

# Cabinet



Date of meeting:	08 December 2022
Title of Report:	<b>Business Case for the procurement of a Domestic Abuse Service</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor Pat Patel (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport)
Lead Strategic Director:	Craig McArdle (Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Laura Griffiths
Contact Email:	<a href="mailto:laura.griffiths@plymouth.gov.uk">laura.griffiths@plymouth.gov.uk</a>
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to describe the commissioning plan to put in place a new Domestic Abuse service for Plymouth, to draw on our learning from those with lived experience and ensure the city is meeting its new statutory duties.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Part 4 of the Act places new statutory duties on tier 1 Local Authorities to provide safe accommodation for victims and their children, alongside a number of reporting and governance requirements.

Our current Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service has been in place since 2012 and goes some way to meeting our statutory duties. However, the guidance and direction from central government requires Plymouth to expand and enhance this offer. The contract has also now come to end and requires us to legally go out to the market for procurement.

Officers and partners have committed to listening to the voice of lived experience and this procurement provides an opportunity to draw this into meaningful codesign.

## Recommendations and Reasons

This paper outlines the activity to be undertaken to commission a new Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service. Recommendations for approval:

1. To approve the Business Case and procurement process to commission a new domestic abuse service.
2. To delegate the decision and to award the contract to the Strategic Director for People

**Alternative options considered and rejected**

Extend the current contract:

- In line with procurement regulations it is not possible to further extend the current provision.
- Our new legal duties require us to provide the service outlined in the business case. This requires developing the service further including developing a new service specification

Cease the service:

- It is a statutory requirement to provide services for victims of domestic abuse, and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed further statutory duties on local authorities

**Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan**

The business case and recommendations are relevant to both the Plymouth Plan and Corporate Plan.

Plymouth Plan policies, helping to deliver:

- Strong and safe communities
- Reduce health and wellbeing inequalities
- Provide specific support to local communities where people are disadvantaged
- Implement a system of whole person care.
- Reduce rough sleeping

Corporate Plan priority of caring for people and communities and supporting:

- Friendly welcoming city
- reduced health inequalities
- people feel safe in Plymouth
- focus on prevention and early intervention
- keep people protected

Also, unlocking our potential by offering a wide range of homes

**Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

Whilst the activity in this report is led by Strategic Commissioning, the budget comes from multiple funding streams and departments including Community Connections and Public Health. Domestic Abuse is a cross cutting issue and will impact various PFH areas.

Both the allocation of central revenue grant and other incomes streams have been reflected in the MTFP. It will require careful oversight and support from Finance colleagues to monitor grant income streams, this includes the new burdens funding from DLUCH via a Section 31 grant agreement.

**Financial Risks**

This business case does highlight some financial risk for the local authority. The complex nature of various funding streams means we only have a limited period of absolute certainty of funding amounts.

There is a financial risk to the local authority if the OPCC and additional/new burdens funding is not continued after March 2025. On current calculations, if both sources of funding were to cease this would leave an annual shortfall of funding of £570,000. Given the new statutory requirement for the local authority in relation to domestic abuse services, this could mean that the Council needed to make up the funding shortfall.

To mitigate against this, negotiations on future years of funding will be sought as early as possible with partners and any potential risk escalated to senior managers and elected members promptly. We have also placed additional break clauses in the preferred contract length to enable these reviews and negotiations to take place.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires local authorities to provide safe accommodation and support to people fleeing domestic abuse. It also requires local areas to cooperate across boundaries as there are occasions when the risk is too high to stay in the city. On these occasions people may leave the city but

also travel to the city for safety. We will encourage the use of national initiatives that offer free rail travel to those fleeing domestic abuse, when safe to do so.

### Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

Community Safety: Domestic Abuse continues to be a priority for the city and features in the annual strategic crime assessment as a high priority to help keep people in Plymouth safe.

There have been 5 Domestic Homicide Review's in the last 3 years, including the high profile domestic homicide in Keyham.

Whilst Domestic Abuse can affect anyone, we know that some people are disproportionately affected. An EIA has been completed to assist in the design of the new service to ensure that it can respond most effectively.

### Appendices

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Business Case for the procurement of a Domestic Abuse service							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							

### Background papers:

\*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

### Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Matt Garrett (Service Director for Community Connections)											

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 22/11/2022

Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Patel, Cllr Dr Mahony and Cllr Smith

Date approved: 30/11/2022