

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Deputy leader</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Waiver of Standing Orders for post abuse CSE support commissioned provision &amp; further commissions for voice and influence work</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Neighbourhood and Adult Services</b>

### 5. Background

Following the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Rotherham (1997-2003) by Professor Alexis Jay, published August 2014, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and partners response was to ensure there was the right kind of support in place to meet the needs of victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation by increasing the capacity of voluntary and community sector services and organisations.

A fund of £120,000 was announced by the Leader of the Council in September 2014 for an immediate response to support victims and survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation through RMBC commissioned services.

Services commissioned to date include; outreach, one to one support, counselling, a confidential helpline and email account and family support. These services have been commissioned to the end of March 2015.

Commissioning of longer term support for the next 3-5 years will be informed by a Needs Analysis which is being led by Public Health.

The voice and influence of victims and survivors is critical in ensuring that the right services are commissioned for the future and this is covered in 7.3.

To ensure the Needs Analysis includes learning from the immediate commissioned services it is proposed that the existing commissioned services are extended to the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 and the longer term 3-5 years' services commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2015. Funding for this extension is detailed at point 8 of this report.

### 6. Recommendation/s

6.1 That the Deputy Leader approves the proposal to waive Standing Order 47 (contracts valued at less than £50,000 should be tendered) in accordance with Standing Order 38 (exemptions from contract standing orders) and extend the current CSE commissioned service to June 2015 to ensure that the needs analysis continues to be informed by the learning from current commissioned services and the voice of victims and survivors.

6.2 That the Contingency fund is allocated to undertake further voice and influence work with survivors and victims of CSE to shape the current Needs Analysis and longer term provision.

6.3 That £20,000 is pooled with the £11,319 Contingency funding to commission further voice and influence work with victims, survivors and families, and will incorporate a specific commission to gain further understanding of the effects of CSE on minority ethnic groups and communities including Asian and Roma communities in Rotherham. Further detail is contained in section 7.3 of this report.

## **7. Proposals and Details**

Funding identified of £120,000 by the Leader was used to commission front line post abuse support services to victims/survivors of child sexual exploitation. This immediate response was provided by increasing the capacity in the VCS. The commissioned organisations involved in providing this support are:

- £20,000 for GROW to fund 1.5 project worker to provide emotional wellbeing and practical support to individuals but also support the victim/survivor's family.
- £41,654 for Rotherham's Women's Counselling Service and Pit Stop for Men to increase specialist counselling provision specifically for post abuse victims of CSE.
- £20,000 for South Yorkshire Community Foundation to enable voluntary and community groups to apply for further funding to provide additional support.
- £27,027 for Rotherham Women's Refuge to increase capacity to work with young people and women to provide family support and counselling.
- £11,319 contingency (now proposed to be pooled and utilised before the end March 2015 to conduct further voice and influence work).

In addition, RMBC has allocated revenue funding for the following;

- £17,425 to fund a Post abuse Support Coordinator reporting to the LSCB CSE sub group and located in Youth Start.
- £36,000 for Youth Start to deliver Tier 2 support to young people and vulnerable adults up to the age of 25.
- £20,000 for Rotherham's CSE Support Helpline provided by the NSPCC.
- £20,000 additional for further voiced and influence work.

In addition other organisations have increased capacity including:

£200,000 from Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (RCCG) to create additional capacity in CAMHS through an additional Consultant Psychologist for 12 months and a psychotherapist to work across CAMHS and Adult Mental Health Services.

- £20,000 to Rotherham Women's Counselling Service from RCCG to increase capacity in counselling services
- £80,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund 2 additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) in RMBC

### **7.1 CSE Needs Analysis**

The scope of the needs analysis was endorsed at the LSCB CSE sub-group meeting. The aim of the CSE needs analysis is;

- To understand the scale and nature of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham
- To understand the needs of victims (child and adult, current and historic)
- To understand the triggers and motivations of perpetrators
- To make evidence based recommendations to inform the development, provision & commissioning of services and programmes to prevent and protect victims and to pursue perpetrators

From the literature examined so far it is evident that a wide spectrum of responses are required to meet the needs of victims and survivors starting with outreach and engagement, building trust, providing practical and emotional support and advocacy, and for some, more specialist therapeutic interventions to address a range of emotional and psychological needs.

Scenarios which assume various patterns of help seeking behaviour are being modelled in order to forecast the numbers in each age group likely to be seeking support over the next 5 years. This remains work in progress and will be significantly strengthened by the learning from the immediate post abuse support services, the work of the recently appointed Support Co-ordinator and the performance data from the Helpline over the next three months.

## **7.2 Voice and Influence of Victims and Survivors**

The voice and influence of victims and survivors is a priority. Whilst engaging directly with those who have been affected by CSE, we continue to seek advice from professionals who have a greater understanding of consulting victims and survivors of CSE. Our next steps include:

- Focus groups with victims and survivors, as part of the Needs Analysis work.
- Commissioning further voice and influence work including a specific piece of work to gain further understanding of the effects of CSE on minority ethnic groups and communities including Asian and Roma communities in Rotherham.
- Collect the views of service users from the existing commissioned services about the current provision as well as input into the longer term needs.

## **7.3 Proposals**

Our longer term plan will continue to ensure effective routes into services through effective engagement with victims and survivors, service providers and our partner agencies. The detail around the volumes required for each service or intervention will be informed by the interim commissions and the completion of the needs analysis.

- A) The proposal is to waive Standing Order 47 (contracts valued at less than £50,000 should be tendered) in accordance with Standing Order 38 (exemptions from contract standing orders) and extend the current service provision to end June 2015 to ensure that the needs analysis is fully informed by the learning from current commissioned services and the voice of victims/survivors and to ensure a continuation of support whilst further provision is commissioned or existing services are strengthened.

The increased time would enable;

- Soft market testing to identify any concerns from providers about the longer term provision.
- Performance data on current activity and the views of service users to be available early March 2015.
- Inclusion of learning from the voice and influence of victims and survivors in the specification and tendering of services
- Focus groups around voice and influence to better understand the effects of CSE on minority ethnic communities to be completed by end of March 2015.
- The completion of the Needs Analysis.

This will enable the following timetable to be met;

- The commissioning and tendering documentation to be finalised by **March 2015**
- The invitation to tender would be issued **April, 2015.**
- Longer term post CSE support services to be in place by **1<sup>st</sup> July, 2015.**

#### **7.4 Contingency Fund**

B) It is proposed that the contingency fund of £11,319 is pooled with the additional £20k and is utilised as follows;

- Focus groups, consultations and one to one interviews with victims and survivors of CSE from a wide range of backgrounds
- For specific consultation with the BME community and specifically the Roma and Asian communities to gain a better understanding of their experiences and how CSE affects the community. This work is already scoped and ready to be commissioned.

#### **8. Finance**

A bid for £200k per annum for 3 to 5 years has already been made to the Strategic Director of Resources and Transformation for the longer term commissioning. This will include funding to meet the proposed extension of the existing services until 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 which

#### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Should this waiver to Standing Orders not be agreed the current services will cease at the end of March 2015 and the full application of the needs analysis will not have been utilised.

#### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The proposals contribute to achieving the priorities in;

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-2015
- Ofsted framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers
- Recommendations from the Jay Report 2014

#### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

The Jay Report 2014

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy 2014-19

**Contact Name : Chrissy Wright, Strategic Commissioning Manager,**  
**e-mail: [Chrissy.Wright@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Chrissy.Wright@rotherham.gov.uk), telephone 01709 82230**