

KEY DECISION

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

Title and Reference – PCC/D/155

Subject: Domestic Abuse/Sexual Violence Bids and allocations

Report of: Police and Crime Commissioner

Date: 08/06/2020

Summary

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, in May, launched a new funding process for services supporting Domestic Abuse victims during the Covid-19 pandemic, where a rise in these crimes have been seen nationally.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has allocated funds, comprising of £113,000 for services the Police and Crime Commissioner already commissions and a further £56,500 for future services.

The Commissioner instructed her office to engage with local organisations and subject matter experts in order to understand the affect the recent Covid-10 pandemic has had on this area and to understand where the money would be best put to use.

The fund was advertised widely and partners were invited to an online meeting with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) where the fund distribution was explained and discussed against the need identified.

All of the applications were reviewed with the ambition to support organisations and charities of all sizes, reaching as many victims across the county as possible. Applications needed to address how the funding would support the rise seen in Domestic Abuse during the pandemic and had to relate to the following areas:-

- IDVAs; Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
- CHIDVAs; Child focused Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
- Family Court support
- Face to face or remote counselling for individuals and/or their families
- Support for particular groups such as Disabled, LGBT victims or those from Black and Minority Ethnic community groups.

The following organisations were awarded funds:

Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust
The Safer Luton Partnership
Home Start
ACCM UK
Reactiv8 the Nation CIC
Living Your Life (Bedfordshire)
Luton All Women Centre
Counselling Foundation
Mindfulness Support Service CIC
The Hope Programme
FACES
TOKKO Ltd.
Embrace
Azalea

After informing organisations of their allocations, many shared emails of thanks to the OPCC for its understanding of the need for these funds and expressed how this money was going to be used to support so many individuals across Bedfordshire.

The OPCC also received messages of support for the process of the fund distribution from the Chief Executives of the Hope Programme, Embrace; The Children's Charity and from Domestic Abuse specialists who were asked to give their time to ensuring the funds were allocated to those at the frontline of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Recommendation

To note decision

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner

I hereby approve the recommendations above.

Signature

Date 08/06/2020

