



Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 19 June 2019

Domestic Abuse Tri-Partite Agreements

Cllr Gill Heath, Cabinet Member for Communities, said,

“A joined-up approach across partners is key to both supporting victims of domestic abuse and tackling the root cause of it across Staffordshire.

By agreeing to work together this sets out our commitment for up to the next five years.”

Report Summary:

This report requests that Cabinet approves the signing by the County Council of two Domestic Abuse Tri-Partite Agreements in relation to Victims’ and Perpetrators’ Services respectively; the Agreements being between Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Office for a period of up to five years. The report details the relevant expenditure.

Recommendation

I recommend that:

- a. Cabinet authorises the signing by the County Council of two Domestic Abuse Tri-Partite Funding Agreements, one in respect of the provision of Domestic Abuse Services for Victims and one in respect of the provision of Domestic Abuse Services for Perpetrators, across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent for a period of up to five years to 30 September 2023, at a total cost to the County Council of £3 million over the full five year period.

Local Members Interest
N/A

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Domestic Abuse Tri-Partite Agreements

Recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Communities

I recommend that:

- a. Cabinet authorises the signing by the County Council of two Domestic Abuse Tri-Partite Funding Agreements, one in respect of the provision of Domestic Abuse Services for Victims and one in respect of the provision of Domestic Abuse Services for Perpetrators, across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent for a period of up to five years to 30 September 2023, at a total cost to the County Council of £3 million over the full five year period.

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

Reasons for Recommendations:

1. Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office (SCO) agreed to collaborate to procure Domestic Abuse Services across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent and to work together to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the Domestic Abuse Services.
2. The three organisations nominated the SCO to act as Lead Commissioner of the Domestic Abuse Services and the SCO agreed to procure the Domestic Abuse Services on behalf of all three. The Domestic Abuse Services were divided into two separate service provisions, comprising services for victims and services for perpetrators, with both services being provided across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
3. Having invited tenders from prospective contractors for the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Services, the SCO awarded the Service Contract for the provision of Domestic Abuse Services for Victims to Victim Support and the Service Contract for the provision of Domestic Abuse Services for Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to the Reducing Reoffending Partnership. Both services are provided under the brand name of New Era.
4. The County Council, the City Council and the SCO have agreed to work together to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of Domestic Abuse Services for Victims and Perpetrators and the two Tri-Partite Agreements set out the terms under which the Parties have agreed to fund the cost of and collaborate in respect of this.
5. The combined annual value of both services is £1,930,000; comprising £1,670,000 for victims' services and £260,000 for perpetrator services.

Staffordshire County Council makes an annual combined contribution of £600,000 per annum across both services, broken down into £519,171 for victims and £80,829 for perpetrators. (The City Council contributes £421,000 per annum across both services with the SCO contributing the balance ie £909,000 across both services.)

6. The start date for the New Era Victim and Perpetrator services was 1 October 2018 with an initial contract period of three years, ie up to 30 September 2021. Both services have embedded well with positive feedback from stakeholders and clients alike.
7. The County Council's financial contribution over three years is as follows:
 - a. 3 year contribution to victims' services (to 30/9/21): $3 \times £519,171 = \mathbf{£1,557,513}$
 - b. 3 year contribution to perpetrators' services (to 30/9/21): $3 \times £80,829 = \mathbf{£242,487}$
 - c. Total 3 year combined contribution: $3 \times £600,000 = \mathbf{£1.8 million}$
8. The Tri-Partite Agreement for both services contains an option to extend the contracts for each service for a period of two years ie from 1 October 2021 up to 30 September 2023, subject to the mutual written agreement of the parties involved who will meet at least six months prior to the end of the initial contract period in order to decide whether to extend.
9. The County Council's financial contribution with a two-year extension (ie over five years) would be:
 - a. 5 year contribution to victims' services (to 30/9/23): $5 \times £519,171 = \mathbf{£2,595,855}$
 - b. 5 year contribution to perpetrators' services (to 30/9/23): $5 \times £80,829 = \mathbf{£404,145}$
 - c. Total 5 year combined contribution: $5 \times £600,000 = \mathbf{£3 million}$
10. Whilst the County Council has not committed to funding the current Domestic Abuse services for five years at this point, given that the Tri-Partite Agreements contain the option to continue funding the services for a further two years to 30 September 2023, permission is being sought to sign the Agreements on this basis, ie thereby agreeing to a contribution of £3 million over five years, should the option to extend the services from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2023 be taken up in due course.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

None

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