

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chair of Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	22 January 2013

INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE SERVICE (IDVA) FUNDING

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Members of the funding arrangements being sought for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service in 2013/14 and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Members are requested to note the report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. Members will recall undertaking a review of the IDVA service and its funding arrangements as part of the overview and scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership of which the Council is a Responsible Authority Group member.
4. The Councils Executive Cabinet accepted the recommendations of a report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 November 2011.
5. The main recommendations focussed on the provision of budgetary support for IDVA and seeking to ensure partners made appropriate contributions in order for the service to continue.
6. Subsequently a maximum budget of £14,000 (recurrent) for IDVA funding was included as part of the 2012/13 budget growth package that was agreed at Full Council on 28th February 2012.
7. In the intervening period the Council sought support of partners through the Community Safety Partnership and Lancashire County Council produced a report which identified the level of benefit received by partners and agencies through the work of the IDVA service.
8. The produced report proposed funding arrangements for 2012/13 and beyond. Members should note that the proposed arrangements were subject to final agreement by all agencies and partners by June 2012.
9. The proposed arrangements resulted in the Council being requested to provide £1,630 for financial year 2012/13 with an estimated recurrent contribution of £3,260 for 2013/14 and beyond.
10. Several agencies declined to support the proposed financial arrangements and the budget deficit for financial year 2012/13 was met by the now dissolved Safer Lancashire Board.
11. As some agencies declined to financially commit to supporting the IDVA service newly revised funding arrangements have been proposed for financial year 2013/14 and beyond.
12. The new arrangements request that from 2013/14 Chorley Council Provide a recurrent contribution of £9,000 per annum which is £5,000 below the already agreed 2012/13 £14,000 recurrent growth budget for IDVA service provision. It should be also be noted that the newly proposed figure of £9,000 supports the funding of both the IDVA provision and wider domestic abuse services.
13. It is anticipated that the new funding arrangements will be finally agreed by March 2013 and Members will be updated accordingly.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

14. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities	x	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

BACKGROUND

IDVA SERVICE LEVEL IN CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE

15. A 2012 study commissioned by Lancashire County Council has identified that, based on the number of domestic violence referrals into the multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC), the level of IDVA service necessary to meet demand across the Chorley and South Ribble footprint 2012/13 and beyond would cost in the region of £89,000. This was twice the previous 2011/12 level of funding provided by partners.

FUNDING MODEL 2012/13

16. It was agreed that for 2012/13 the level of IDVA service be increased to meet the demand identified above and 50% of the funding came from the Safer Lancashire Board, with the remaining funding being provided by partner agencies on a scale that identified the percentile benefit they receive through the operation of the service. Chorley Councils contribution for 2012/13 amounted to £1,630.

PROPOSED FUNDING MODEL BEYOND 2013/14

17. In 2013/14 and beyond the required £89,000 funding provision for the Chorley and South Ribble IDVA service will have to be completely sourced from its constituent partner agencies. As a number of these agencies cover the wider Lancashire footprint, as with the previous 2012 consultation discussions at a county level are underway to ensure these agencies make budgetary provision on a countywide scale to include the portion necessary for the local Chorley and South Ribble service to continue.
18. In the event that partner agencies commit to the proposed apportionment then Chorley's contribution for 2013/14 and beyond will be £9,000 pa (subject to cost increases in line with inflation and any service level increases required based on service demand). This requested contribution is £5,000 below the Councils agreed maximum £14,000 recurrent growth budget for IDVA support.
19. It should also be noted that the newly proposed figure of £9,000 supports the funding of both the IDVA provision and wider domestic abuse services. A business case for the increased funding was presented to the Lancashire Chief Executives on the 23rd of November 2012. The business case presents £9,000 requested funding as a single figure so it is unclear what proportion of the proposed monies is intended solely for IDVA provision.

FURTHER ACTION

20. It is anticipated that the final funding arrangements will be agreed by March 2013 and Members will be updated accordingly.
21. Members are requested to note the report

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

22. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	x	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

JAMIE CARSON CHAIR OF SAFER CHORLEY AND SOUTH RIBBLE PARTNERSHIP

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Paul Lowe	5758	10 th January 2013	N/A