

OPCC Victims Fund

Police and Crime Panel Update - June 2015

1. 2014/15 funding and activity

The Police and Crime Commissioner took responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime in October 2014. During the financial year of 2014/15 the OPCC awarded over **£1million** in grant funding, to deliver vital support services for victims of crime:

- **£450,110** – was secured from the MOJ Competed Fund and used to support victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and rape. Funding enabled specialist work with women and children who have experienced domestic abuse, including those living in refuge, helping them to feel safe and rebuild their lives. It was used to increase the availability of counselling, group work and 1:2:1 advice and support for victims of sexual assault and rape, providing a lifeline for the most vulnerable victims.

Case study

Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAS)

The ISVA establishment was increased by 1.5 FTE to 3 ISVAs, supporting a current caseload of 122 clients.

Victim's story: *"As a young man, at an expensive boarding school, I was groomed and sexually abused by one of my teachers. I had never once told anyone, had tried to push it to the back of my mind and get on with my life.*

Out of the blue, I was contacted by Norfolk Constabulary asking if I was at the school during certain dates and if Mr X was my tutor - some other boys had come forward.

I agreed to give a statement. This opened up a can of worms. I felt overwhelmed and ran away to my coping strategy of drugs and alcohol, which impacted on all my relationships – work, wife and family.

I hadn't been to work for two weeks and had received an official warning – my ISVA came to the HR meeting to support me, explain the situation and that everything would be confidential, she was amazing. I was on the verge of my wife leaving as I could not bring myself to talk to her – my ISVA suggested I write a letter so I did not have to say the words. She put me in touch with SADAS to help me with my alcohol and drug issues. She talked through my concerns about court and assured me she would be with me the whole way through the process and beyond. We further discussed sex related issues, which I didn't think I would be able to talk to anyone about. The relief was huge. She explained the physiology and suggested several places for sexual counselling.

- **£133,991** – was used to deliver vital developmental work within local services that otherwise would not have happened, such as overhauling time consuming paper based record keeping, with secure and online systems; specialist training; refuge refurbishment and; researching restorative justice solutions for Surrey.

- **£248,409** – was used to fund a wide variety of local services for priority victims – those affected by domestic abuse; sexual assault and rape and; children and young people giving evidence in court. It has also supported specialist training for the police in domestic abuse, so-called honour based violence, child sexual exploitation and child interview techniques.

Case study

Specialist service for children and young people affected by domestic abuse

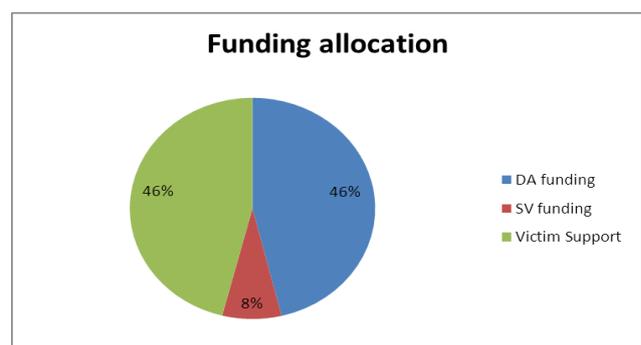
117 children who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse received support to make sense of their experiences; feel empowered to make choices about their future and develop positive coping strategies. The service also works with the non-abusive parent to support and encourage them as they develop their parenting skills.

'Annie' was referred to children's outreach service because her mother and school were concerned about behaviour. She was showing signs of anxiety and very low self-esteem. Through play sessions, Annie opened up about her experiences and in one session disclosed physical abuse. She began to say that she felt scared. Therapeutic work was done around her worries and to build her confidence through non-directive play and Annie began to direct the worker in how she wanted the play dough/clay/painting to look. This play allowed Annie to have a sense of control and autonomy in her life. Annie's mum has reported she seems a lot happier and calmer but is still displaying physical symptoms before contact with her father. The sessions have built trust and a good foundation for future work to build on.

- **£175,917** – was awarded from the PCC's secretariat underspend during 14/15 to boost the funding for local support services being delivered into the next financial year. This has enabled refuges to increase their support worker hours. It has funded three independent sexual violence advisors and the Young Witness Service. It will deliver 40 hours of domestic abuse outreach time to support victims during instances of Domestic Violence Disclosures and Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders.

2. 2015/16 funding summary

Victim Support has been contracted from 1 April 2015 to provide a victim assessment, referral and local support service at an annual cost of £407,980. A further £478,424 has been awarded in grant funding to services supporting victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault and rape. It should be noted that whilst the current spend on services for sexual violence stands at 8%, this will increase significantly (see section 3 - future priorities). In addition, the current ISVA establishment is funded for 15/16 from previous year OPCC Secretariat budget underspend.



Grants awarded for 2015/16 to date are:

| Organisation | Project Summary | Grant Awarded |
|--|---|---------------|
| Chapter 1 | Pack of living essentials for refuge clients | £10,000 |
| Chapter 1 | Children's service in refuge | £4,882 |
| East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service (ESDAS) | County-wide Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service for Special Domestic Violence Court | £92,816 |
| ESDAS | County-wide children's service | £69,436 |
| ESDAS | County-wide Outreach provision as part of SLA with Surrey Police and SCC | £90,000 |
| ESDAS | County-wide Freedom Programme | £10,000 |
| Reigate & Banstead Women's Aid Refuge | Pack of living essentials for refuge clients | £11,970 |
| Reigate & Banstead Women's Aid Refuge | Family therapy and Saturday Children's Club in refuge | £17,415 |
| Surrey Police | Witness Care Officer | £23,668 |
| Surrey Police | Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Co-ordinator | £29,868 |
| yourSanctuary | County-wide domestic abuse men's service | £22,000 |
| yourSanctuary | Children's service in refuge | £15,000 |
| yourSanctuary | Pack of living essentials in refuge | £12,340 |

3. Future priorities

The OPCC is working with partners to scope in more detail the need for specialist services during 2015/16 and current activity includes:

Child sexual exploitation – a round table discussion will be held on 15 June with voluntary and frontline services. This will share CSE victim/at risk information and intelligence, which will help to inform a needs assessment being undertaken by Surrey County Council, Children, Schools & Families Directorate.

Rape and Sexual Abuse – research is underway to scope an expansion of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre to increase accessibility to counselling and the ISVA service county-wide through hubs.

Harmful Practices – a new FGM Task and Finish Group has been established, with the first meeting to take place on 26 May. This will consider policy, awareness raising and training, data collection and recording, risk assessment, evidence of adherence to safeguarding procedures.

Children and Young People – OPCC Policy Officer (Victims) will meet with Surrey County Council, Children, Schools & Families senior commissioners to discuss the alignment of services, information gaps, shared outcomes/ impact of crime on young people, improved partnership working (reporting, referral, cope and recover).

Ends.

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