

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Decision Making Meeting</b>
<b>DATE</b>	11th March 2021
<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	<b>Beacon Safeguarding Hub Post Implementation Review</b>
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	Steve Williams
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	To update DMM on progress made by the Beacon Safeguarding Hub, and based on the results so far, recommend to continue and expand the service in year 2 of the pilot.
<b>DECISION(S) REQUIRED</b>	Approve continuation of the Beacon Safeguarding Hub.
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<i>As stated in Finance implications</i>
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<i>None identified</i>
<b>EQUALITIES IMPACTS</b>	<i>None identified</i>
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION EXEMPTION SECTION IF APPLICABLE</b>	

## Issue

Whether to build on the success of the Bacon Safeguarding Hub's service delivery model, to expand the remit and resources for the second year of the pilot in 2021/22 so that all medium and standard risk DA victims, and possibly sexual violence victims are offered support, in partnership with Safeguarding Command.

## Recommendation

That the Commissioner agrees the recommendation.

## Timing

Routine.

## Introduction

In February 2020, the Commissioner agreed to the development of a Safeguarding Hub. This initiative aimed to address an identified gap in victim service provision and the concern of the commissioning team and Safeguarding Command that the high

volume of medium risk DA victims were not routinely benefitting from the opportunity to engage with Beacon's specialist service and receive a consistent level of support. At the same time, due to the fluid and dynamic nature of risk, transition between the various risk levels is an ever present concern, with medium risk DA victims potentially the most vulnerable as they lack the support of IDVA's. In the past 3 years, all but 1 domestic homicide have come from either standard or medium risk victims.

## **Background**

The Beacon Safeguarding Hub (BSH), an extension of the Beacon victim care model situated in DAISU itself, commenced work in May 2020. The BSH started with VST seconding three staff and C22 recruiting two new case managers. To contend with an increase in demand in the first year, the Constabulary agreed that a further 2 members of LPC staff members [or two restricted 0.6 and 0.3 FTE] could be seconded to the BSH. They started in September and November 2020.

The methodology adopted for the BSH consists of the VST making proactive calls to medium risk victims and C22 Case Managers delivering an emotional supportive role by offering a complete package of support for those identified to be most in need. The aim of the hub was to contact all medium risk DA victims.

For those contacted but who choose not to engage with support, still benefit from provision of safeguarding advice as a minimum in the initial call, and are given BSH contact details if needed in the future.

## **Findings**

Between May – October 2020, 2,043 intimate medium risk DA investigations were recorded by the Constabulary; an average of 340 per calendar month. In the same period, the BSH contacted and conducted needs assessments for **1437** (70% of 2,043 total) medium risk DA victims, and in the process, identified further harms and risks such as stalking (20%). The uptake of support has surpassed all expectations as 700 (49%) of those contacted accepted onward support. The expectation based on other benchmarking data is that the referral and uptake rate would be closer to 25%.

C22 received a total of 124 DA referrals from May to October 2020, mainly from BSH but also from other parts of the constabulary. In comparison only 5 DA victims were referred to Catch 22 in the six months prior to the formation of the BSH. For this period, 85 % of the victims referred to C22 took advantage of the expertise and support from C22 or were given advice and information.

This year has seen a 15% increase in reported stalking offences which shows no sign of abating. As hinted at earlier, identifying such numbers of both DA and non-DA stalking victims has been an unexpected benefit of the establishment of the BSH. The BSH referred 120 DA victims to the Safer Places stalking support service in the first six months, 62% of the total referrals received by Safer Places. 55% of all those referred have engaged fully with the support offered.

The BSH has surpassed expectations in other related areas such as repeat victimisation and outcomes at Magistrates courts. Comparing two groups of victims'

cohorts, one which engaged with BSH and one that did not, only 7% supported victims disclosed further victimisation versus 47% in the unsupported control group. Successful outcomes at Magistrates courts increased since June 2020 with Hertfordshire ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for CJ outcomes (out of 42 force areas) in September and October versus historical averages of 40<sup>th</sup> in 2018/19. A quick review of data comparing V&W disengagement on day of trial indicates 17% attrition in September 2019 versus just 3% in September 2020.

## Discussion

Such is the success of the BSH calls are being made to extend across all of Safeguarding Command. Indeed, the BSH has been endorsed in a recent NPCC/CoP Innovation Report.

