

**Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore,
Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection**

Report to:	Councillor B Young, Executive Councillor: Community Safety and People Management
Date:	30 January 2018
Subject:	Domestic Abuse Support Services Re-procurement
Decision Reference:	I015019
Key decision?	Yes

Summary:

The current Domestic Abuse Support Services (DASS) have been in place since October 2013. All available provision for extension in respect of Outreach and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) Services has been exhausted and the existing arrangements will expire as of 31 July 2018.

This report gives an update on progress to date and seeks approval for the re-procurement of DASS related services.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive Councillor:

- 1) Approves the re-commissioning of Domestic Abuse Support Services consisting of Outreach Domestic Abuse Support Services included targeted children's support and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service.
- 2) Approves that a procurement be undertaken to deliver contracts for each element of the services to be awarded to a single provider of county-wide services.
- 3) Delegates to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Councillor: Community Safety and People Management the authority to determine the final form of the procurement and the contract and to approve the award of the contract/s and the entering into the contract/s and other legal documentation necessary to give effect to the said contract.

Alternatives Considered:

1. **Negotiate a revised contract with the current provider.** Whilst performance levels have been satisfactory, continuing with the current provider is not viable as all provision for extension within the current contract has been exhausted. In addition; a four month extension has been sought from incumbent providers, this

is outside of the existing provision within the contracts, but this has allowed time to fully evaluate provider feedback obtained through the service review and assess the whole spectrum of Domestic Abuse Services on a countywide level in order to determine the appropriate scope of services to be included within the forthcoming procurement exercise. It will also ensure an adequate mobilisation period for any new services.

2. To do nothing

This is not a viable option due to the significant benefits of Local Authorities investing in Domestic Violence and Abuse Services bring, these include:

- Supporting the reduction in the rate of Domestic Violence and Abuse;
- Contributing factor to the reduction in health and wellbeing inequalities; and
- Prevention work that reduces the public services costs of Domestic Violence and Abuse.

Reasons for Recommendation:

The proposal is to establish a single provider model for eligible people within Lincolnshire who will benefit from domestic abuse services support.

1. Appointing a single provider for Outreach Services on a county wide basis will enable the service to be more flexible in terms of responding to and managing demand, delivering a more consistent service in terms of delivery and contract management and provide more resilience and effective use of a stretched budget. The IDVA Service will also form part of this procurement as there are clear synergies between this service and the Outreach. There will also be one provider on a countywide service for IDVA although it will be tendered as a separate lot to ensure a distinct focus on the service and the different funding arrangements constituting a separate contract. Providers will be invited to bid for one or both lots.
2. A holistic countywide approach to the service based on risk will aid in better meeting the Service Users needs. Delivering through a single provider model has indicated improved performance and consistency. It also ensures that the contract package is viable, sustainable and attractive to the market. This is essential considering the market is very limited. Whilst it is the intention to contract with one provider effective referral mechanisms with partner organisations will ensure that the service is enhanced and that services delivered are appropriate throughout the Service Users support.
3. Service provision under the current legal agreement has delivered required outcomes however it is considered that by exposing this service to competition it will provide the opportunity to enhance services. A review, possible revision and clarity around the scope of the current specification may enable further efficiencies. It is also expected that the market and stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of the procurement process will encourage partnership working providing bespoke solutions to delivery.
4. The alternatives considered have been deemed unacceptable in delivering the required outcomes of the service.

1. Background

1.1 Domestic Abuse Profile

The Home Office (2013) definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- Psychological / emotional abuse
- Physical violence
- Physical restriction of freedom
- Sexual violence
- Financial abuse

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person sub-ordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Although domestic abuse can affect anyone, some groups are disproportionately likely to become victims of domestic abuse. Women, young people and people who suffer from a long-term illness or disability that limits their activity are all at significant risk of DA victimisation.

