

**THE OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR DERBYSHIRE
DECISION RECORD**

Request for PCC Decision	Received in OPCC Date: 24 February 2020	OPCC Ref: 29/2020
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**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER GRANT AWARD - DOMESTIC
ABUSE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Executive Summary

This report supports the decision made by the Commissioner to fund a pilot project for a 12 month period to develop a support network for victims of Domestic Abuse in rural communities in Derbyshire.

The working title of the project is "Breaking the Silence" and this will be delivered by Rural Action Derbyshire between 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021.

Decision

To approve the Commissioner's grant award to Rural Action Derbyshire for the development of a 12 month pilot project to the value of £40,000 in support of victims of domestic abuse in rural communities in Derbyshire. The project will run from 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021.

Declaration

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire. Any such interests are recorded below.

None

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Hardyal Dhindsa

Date 28 February 2020

PUBLICATION SCHEME CONSIDERATIONS

Is the related Section B report to be published Yes

The report contains commercially sensitive information.

Is the publication of this approval to be deferred No

If Yes, provide reasons below

Date to be deferred to –

NB Statutory Instrument 2011/3050 (as amended by SI 2012/2479) states that: *all decisions made by a PCC are in the types of information that must “be published as soon as practicable after it becomes available to the elected local policing body”.*

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive or Nominee:

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Name Andrew Dale

Date 28 February 2020

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ASSURANCE BOARD

REPORT TITLE	POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER GRANT AWARD - DOMESTIC ABUSE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES
REPORT BY	CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
DATE	24 FEBRUARY 2020

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To approve the Commissioner's grant award to Rural Action Derbyshire for the development of a 12 month pilot project to the value of £40,000 in support of victims of domestic abuse in rural communities in Derbyshire. The project will run from 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021.

ATTACHMENTS

1. None

RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve the Commissioner's grant award to Rural Action Derbyshire for the development of a 12 month pilot project to the value of £40,000 in support of victims of domestic abuse in rural communities in Derbyshire. The project will run from 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021.

CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES

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BACKGROUND

Following a survey conducted by the National Rural Crime Network in 2017, a report was produced called “Captive and Controlled – Understanding Domestic Abuse in Rural areas”.

The main report referenced the national level study across 7 different areas of the UK which produced a number of specific and targeted recommendations. Separate regional summaries also highlighted aspects which carried some differences or localised context, worthy of specific note to those commissioning and providing Support for Domestic Abuse victims and survivors.

The following overarching national themes were identified across the 7 areas:

- Rural victims are half as likely to report their abuse to others.
- Rural victims’ abuse goes on significantly longer.
- Rural victims cannot readily access support services.
- Rural victims live in a society that defacto protects the perpetrators.
- Rural victims are “isolated, unsupported and unprotected in a rural hell, which is purposefully ‘normalised’.”

Derbyshire Findings

The survey findings were based on a very small number of respondents from Derbyshire, in total 35 for the whole, so caution must be taken in relation to the findings, although general themes may be considered.

- Derbyshire was one of only two areas using ONS postcode classifications to define rurality. This has resulted in their focus on rurality to be reflective of the most isolated rural areas.
- Derbyshire are also commended for using data analysis to inform commissioning strategy – in collaboration with the council therefore we have a platform to

continue to use performance data to support the commissioning of future victim services.

- In Derbyshire, the importance of localised service provision was underlined throughout.
- Derbyshire is the only area sampled other than Lincolnshire who uses the ONS defined categorisation of rural and urban areas. It is recommended that postcode analysis to use in the planning and commissioning strategy to ensure a more equal distribution of resources between urban and rural areas.
- Specific initiatives need to be targeted at rural areas to compensate for the under-reporting and as the implications of this study start to show themselves within the terms of contracted services.
- From a referral perspective, the role of GP's is underlined in the picture for Derbyshire and could play a more prominent role in terms of outreach.
- In Derbyshire, it appears that the small numbers of rural victims responding to the survey could all access support services within 30 minutes which may support the current distribution of smaller localised partners.
- In Derbyshire, there were few (4 in total) responses from victims aged over 55. However, the national findings suggest this may be an overlooked group across the UK.
- In Derbyshire the researchers found concerns around fragmentation of service.
- The policing response for Derbyshire shows a mixed picture. However, the sample size was small with the result that 3 in 5 victims responding to the survey had contacted the police from urban areas compared to just 2 in 5 for rural areas and the more remote rural areas the numbers contacting the police dropped again. This reflects a national picture.
- Interviews with victims in Derbyshire referenced a common factor of a dominant male in the relationship more than any broader societal influence.
- In Derbyshire, the researchers found a significant fear amongst victims that calling the police would lead to an almost automatic involvement of Social Services.
- While present in both rural and urban Derbyshire, the overriding sense from our interviews with rural victims was the feeling of embarrassment/shame they felt by admitting to the small world they lived in that they were a victim.

- Appropriate locations need to be found for people to attend courses such as Freedom programme due to the reliance on failing rural transport

The researchers recommended the following for Derbyshire:

- Obtain a more comprehensive data set amongst victims of Domestic Abuse in Derbyshire
- Conduct a reassessment of current strategic commissioning for the rural areas
- Improve current service provision – distributed too thinly, under resourced and under duress
- assess the police service's ability to respond and the level of training and gender balance of officers needed to attend to Domestic Abuse incidents

As a result of these findings the OPCC has worked with Rural Action Derbyshire who has strong and trusted links with the rural and farming communities across Derbyshire. Discussions have taken place to scope some key activities to further inform and enhance our understanding of Domestic Abuse and design services appropriate to the rural context. The grant awarded to Rural Action Derbyshire for the development of a 12 month pilot will include the following:

Overall Purpose

The main task is to build on existing links and relationships to develop a network of supportive, knowledgeable people who understand the issues around domestic abuse and can help to identify, support and signpost individuals at risk to services and help.

Key project deliverables:

Outcomes will include:

- Increased awareness of rural domestic abuse particularly coercive and controlling relationships
- Increased awareness of the signs that someone is experiencing domestic violence or abuse

- Increased awareness of sources of help and advice
- Increased referral rate
- Increased knowledge of what services might be more appropriate for rural victims
- Development and delivery of training and awareness raising sessions.
- Promote and publicise the service to partners, referral agencies and the wider community using appropriate and effective channels and methods
- Attend DA multi agency forums/working groups
- Delivering training for Cyber Buddies recruited for Digital Hubs
- Developing an emerging network of “friends” or “advocates” trained to respond to disclosures and take appropriate referral steps

SUMMARY

To approve the Commissioner’s grant award to Rural Action Derbyshire for the development of a 12 month pilot project to the value of £40,000 in support of victims of domestic abuse in rural communities in Derbyshire. The project will run from 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NONE