- “Hertfordshire have developed the Beacon Safeguarding Hub. Funding secured an uplift of Catch-22 personnel and seconded Constabulary staff to provide specialist ‘wraparound’ support to help (medium-risk intimate) DA victims cope and recover. This was particularly important during the pandemic, when victims were potentially isolating with perpetrators and trials were being adjourned. In the first five months of operation, the small team (12-month pilot launched in May 2020) has needs-assessed 1,300 victims, half of which were referred to specialist support services”

The constabulary, in its own PIR, concluded the Beacon Safeguarding Hub has demonstrated through rapid referral and support, there is greater engagement with the investigation including disclosure of further harms, risk is decreased and the potential for repeat victimisation is reduced.

The findings show that the BSH has achieved engagement with a substantial number of the medium risk DA victims who were contacted, which is an exemplary achievement. The positive results seen are as a result of trust built up between victim services and the victim. They demonstrate the success of the approach taken and the principles of direct contact and support for victims of medium risk DA are now well established and indeed growing. The BSH has conclusively established that through rapid referral and support, there is greater engagement with the investigation (including disclosure of further harms), risk is decreased and the potential for repeat victimisation reduced. It is important to note that the vast majority of victims would not have been contacted or offered support, if the BSG had not been established.

However, the original objective of the BSH to ensure that medium risk DA victims in Hertfordshire receive the same offer of support as all other victims of crimes who report to Hertfordshire Constabulary, was not met. The BSH were only able to contact around 75% of medium risk victims in the first six months. This is because the increase in the number of medium risk DA victims reporting crime created extra demand that the BSH original staffing resource were unable to meet. Although a genuine original wish of staff members and Safeguarding Command no attempts were made to contact standard risk victims. The options set out below give options on how the BSH could be expanded to enable it to contact the remaining 25% of medium DA risk and all standard DA risk victims and the victims of rape and serious sexual assault.

For the first full year of the pilot the Constabulary agreed to fund the five posts on a temporary basis. Due to the undeniable success of the pilot, the Constabulary recently agreed to make the 5 posts within the BSH permanent and part of the established Constabulary workforce.

It is planned that this specialist service will become embedded within the overall Beacon service when the next contract commences on 1 April 2022. The lessons learned from the BSH will inform the drafting of the Beacon tender specification.

## Options

Four options for next steps are put forward for consideration.

Option 1 – The BSH to maintain the current service provision with the same resources for 21/22. (7 posts - 5 staff funded by constabulary and 2 by OPCC).

Option 2 - Increase the staff resource by 1x FTE DA Care Coordinator to improve service delivery so that 100% medium risk DA victims are contacted and offered support from April 2021 onwards. This would be approximately £31,500 for one year.

Option 3 – To build on option 2 and increase the staff resource by another 3x FTE DA case workers to enable all standard risk victims to be contacted and offered support. This would be approximately £94,500 for one year.

Option 4 – To build on options 2 & 3 and widen the remit of hub to include victims of rape and sexual assault by increasing the staffing by 2x FTE posts to cover the 5 or 6 new reports received daily. It would cost approximately £63,000 for one year. (The commissioning team are exploring this option with Safeguarding Command and would like to pilot this extension for 21/22). The funding for the extra two posts has not been agreed

## Summary of unmet demand

Requirement	Demand	Resource Requirement	Cost (£000's)
DAISU Medium risk (cover 100%)	1038	X 1 FTE	31.5
DAISU standard/ stalking	5808	X3 FTE	94.5
Rape/HALO/COST	1,560	X 2 FTE	63.0

## Recommendation

A). To approve option 2 with the extra costs of £31,500 coming from the PCC's MOJ victim commissioning budget for 2021/22

b). To approve the direction of travel set out in options 3 and 4.

## **Financial Implication**

For 2020/21, the Constabulary covered the cost of the 3, and then 5, VST staff on secondment, and the OPCC paid for the two C22 case managers from the MOJ victims commissioning budget.

For 2021/22, the February 2020 DMM paper had proposed that the OPCC would fund the staffing costs for VST (£112,000 for 1x FTE Sergeant and 2x FTE A3s). However, the Constabulary approved in February a proposal to make the current 5 temporary posts permanent to become part of the establishment. This would free up funds that could be used if the expressions of interest bids to the MoJ (see below) are unsuccessful.

Options 2 to 4 propose increased staffing costs. For option 2 the commissioning team submitted an expression of interest on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to the MOJ special DA/SV fund for 2021-23 for this extra post. For option 3 the commissioning team has submitted a bid for the 3 extra posts for standard risk victims to the MOJ extra DA/SV budget. Option has no agreed funding but will be included in the 5-year Beacon Business Plan that considers options should the MOJ bids prove unsuccessful.

## **Legal Implication**

There are no legal implications in relation to this paper.

## **Presentation and Media Handling**

There are no immediate presentation or media handling issues.

## **Clearance**

Kevin McGetrick.