It is shocking to note that in this country 2 women are killed every week by a current or former partner and 30 men are killed each year. In Lincolnshire in 2015-2016 over 10,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to Lincolnshire Police. There were 875 victims who were at high risk of serious harm or death referred into the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) by partner agencies in 2015-2016. Since the introduction of the Statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews in April 2011 there have been 9 cases involving 13 deaths that have met the criteria for a domestic homicide review in Lincolnshire.

It has been reported that in the year before getting effective help from services, nearly a quarter (23%) of victims at high risk of serious harm or murder, and one in ten victims at medium risk, went to accident and emergency departments because of their physical injuries. In the most extreme cases, victims reported that they attended A&E 15 times.

Research cited by the World Health Organisation (WHO) states that violence doesn't just have an immediate effect on a victims health, which in some cases is

fatal, but that physical, mental and behavioural health consequences can persist long after the violence has stopped. In addition to immediate physical injuries from assault, domestic abuse (DA) victims can suffer chronic pain, eating problems, anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression.

Including the cost to public services, economic output and the human and emotional costs, domestic abuse is estimated to cost society £15,730 million (Walby, S., 2009, The Cost of Domestic Violence: Up-date).

1.2 Lincolnshire County Council currently commissions Domestic Abuse Support Services in Lincolnshire. The current services comprise: Outreach support for adult victims and their children, IDVA and Refuge provision.

1.3 Adult Care, Public Health division currently fund both Outreach services and Refuge provision. The Outreach services consist of four contracts delivered by three different providers as detailed below. The contracts were let with a 2.5 year initial term and the option to extend by two years (1 + 1). The Refuge provision is delivered by two providers and is a 3 + 1 + 1 contract. The IDVA service is currently funded by Safer Communities. The service is delivered by one provider and was let as a 2.5 year plus 2 additional years extended on a 1+1 basis. Both the Outreach services and the IDVA services are reaching the end of their maximum contract length. Funding has been agreed by Adult Care and Safer Communities to re-commission these services. The Refuge contracts are part of the Housing Related Support services. They will reach the end of their initial term on 30th of June 2018.

1.4 The current providers and funding arrangements for each element of the service is set out in the table below:

Service	Provider	Budget per annum and Budget Directorate
Domestic Abuse Outreach Services East Lindsey	Nottingham Community Housing Association (NCHA)	£133,000 Adult Care, Public Health
Domestic Abuse Outreach Services Boston and South Holland	Boston Mayflower	£133,000 Adult Care, Public Health
Domestic Abuse Outreach Services Lincoln and West Lindsey	West Lindsey Domestic Abuse Services (WLDAS)	£133,000 Adult Care, Public Health
Domestic Abuse Outreach Services North Kesteven and South Kesteven	West Lindsey Domestic Abuse Services (WLDAS)	£133,000 Adult Care, Public Health
Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA)	West Lindsey Domestic Abuse Services (WLDAS)	£200,000 Safer Communities
Refuge Provision Louth	Nottingham Community Housing Association (NCHA)	£61,650 Adult Care, Public Health
Refuge Provision Lincoln	West Lindsey Domestic Abuse Services (WLDAS)	£134,000 Adult Care, Public Health

1.5 It is the intention that the Outreach and IDVA elements of the services are included within the scope of the domestic abuse services re-procurement. It is proposed

that these services will be tendered in two separate lots with the option for providers to bid for one or both lots. Through the mapping of existing services, gap analysis work and consultation with Children's Services it is proposed that a targeted Children's service, which will include one to one therapeutic interventions, will form part of Lot 1 Outreach Services. The budgets in respect of the re-procurement of new services are as follows:

Lot 1 – Outreach Domestic Abuse Services, which will include the targeted Children's element, £590,000 per annum.

Lot 2 – IDVA £250,000 per annum.

