

MEETING	Decision Making Meeting
DATE	1 July 2021
TITLE OF REPORT	Home Office Domestic Abuse Perpetrator funding
SUBMITTED BY	Sara Miles
PURPOSE OF REPORT	To seek approval on application to Home Office for funding for Domestic Abuse perpetrator interventions
DECISION(S) REQUIRED	Approve Home Office bid and match funding
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	Home Office funding covers the first eight months of activity and match funding is required for a further four months. As noted under financials this match funding is also being supported by Hertfordshire County Council.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	<i>None identified</i>
EQUALITIES IMPACTS	The proposed activity should benefit all those affected by domestic abuse; perpetrators, victims and families. Costs have been included to provide interpreters to enable interventions to be run with non-English speakers.
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION EXEMPTION SECTION IF APPLICABLE	

Introduction

The Home Office are looking to award grant funding to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales to support the adoption of domestic abuse perpetrator-focussed programmes in their area. They are looking for bids from PCCs who wish to introduce innovative approaches to tackle domestic abuse by working with perpetrators in their area.

The deadline for applications is Friday 2 July 2021 at 12:00 and delivery must be ready to commence between 1 August and 1 September 2021.

Bids have to be for a minimum of £200,000 with a maximum of £1,000,000 available per bid. Bidders can submit up to three applications and one bid may contain multiple elements that sit across the three main areas of focus.

Bids should cover a minimum of eight months which will include one month for implementation and mobilisation if required between 1 August 2021 and 31 March 2022.

Match-funding (or match funding in kind) must be provided for a minimum of four months from April 2022 to July 2022.

Scope: The Home Office are looking at interventions for either:

- Programmes that address known issues in relation to DA offending;
- Programmes that focus on children and adolescents; and
- Programmes aimed at stalking perpetrators

This application seeks to address known issues in relation to DA offending. The other two areas were also explored but it was not possible to pursue in the time available.

The Home Office will prioritise bids that work directly with perpetrators, victims and survivors and increase the availability of support.

The outcomes they are specifically looking for will focus on:

- A sustained reduction of abuse. This must include a quantitative measure of reduction in abuse.
- A reduction in risk posed by the perpetrator. This must include a quantitative measure of reduction in risk.
- Improved safety for victims of domestic abuse (or stalking, as appropriate). This must include a quantitative measure of improvement in safety for victims.
- Support system-level outcomes (through improving the availability of support targeted at perpetrators of DA or stalking, as appropriate; evaluation of perpetrator-focussed interventions; collaboration and joint-working)

Bids must demonstrate how victims will be supported and safeguarded alongside interventions with perpetrators.

Bids should incorporate monitoring and evaluation to measure outcomes for both perpetrators and victims and survivors of domestic abuse or stalking, as appropriate. The bid should demonstrate how success will be evaluated, how measurable outcomes will be monitored and how learning will be shared within the local area/neighbouring PCCs.

Sustainability: Bids should outline the sustainability of project activities, demonstrating how the impact is intended to last beyond the funding period. The Home Office will prioritise projects that can be sustained beyond the match funding period and embedded into business as usual further to a successful evaluation of the project. Answers should address:

- How approaches could be rolled out across a wider area or develop tools that have the potential to be rolled out more widely, such as training products or learning materials (if applicable)
- Details of match-funding to sustain the programme for a further four months beyond the end of the financial year (2020/21). Match funding can be in kind.
- How value for money is being achieved.

- How the proposed programme would be rolled out within the timeframes this funding is available.

Background

The need for perpetrator provision is well recognised by the PCC and partners. This has been highlighted in the 2019 Domestic Abuse Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the 2018 report 'Supporting Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse in Hertfordshire' and the Commissioner's Community Safety Criminal Justice (CSCJ) Plan.

The Commissioner's CSCJ Plan (2019-2024) highlights that 'across the county we do not have adequate programmes in place for adult perpetrators and there remains no clear county-wide on-going commitment or identified partnership approach. The lack of countywide perpetrator provision as does the most recent Hertfordshire domestic abuse strategy.

A 2020 review of Hertfordshire perpetrator programmes by the OPCC found that although previous reports and strategies identified the lack of perpetrator provision there remained no formally commissioned domestic abuse perpetrator programme across Hertfordshire. The report also noted that evaluations of existing programmes are not strong enough with many programmes operating without any formal evaluation framework and therefore evidence of 'success' is based on case studies and anecdotal information.

Developing perpetrator interventions and pathways is a joint vision by the statutory and non-statutory services across the county who all recognise that there is a gap which inhibits the ability of Hertfordshire partners to reduce the level of domestic abuse when there is only provision for victim support.

In April 2021 there were 1024 domestic abuse crimes recorded with a further 1051 crimes recorded in May. The average criminal outcome rate across the two months was 11.6%. It should be noted that CJ outcomes are not always the most appropriate or desired outcome from a victim's perspective and victims of domestic abuse may sometimes prioritise protection from violence, or even a sustained relationship, over prosecution. It may also not be in the public interest to prosecute and this is particularly relevant when criminalising children which should be the last resort. However, what the outcome rate does show is that because the majority of offenders are not entering the CJ system, they will most likely not receive any behaviour change intervention.

For the 12 month period from April 2020 – March 2021 there were:

- 6038 Standard risk DA offences
- 4968 Medium risk DA offences
- 807 High risk DA offences
- 23.9% were repeat cases of DA (victims recorded 2 or more offences in the 12 months April 2020 to March 2021).
- In 4971 cases children were present (as witness or in house)

Between April 2020 and March 2021 there were 1180 MARAC cases discussed. There were 1330 children in the household across these 1180 cases. 32% of the cases were repeat cases.

The recent pathways project delivered by HCC identified that support services for victims alone will not be enough unless we can find an effective way to work with perpetrators

Feedback from domestic homicide reviews has evidenced the need for programmes of activity to manage high harm, high risk perpetrators.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

See attached proposal

The proposal contains a number of interventions at different levels of harm. Across the interventions we aim to:

- Intervene early and reduce the likelihood of future offences – Change Plus
- Identify more perpetrators who are not currently known to services – MATAC analysis and coordinator
- Ensure that those perpetrators who are identified have a support pathway to access no matter where they live in the county – No More Service, Change Project Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme, For Baby's Sake.
- Ensure victims are safeguarded and supported – No More Service, Change Project Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme, For Baby's Sake. This either happens through integrated support service with the Change Project and No More or because the victim joins the intervention as part of the family with For Baby's Sake.
- Enable a whole system, whole family approach and share learnings with partners – For Baby's Sake

Recommendation

That the Commissioner approves application to the Home Office for funding and commitment to match funding activity alongside Herts County Council for the remaining four months.

Financial Implication

Home Office funding:

The table below details the total funding request to be submitted to the Home office. This covers a period of 8 months from August 2021 – March 2022.

2.1 – Funding requested for 01 August 2021– 31 March 2022		
Total Funds requested:	£568,152	
<i>Activity Please provide as much detail as possible and time scales - categories of spend that would help understand what you are going to use the funding for</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Resource/Capital</i>
<p>Salaries and related costs</p> <p>For Baby's Sake - The provision of facilitators providing x4 groups per month. Salary for ISS team. Management and clinical supervision for operational staff. (1xTeam Manager; 1xSenior Practitioner; 7xPractitioner; 1x (part time) Programme Officer. Senior leadership and central support - oversight of service delivery, data analysis and evaluation, sharing the learning/training initiative.</p> <p>Change project - To provide up to x12 group work or one-to-one programmes for Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes.</p> <p>To provide up to 32 programmes of Change Plus reaching up to 160 perpetrators</p> <p>No More Service – To expand support across the county addressing domestic abuse alongside drug/alcohol use, housing and mental health issues</p> <p>MATAC perpetrator identification – Analyst and coordinator</p>	513,604	Resource
<i>Recruitment costs across For Baby's Sake, Change Project and HCC</i>	5200	Resource
<p>Core activity e.g. workshops, focus groups, counselling sessions, training, awareness building etc</p> <p><i>Equipment: Mobile phones, iPad</i></p>	3512	Resource

<i>Venue costs: Room hire to enable delivery across the county</i>	4125	Resource
<i>Stakeholder events/ workshops</i>	4620	Resource
<i>Training for facilitators</i>	9978	Resource
<i>any other categories of spend</i>		
Travel	10,287	Resource
Printing	3000	Resource
<i>administration costs</i>		
For Baby's Sake & Change Project	4555	Resource
OPCC Project Management support 1.5 days per week (at £226.80 day rate)	11,907	Resource

Match funding:

- 4 months funding is required to sustain projects for a period of 12 months.
- This funding will be from April 2022 – July 2022 and therefore money will be committed for next financial year.
- Match funding will be in the region of £284,000. This will be shared between HCC and the OPCC. HCC are confirming their position but believe they will be able to access up to £200,000 to support with match funding.
- Match funding from the OPCC of approx. £150,000 is being requested.

Benefits

- Provides some DA perpetrator interventions across the County and gives an opportunity to assess demand over the next 12 months.
- Can be expanded over time if activity is successful including to stalking programmes and work with young people.
- The evaluation over the 12 months will be crucial in order to identify where gaps in provision may still remain. The evaluation can also be used to ensure partners commit to sustaining funding for successful programmes.

- This model has the possibility to be expanded in the future to cover all perpetrator interventions and not just those in relation to domestic abuse. The 2020 review by Hertfordshire OPCC in to perpetrator programmes highlighted a lack of non-statutory provision for all crime types.

Risks

- Ability for activity to be sustained over future years
- Activity may not show desired outcomes and therefore may not be continued in to future years
- Demand may exceed interventions available

Resource required from this office

Significant resource has been needed from the OPCC in order to prepare this application to the Home Office. There will need to be continued resource going forward which is anticipated to be a minimum of one day a week. More intense periods of activity are expected during mobilisation in August and September a minimum of two - three days may be necessary. It is also expected that more time will be needed towards the end of the Home Office funding period (February - March 2022).

Activity will include:

- Ensuring there is a Single point of contact for partners
- Submissions to Home Office for release of fund every two months.
- Relationship management with partners across the county
- Submitting reports to the HCJB / DA Executive Board on progress and future plans
- Identifying future funding streams and working with partners to sustain activity
- Supporting the monitoring and evaluation of projects
- Budget management