

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2017-006

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we provide our response below.

You asked:

For each question apart from Question 7, please provide information broken down into the following categories:

- a) Your commissioned services for women experiencing domestic violence and abuse
 - b) Your commissioned services for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse
 - c) Your commissioned services which are for either women or men experiencing domestic violence and abuse
 - d) Your commissioned services for groups with specific needs such as BME women, disabled women, and LGBTQ survivors experiencing domestic violence and abuse
1. What is the value of your commissioned services, and has this amount increased or decreased since it was last commissioned?
 2. Which organisation or organisations currently hold the contract for your commissioned services? When are these services due to be recommissioned? Please include dates of then tender documents will be available.
 3. When your services were commissioned, was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? Has your procurement team or legal advisors ensured that your decisions were compliant with both the EU Procurement Directive and the EU Directive on Victim's Rights?
 4. How many expressions of interest did you receive and how many final bids did you receive?
 5. How much did the commissioning process cost you?
 6. Was the decision to commission your services made as part of a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy?
 7. Mapping of provision:
 - a. Did you undertake mapping of service provision as part of the commissioning protect for domestic violence and abuse?
 - b. If yes, please list details of the domestic violence service providers in your local authority that are NOT commissioned by the local authority following categories: (i) services for women experiencing domestic violence and abuse (ii) services for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse; (iii) women or men experiencing domestic violence and abuse (iv) BME women, disabled women, and LGBTQ survivors experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and our response is as follows:

In 2015/16 the Dorset PCC commissioned a newly formed team hosted by Dorset Police, known as The Maple Project. This followed a review of existing domestic abuse services which highlighted some areas for development. As a result, a business case was prepared and presented by the then Head of Public Protection of Dorset Police to the Force and OPCC Executive proposing a single team for police and domestic abuse advisor functions.

This proposal was supported without going through a formal EU procurement process. No formal Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out as part of the business case process and proposals. However, the Maple Project team provides support to victims of domestic violence and abuse, irrespective of their protected characteristics (eg gender, ethnicity, disability, etc) and follows the model set by the Sunflower Centre hosted by Northamptonshire Police since 2008. The Northamptonshire Sunflower Centre has achieved Safe Lives 'Leading Lights' accreditation and The Maple Project is working towards achieving this accreditation.

The Maple Project went live in October 2015 and expanded the number of Domestic Abuse Advisors (DAAs) in Dorset from the existing 6.8xFTE (formerly IDVAs), to 10xFTEs advisors, trained to Safe Lives (formerly CAADA) standards. This approach was taken as a result of recognised duplication in some of the previous processes, where for example victims were having to 'tell their story' to police domestic abuse officers and then re-tell to the IDVAs who had been previously commissioned through a third sector provider Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA). The service plays a significant role in the delivery of the pan-Dorset Domestic Abuse Strategy, which in itself takes heed of the national VAWG Strategy.

The total financial figure of the commissioned service has only changed marginally since the IDVA service was first commissioned by the PCC in 2013/14 (it reduced by £465 from £175,465 to £175,000 in 2015/16 and has remained at that amount since).

We would also advise the Dorset PCC has more recently commissioned a 'pilot' of a service that addresses perpetrators of domestic violence at a cost of £30,000 per year for two years. This service is known as Up2U and is hosted by Borough of Poole Council on behalf of their authority and of Dorset County Council. The Up2U programme provides 'one-to-one' CBT based intervention and this follows a rigorous initial engagement and assessment process that identifies levels of risk, need and responsibility. The Up2U model has been successfully delivered by Portsmouth City Council and initial indications in Dorset are that this approach is achieving effective outcomes.