1.6 Also considered was the option of including the Refuge Housing Related Support contracts within this procurement. It is considered however that it is not a suitable time for these services to form part of this re-procurement scope for the following reasons:

- The timeframe does not allow for further exploration in respect of all the advantages, disadvantages and potential impact of including these services. Discussions with the current providers and potentially landlords would need to be undertaken. As this is a very limited market, there is concern if these services are within the scope of this procurement there may be little or no interest from the market and it may deter some Providers from bidding if included within the lots of either Outreach or IDVA. The Project Team were particularly mindful that there were no bids received last time for the Lincoln Refuge Contract.
- It is proposed that Outreach and IDVA are tendered as separate lots, there is therefore the potential that these services are awarded to different providers, if this is the case which contract the Refuge provision would best align with would need to be determined.
- If we tendered the Refuge Contracts as two additional separate lots within this procurement we may not gain any benefits of synergy for either the Outreach or IDVA contracts as they could potentially be awarded to different providers.
- The Refuge Contracts are currently performing well under the accommodation based contracts. The objectives and outcomes of these services may be more appropriate. Further review is required in this respect which the reprocurement of the Outreach and IDVA does not allow for.
- More time would also be required to effectively review and revise the Refuge specifications and contract management framework which again this reprocurement does not allow for.

1.7 The Joint Targeted Area of Inspection of the Multi-Agency Response to Abuse and Neglect in Lincolnshire was considered in the drafting of this report, specifically the gap in provision of services for adult perpetrators of domestic abuse who fall outside of the criminal justice system. It was determined that it would not be appropriate to include any such services within this reprocurement for the following reasons:

- The Domestic Abuse Support Service Providers are experienced in dealing with victims and do not necessarily have the skills and expertise of delivering perpetrator services.
- A Perpetrators Programme would be better aligned with other services and areas of work, such as the Police Transformation Fund 'Change that Lasts'

Project and Assisting Rehabilitation through Collaboration (ARC). To commission a perpetrator services without sufficient consultation could result in duplication or the undermining of work that is already being undertaken.

- For standard risk perpetrator programmes there is a lack of nationally available evaluated effective practice on which to base commissioning decisions. Therefore Lincolnshire will need to consider carefully across partner organisations what is commissioning and how its delivered. This work is currently underway and being led by the Safer Communities Directorate.

Strategic Drivers

1.8 These contracts contribute towards meeting the aims of the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategic Management Board which are:

- Reducing the number of people in Lincolnshire who experience domestic abuse.
- Reducing the length and severity of abuse for victims.
- Reducing the number of perpetrators of domestic abuse through prevention and criminal justice interventions.
- Developing a culture in the County that never tolerates domestic abuse.

1.9 Domestic abuse has a significant impact upon the communities and public services of Lincolnshire. Estimates from the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) suggest that 1 in 15 adults aged between 16 and 59 years suffered at least one incident of domestic abuse in 2013/14. This meant that during 2013/14 alone there were more than 25,500 victims of domestic abuse in Lincolnshire.

1.10 CSEW figures suggest that only 1 in 3 victims of abuse reported their most recent incident to somebody in an 'official position', while for every victim who reported their abuse to the police there was another victim who did not tell anybody about their abuse (not even family or friends).

1.11 On average there are over 10,000 domestic abuse incidents reported to Lincolnshire Police every year. Of these, 6,500 are standard risk incidents, equivalent to around 3 in 5 domestic abuse incidents reported. A quarter of domestic abuse incidents are graded as medium risk while only 8% are high risk. The number of high and medium risk incidents has remained stable since 2010; however standard risk incidents have been on a steady increase.

The Invitation to Tender Document (ITT)

1.12 The ITT will include the following:

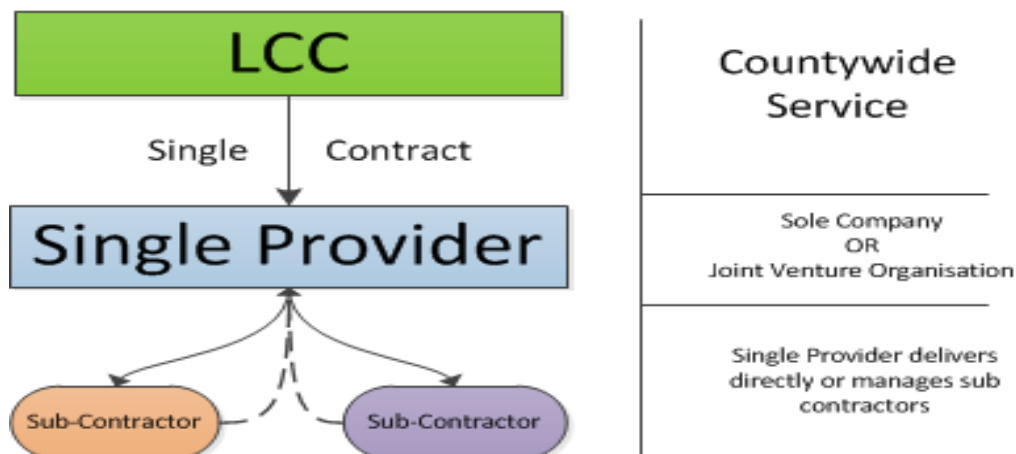
- A revised specification will be drafted incorporating recommendations made in the Service Review; key findings and lessons to be learned from Domestic Homicide Reviews, subsequent service user and other stakeholder interviews and benchmarking;
- A specification that is clear in scope, interpretation and expectations;
- Feedback from the market and stakeholder consultation;
- Bespoke terms and conditions;
- Appropriate award and evaluation criteria;

- A realistic, appropriate and robust performance management framework; and
- An emphasis on partnership working and effective referral/signposting mechanism.

Commercial Model

- 1.13 Evidence collected on the current service indicates that where provision has taken place it has been to a good standard. The single provider model with an emphasis on delivery of outcomes will help ensure that the future contract is sustainable.
- 1.14 Whilst the Council will be contracting with a single provider, the market engagement has indicated that the delivery model may include consortium partnership or sub contractual arrangements. In this case the single provider will be responsible for the management of all partners or/and subcontractors. The delivery capability and cohesiveness of any proposed partnership arrangement will also form part of the tender evaluation.

Single provider structure



- 1.15 In determining a single provider the service model depends upon a number of factors:

Cost & Duration

- 1.16 A core principle of the Single Provider model is that a commitment of demand creates a strong commercial base for a provider and as such will help support them to deliver better value back to the Council. Similarly by guaranteeing this demand for a long period of time this would further strengthen a provider's ability to establish a sound base of business. This commitment will increase economies of scale for a provider and providers it may wish to sub contract to, as well as allow them to build better business plans, optimise resources, better manage recruitment and the opportunity to plan reablement routes better, thus improving efficiency and lowering costs.

Competition

- 1.17 Exposing the service to the open market will help to encourage improved value for money through quality, innovation, possible reduction in costs and the added value any potential providers may bring.

Risk and flexibility

- 1.18 In addition to this the Council should also give regard to the resulting balance of risk that follows from awarding the contract to a single provider. The Council will seek assurance and conduct due diligence through its procurement processes to ensure the single provider has the capacity to deliver the volume of hours and scope required in the service specification. These assurances will increase the Council's ability to manage risk as well as provide greater flexibility of service provision..

Tender process

- 1.19 A key phase in the procurement will be in how organisations are assessed and qualified at the tender stage. As previously stated it is essential that the single provider or any organisation the provider sub contracts work to will be able to deliver the required volume and outcomes. The Council must therefore have a clear understanding of the level of financial and business capacity a tenderer must have before being allowed to proceed to bid. This must be set at a level that represents an acceptable assessment of the level of risk as well as not being unreasonably burdensome and therefore restricting consortia bids.
- 1.20 The Procurement is being undertaken in accordance with regulations 74 to 76 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 under "Light Touch Regime" utilising an Open Procedure method. The ultimate decision as to which provider is awarded the single provider status will be based on their evaluation performance.
- 1.21 ITT evaluation will focus on service quality and the capability of the single provider and any organisations they may wish to form sub contracting arrangements with to deliver the required volume and quality outcomes across the county set against clearly defined financial budgetary controls.

