



**CABINET**

**14 FEBRUARY 2017**

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION: LESLEY HAGGER**

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES:  
COUNCILLOR MATTHEW GOLBY**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Targeted Domestic Abuse service</b>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree to re-specify and tender a new Domestic Abuse service to commence from 1 May 2017.</li> <li>2. Agree that the new contract should be for a period of two years with the option to extend for a further year.</li> <li>3. Agree to delegate all necessary contractual arrangements and decisions thereto to the Director of Children, Families and Education in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.</li> </ol>

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Catch 22, in partnership with Northampton Women’s Aid are currently contracted to deliver domestic abuse support to children, young people and their parents (victims and perpetrators). The service uses evidence based and/or informed interventions to break the cycle of abuse in families and minimise the impact, and reduce incidents, of domestic abuse in Northamptonshire.
- 1.2 With 23% of contacts to social care during May – October 2016 relating to a domestic abuse incident the support offers crucial support to children, young people and families in the county.
- 1.3 This contract is due to end at the end of April 2017, and consideration is being given to the service and delivery model beyond this time.
- 1.4 For the reasons detailed in section 3 of this report, Officers are seeking Cabinet approval to approve the review of current service delivery and re-commissioning of a new service for a period of two years with the option to extend for a further year.

**2. How this decision contributes to the Council Plan**

The Council’s vision is to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and work. This is achieved through increasing the wellbeing of your county’s communities and/or safeguarding the county’s communities.

<b>This initiative specifically delivers increased wellbeing and/or safeguarding by:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to creating safer communities</li> <li>• Contributing to creating healthy communities</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to creating prosperous communities</li> <li>• Access to information</li> </ul>
And Through:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning and Market Developments</li> </ul>

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 there were 5,313 domestic crimes (76% (4,035) of these being defined as domestic violence) reported to Northamptonshire Police. 25% of all Police recorded domestic violence occurs when there is at least one child present<sup>1</sup>.
- 3.2 Given the above statistics, there is clear evidence that there is a need for appropriate support for families in Northamptonshire to reduce incidents of domestic abuse and any further impact on children/young people in the household.
- 3.3 The Council awarded a contract to Catch 22 (in partnership with Northampton Women's Aid) for a 'Targeted Domestic Abuse Service' following a competitive tender exercise, which took place in February 2016.
- 3.4 The contract runs from the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 until 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The contract provision aims to break the cycle of abuse in families and minimise the impact, and reduce incidents, of domestic abuse in Northamptonshire.
- 3.5 As the contract comes to an end, consideration is being given to the continuing needs of the children, young people and their families in the county.
- 3.6 It is recognised that the previous contract was deliberately a short-term arrangement put in place following the Council's Budget review. The short-term arrangement ensured that there was no gap in provision and support remained in place for those who needed it.
- 3.7 The current proposal is therefore to review the needs to develop a new service specification and tender the service for a longer period in line with the Council's guidelines.
- 3.8 Authority to go out to tender on the Targeted Domestic Abuse Support contract is therefore being sought, with the request that authority to make all necessary contractual arrangements and decisions is delegated to the Director of Children, Families and Education in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

### 4. Consultation and Scrutiny

- 4.1 Consultation has not yet been undertaken however, it shall be undertaken in regards to the development of the service specification with all key stakeholders being involved.
- 4.2 It should be noted that in addition to the above, the procurement process will include consultation with young people, they will also be engaged in the tender evaluation

<sup>1</sup> Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy (2015-2018)

process and the 'voice of the young person' will be a key element of contract monitoring in the future.

## 5. Equality Screening

5.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken, which shows that recommissioning the contract would have a positive impact on women and children and young people who have been victims of, or exposed to domestic abuse. The EqIA has been published and is available via the link in the table at the end of this report. The EqIA will be updated following the decision made at Cabinet, and will monitor the new provision if the re-commissioning is agreed, or monitor the impact of not recommissioning the contract, if it is not agreed.

## 6. Alternative Options Considered

### 6.1 Not to re-tender the contract

6.1.1 The option to end the current contract with no future provision is not feasible as this will result in a lack of support for children, young people and their families. Whilst they may be able to secure support through services provided through other funding streams, this may mean lengthy waits as the services are in demand, and would also mean a lack of input in the quality of the provision delivered. This would result in a lack of support to children, young people and their families at a critical time, putting the children and young people at possible risk of harm.

6.1.2 It was therefore felt that it was not appropriate to let the contract lapse with no confirmed provision beyond the contract term.

### 6.2 Spot purchase provision required

6.2.1 Spot purchasing domestic abuse support would mean purchasing support on a case-by-case basis, which could result in the use of services that are not quality assured or monitored.

6.2.2 Spot purchasing would also mean that any opportunities for securing value for money would not be realised.

6.2.3 It was therefore felt that the option to spot purchase was not feasible.

## 7. Financial Implications

7.1 The level of funding available shall reduce by approximately 10% compared to the current contractual arrangements.

7.2 It is anticipated that funding will continue to be available to ensure the continuation of this provision to March 2019.

What benefits will the proposal deliver?	The anticipated benefits of proceeding with the proposal and re-commissioning the service are: i. Tighter service specification ensuring that the service provider is accountable for all elements of
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	<p>delivery.</p> <p>ii. Better/more appropriate support for children and young people who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse and their families.</p> <p>iii. More robust monitoring arrangements to ensure that the service is meeting the needs of the young people.</p> <p>iv. The proposed contractual term will also help to realise value for money and efficiencies as providers will be able to plan for a longer term.</p>
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## 8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

### a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

No risks have been identified at present however a risk log shall be maintained throughout the process and during the contract period

### b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Poor outcomes for children and families and higher than necessary costs	RED/AMBER
Services accessed without quality assurance processes leading to poorer outcomes and a negative impact on Ofsted inspection outcome.	RED

## 9. List of Appendices

None.

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Background Papers:	
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	YES
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	NO – The General Exception Rule has been applied.
Will further decisions be required? If so, please outline the timetable here	No – a request is being made for the Director to be given delegated authority to make the appropriate decision following the re-tender of the service has been tendered.
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO – it is proposed that the new service continues to be commissioned
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance	NO – this is a request to proceed with the development of the specification and tender

Manager (SFM)?	arrangements. Discussions will take place with finance as part of this process.
Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Capital Investment Board (CIB)	NO – N/A
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Lesley Hagger
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Cllr Matthew Golby
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	NO Scrutiny Committee: Discussions will take place with DMT as part of this commissioning and re-tender process.
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	NO Name of solicitor: This is a request to proceed with the development of the specification and tender arrangements. Discussions will take place with legal as part of this process.
	Solicitor's comments:
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	NO – N/A
Have any property issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	N/A
Has an Equalities Impact Assessment been carried out in relation to this report?	Yes – please see <a href="http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/equalities/Pages/CYP-EIA.aspx">http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/equalities/Pages/CYP-EIA.aspx</a>
Are there any community safety implications?	No
Are there any environmental implications:	There are no environmental implications; however consideration of environmental impact will be part of the tendering process in accordance with council procurement procedures.
Are there any Health & Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	N/A

