakeholder event on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014 with representatives from Adult Social Care; NT Homes; Northumbria Police and North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group.

#### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

External consultation on the proposals of the report has been undertaken with current service users and service providers in the following ways:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014      Session for NT Harbour Refuge service users
- 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014      Session for Acorns Outreach service users
- 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014      Supplier Event for potential service providers – 15 representatives

attended from Harbour Support Services; Home Group; Victim Support; Places for People; WWIN; Shelter; Acorns; Rape Crisis;

## 2.4 Human rights

The proposals contained in this report relate to the following human rights:

- Right to liberty and security
- Right to respect for private and family life
- Freedom of thought, belief and religion
- Freedom of expression
- Protection from discrimination

## 2.5 Equalities and diversity

The procurement process and on-going performance monitoring against the requirements set out in the service specification, will be used to assess and monitor the values and practices of providers in relation to equal opportunities. The service specification also requires all providers to monitor service use by the following equality characteristics: age; and gender and to evidence how they have used this information to inform service delivery and improvement.

An Equality Impact Assessment is being undertaken and will be completed by 1 May 2015. It is involving:

- Customers in order to ensure the service is meeting their needs and expectations and is good quality and delivered with dignity and respect.
- Current providers to ensure policies and procedures are sufficient and practice adheres to these.

## 2.6 Risk management

Undertaking this procurement exercise will ensure effective market testing is undertaken and the Authority is able to source a suitable provider/s.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

## PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Head(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy