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COMISIYNYDD  
HEDDLU A THROSEDDU  
DYFED-POWYS  
POLICE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

## SUMMARY DECISION SHEET

**Purpose:** Commissioner Decision – Ref.DL235

**Timing:** Routine

**Title:** Extension of Independent Domestic Violence Advisory contract

**Category of Decision / Business Area Impact:** Commissioning

### Executive Summary:

The attached paper provides the rationale for utilising the final extension period of the jointly commissioned regional IDVA service. The final 12-month extension period allowable within the existing contract would take the end date to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This extension should be accompanied by a project plan, outlining timescales for demand analysis, revision of the specification and a full tender exercise. The paper below includes a draft of the project plan.

The paper is being proposed to members of the VAWDASV Executive Board at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October in order to approve on behalf of the funding commissioners. It is recommended that the PCC also agree the extension, allowing the working group on behalf of all funding parties to progress the project plan and deliver a full revised and tendered IDVA service to commence with a seamless transition on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

### Recommendation:

That the PCC extend the current jointly commissioned contract for provision of an independent domestic violence advisory service to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

### Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Nolan Principles for Conduct in Public Life.

The above request has my approval.

**Signature:**

**Date:** 07/10/2021

## Appendix 1

### Report to Mid and West Wales VAWDASV Executive Board Regional Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service October 2021

#### *Background*

In October 2017 a series of discussions were held focussing on the potential for joint commissioning of services for high risk victims of domestic abuse. The VAWDASV Executive Board approved the below recommendations:

- A 50/50 split between Local Authority contribution and the Police and Crime Commissioner in funding the future Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) service
- A combined financial contribution from Local Authorities across Dyfed Powys of £200,000 to be pooled with £200,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to enable a minimum of status quo provision to be achieved
- Recognition that the Welsh Government VAWDASV grant is unlikely to provide sufficient funding for all VAWDASV related requirements and there will need to be consideration of commitment from other sources
- Financial and management arrangements as laid out in the draft Memorandum Of Understanding<sup>3</sup>
- Commencement of the tender process in line with the timescales outlined within the report.

Subsequently a joint procurement exercise was undertaken by Dyfed Powys Police acting as lead commissioner, with a new IDVA service commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. The first exit point for this contract was 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 with 2 options to extend contained within the contract, each for an additional period of 12 months. The contract was awarded to Hafan Cymru and Pobl Care and Support working jointly across the Dyfed Powys area. This contract has provided the stability and consistency of service provision that had been impossible to achieve on historical annual funding cycles.

Based on average IDVA salaries across England and Wales, national average unit costs, and allowing for recognised third sector management costs, a fixed price contract of £400,000 per annum enabled the provision of 10.5 FTE IDVAs. This was based on numbers required according to Safe Lives data regarding MARAC cases.

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<sup>3</sup> The draft Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between commissioning partners to ensure clarity regarding financial, risk and performance management arrangements. Please note a separate arrangement is in place between Local Authorities regarding the regional banking arrangements for receipt of the Welsh Government VAWDASV grant.

### *Current situation*

In October 2020, the Board agreed a proposal to utilise the first of the 12 month extension periods taking the end of contract date to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This provided stability for providers and victims and was intended to allow commissioners to utilise the findings of academic evaluations into the impact of processes such as the Secondary Risk Assessment Unit and Daily Discussions to inform future requirements for the IDVA service.

The introduction of such processes was intended to improve the risk assessment of victims and had initially resulted in a lower volume of high risk cases being presented to MARAC. However, in recent months there has been an upward shift in the risk profile of victims being discussed at multi agency meetings and as such an increased demand on the IDVA service. This has resulted in additional funding bids being submitted by service providers via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner into the Ministry of Justice Critical Support Fund for VAWDASV<sup>4</sup>. The various bids have been successful and a total addition of 7 FTE IDVAs have been secured across Dyfed Powys on short term timescales.

Whilst the additional capacity is at present short term in nature, this clearly impacts significantly on the demand and requirements for a future IDVA service. It is as yet unclear whether this demand is short or long term and whether in fact it is appropriate demand for a high risk IDVA provision or whether it can be met by other specialist services.

Any proposed changes to the long term structure and capacity of the IDVA contract for future tendering must be supported by an appropriate evidence base. This requires analysis of MARAC, Daily Discussion and IDVA service data along with detailed discussions with key partner agencies to determine a true picture of the requirements of the service.

### *Proposal*

It is proposed that commissioners utilise the final 12 month extension period allowable within the existing contract, taking the end date to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This should be accompanied by a project plan outlining timescales for demand analysis, revision of specification and full tender exercise. A first draft of this plan is attached below:



IDVA project plan.xlsx

This extension will also provide stability during the post-Covid recovery period during which services and victims have been significantly affected. The contract is monitored via quarterly meetings between representatives for the funding commissioners and the service providers. The existing extension was predicated on a number of areas for improvement, including

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<sup>4</sup> This fund was provided by Ministry of Justice in recognition of the specific impact of the Covid pandemic on providers of domestic and sexual support services



working as a seamless services across the 2 host organisations, meeting accreditation and training requirements and provision of a consistent data set. Progress against this action plan is reported at each contract monitoring meeting, with positive developments reported to date; this will continue to be scrutinised throughout the additional extension period.

We would ask members of the Board to approve Dyfed Powys Police, on behalf of funding commissioners, to formally extend the contract to its final date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. During this time, key partners commit to the actions contained in the project plan to deliver a fully revised and tendered IDVA service to commence with a seamless transition on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.