Scope

- 1.22 The full scope for these new arrangements are being developed, provider engagement and service user consultation has been undertaken to gain market intelligence and stakeholder feedback in terms of key aspects of future services.

The main aspects of the outreach service are currently understood as follows:

- Delivery of a Domestic Abuse Support Service to work with standard and medium risk victims (as assessed using the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH 2009) risk assessment tool) of domestic abuse across the county.
- A service that will be available to both male and female adult (16 years and upwards) victims of domestic abuse. The service will also support non abusive parents and their children who have been impacted by domestic abuse.

- A service that will enable all victims of domestic abuse to live their lives free of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence, abuse, or even death by delivering an early intervention which:
 - Is timely
 - Risk assesses and produces safety plans with all victims of domestic abuse who engage with the service
 - Assesses the emotional health and wellbeing of victims and help to make improvements through support
 - Empowers victims to move forward and make positive, healthy, and safe choices about their future
 - Works with victims to have healthy relationships in the future.
 - Works with children and young people affected by domestic abuse to help them stay safe
 - Helps children and young people understand their experiences and that domestic abuse is not acceptable and should not be tolerated
 - Works in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council and other key stakeholders to maximise referrals to the service
 - Ensures victims are able to access appropriate services in a timely and safe way
 - Increases reporting of domestic abuse. This will be measured by the number of referrals to the service including self-referrals and the number of incidents reported to the police and referrals made to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
 - Measures the number of repeat incidents of domestic abuse and reduce them.

The key outcomes for the service user (where appropriate) will be:

- An early intervention;
- Improved safety (determined through DASH risk assessment tool);
- An end to the experience of domestic abuse and the development of skills to move forward
- Young people supported to have healthy relationships in the future
- Supported to address any mental health conditions
- Supported to achieve improved emotional wellbeing and personal resilience
- Supported to address drugs and alcohol misuse
- Supported to address self-harming behaviour
- Supported to manage risk of harm from other.
- Supported through court
- Supported to obtain a civil injunction
- Supported through a civil court case about their children.

The service provider is expected to provide the following key activities:

- Assess each service user using the DASH assessment tool
- Produce a safety plan for each service user
- Review safety plans on a regular basis
- Adopt a caseload management system to include regular reviews of open cases to ensure that they are progressing and are not kept open long term.
- One to one support both face to face and over the telephone
- Provide group programmes e.g. Freedom programmes
- Provide drop in sessions
- Potentially provide out-of-hours support
- Attendance at multi-agency meetings where appropriate.
- Manage demand by providing a flexible service.

The aim of the proposed targeted Children's element of the services is set out below:

- To deliver packages of evidence-based 1:1 and group therapeutic interventions specifically targeting domestic abuse that focus on the needs of the child, taking into account factors such as age and vulnerability.
- To develop close partnership working with relevant services, to support children, young people and non-abusive parents who have been referred to the Service and are receiving support.

1.23 The IDVA service will provide advice, information, advocacy and support to high risk male and female victims of domestic abuse living in Lincolnshire about the range, effectiveness and suitability of options to reduce their risk and ensure their safety and that of their children and vulnerable associates.

The main aspects of the IDVA service are currently understood as follows:

The service provided will assist service users to access all the necessary support from partner agencies to minimise the risk they face, enhance their safety and rebuild positive lives. The majority of the time the IDVA will work in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council, District Councils, Police, Health Services, Probation Service, and local third sector support services.

The IDVA will work with the service user from the point of crisis, often after a police call out, an attendance at Accident and Emergency, or through intervention from child or adult services. For the first time, this contract will see the development of IDVA provision within local hospital services, to respond to women and men who disclose abuse. By intervening at this stage further harm to victims and their children could be avoided, and wider and more detrimental costs to services could be minimised.

The primary objective of the service will be to ensure the safety of the victim, and will:

- Focus on risk and risk management
- Directly work with the victims; in this instance, victims of domestic abuse
- Provide advice and support to enable victims to access a range of legal and non-legal services and resources
- Engage proactively in multi-agency work, ultimately to help victims and their children move safely towards living violence and abuse free lives

The key aims of the IDVA service are:

- To increase the safety of identified high risk victims and their child(ren) and other vulnerable associate
- To work from a point of crisis to address and reduce risk, offering short to medium term support
- To ensure the increased health and wellbeing of identified high risk victim and their child(ren) and other vulnerable associates
- To ensure that the views of identified high risk victims are represented at the MARAC
- To provide appropriate information, advice and support to identified high risk victims in relation to civil and criminal justice system, contributing to successful court outcomes

- To work with identified high risk victims of domestic abuse, to enable them to access the services they need (e.g. health, housing etc) in the aftermath of the abuse
- To reduce repeat victimisation
- To reduce violent crime

Market Engagement and Feedback

1.24 A Prior Information Notice was published on 7th July 2015. This initiated a process of pre-tender market engagement. Feedback gained from this process has provided an understanding of the market's preferred approach to a number of important issues impacting on the commercial model, including the contract duration, market capacity, budget viability, scope of services and gaps, contract attractiveness and mobilisation.

The results of this engagement exercise are summarised below:

- The contract duration proposed of 3 +1+1 was acceptable to all.
- The single provider model will more likely have to involve a partnership of providers in order to deliver the Outreach services on a countywide basis.
- Whilst the providers do bid for additional funding streams these tend to only plug gaps on a short terms basis and it very time intensive so would not want to see this as a requirement within any future contracts.
- In terms of contract mobilisation whilst three months would have been preferred, between 8 – 10 weeks is viable.

Procurement implications

1.25 The Procurement is being undertaken in accordance with regulations 74 to 76 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 under "Light Touch Regime" utilising an Open Procedure method.

1.26 It is the intention to issue a OJEU Notice for publication on 5th February 2018 and a Contract Award Notice will be issued on any award to a successful bidder.

1.27 In undertaking the procurement the Council will ensure the process utilised complies fully with the EU Treaty Principles of Openness, Fairness, Transparency and Non-discrimination.

1.28 The procurement process shall conform with all information as published and set out in the OJEU Notice.

1.29 All time limits imposed on bidders in the process for responding to the OJEU Notice and Invitation to Tender will be reasonable and proportionate.

Public Services Social Value Act

1.30 In January 2013 the Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force. Under the Act the Council must before starting the process of procuring a contract for services consider two things. Firstly, how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic social and environmental wellbeing of its area. Secondly, how in conducting the process of procurement it might act with a view to securing that improvement. The Council must only consider matters that are relevant to the services being procured and must consider the extent to which it is proportionate in

all the circumstances to take those matters into account. In considering this issue the Council must be aware that it remains bound by EU procurement legislation which itself through its requirement for transparency, fairness and non-discrimination places limits on what can be done to achieve these outcomes through a procurement.

- 1.31 Ways will be explored of securing social value through the way the procurement is structured. The operation of sub-contracting and consortium arrangements will be explored as a means of ensuring a role for local small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the delivery of the services. Evaluation methodologies will be explored so as to incentivise the delivery of a skilled and trained workforce.
- 1.32 Under section 1(7) of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 the Council must consider whether to undertake any consultation as to the matters referred to above. The service and the value it delivers is well understood. Best practice recently adopted elsewhere has been reviewed. This and the market and other stakeholder consultation, including Service Users, carried out is considered to be sufficient to inform the procurement. It is unlikely that any wider consultation would be proportionate to the scope of the procurement.

Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

- 1.33 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- * Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
 - * Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
 - * Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 1.34 The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.
- 1.35 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- * Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic
 - * Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
 - * Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low
- 1.36 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities

- 1.37 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding
- 1.38 Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others
- 1.39 The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process

The key purpose of the service is to enable all those individuals who are in need of help and support suffering from Domestic Abuse to live more safe, independent and healthier lives. In that sense the delivery of the service helps to advance equality of opportunity. The providers' ability to provide services which advance equality of opportunity will be considered in the procurement and providers will be obliged to comply with the Equality Act.

An Impact Assessment has been completed for the domestic abuse support services procurement which addresses the risk of adverse impact on service users which can be found at Appendix A. The potential for adverse impact would arise from removing or reducing the service. However, the proposal maintains the service in place and has the potential to enable improvements and increase in services.

A change of provider will impact on persons with a protected characteristic arising out of the employment impact on staff. The staff employed by the current provider will be affected by the termination of the current grant agreement. Mitigating factors will relate to the legal protections that will be in place through TUPE and general employment laws. The contract that will be entered into will also contain clauses requiring the contractor to comply with the Equality Act.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

- 1.40 The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision

The JSNA key message in respect of domestic abuse is that violence doesn't just have an immediate effect on victim's health, which in some cases is fatal. The physical, mental and behavioural health consequences can persist long after the violence has stopped. Including the cost to public services, economic output and the human and emotional costs, domestic abuse is estimated to cost society £15.73 billion per year (based on a 2009 report). This is considered within the alternative options of doing nothing and also the prevention agenda in terms of reducing the perpetrators which is identified as an aim of the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategic Management Board.

The JSNA also states that reported incidents of domestic abuse have increased by 36% from 2008/2009 to 2014/2015 and that 70% of the incidents reported to Police since 2011 have occurred in the eastern districts. The recommendations contained within this report

include a countywide service which will be demand led and allow for a more flexible, resilient and consistent service.

The JHWS has priorities which include promoting healthier lifestyles and specifically minimise the impact of long term health conditions of people's mental health. These services would directly contribute to these priorities.

Crime and Disorder

1.41 Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area

This report considers not only the direct prevention of the crime but also the better integration of services on a countywide level, complementing each other and based upon risk. The partnership working with the Police is enhanced through the inclusion of the IDVA service working on cases that are assessed as high risk through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

2. Conclusion

2.1 Through undertaking a procurement exercise for Domestic Abuse Support Services, as detailed within the paper, the Council will improve service quality, ensure value for money and most importantly secure a vital service to those who are suffering from domestic abuse.

2.2 The focus of the procurement will be to establish a single provider for the county that will be able to fully meet the quality requirements set out by the council, guarantee that they are able to properly meet demand within budget and manage the subcontractor market effectively if appropriate.

3. Legal Comments:

The Council has the power to enter into the contract proposed. The legal considerations that must be taken into account in reaching a decision are set out in detail in the Report.

The decision is consistent with the Policy Framework and within the remit of the Executive Councillor if it is within the budget.

4. Resource Comments:

The current Domestic Abuse Support Services (DASS) have been in place since October 2013 with existing arrangements due to expire as of 31 July 2018. This report seeks approval for the re-procurement of DASS related services and delegates to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Safer Communities with the authority to determine the final form of the contract and to approve the award of the contract. I can confirm that the proposals are consistent with current Financial Procedures and relevant Schemes of Authorisation.

5. Consultation

Has The Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

Has The Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

Scrutiny Comments

This Report will be considered by the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 23 January 2018, the Committee's comments will be passed on to the Executive Councillor.

Has a Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Yes

Risks and Impact Analysis

See the body of the Report and Appendix A

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	The Equality Impact Assessment

7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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