

Proposal: PATHWAY PROJECT (Domestic Abuse Service) March 2017

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1 Summary

The Pathway Project ('Pathway') brings together in a coordinated way the key services required to develop a "coordinated community response" (CCR) to addressing domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders.

The project has three main elements –

- 1) the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support (DAAS) service
- 2) the Domestic Abuse Community Support (DACS) service
- 3) the CEDAR Groupwork programme.

The DAAS service receives referrals for all victims but actively works and case manages the highest risk victims working to risk assess and safety plan with victims, providing crisis intervention, advocacy and referral on to DACS.

The DACS service is the long term support, community outreach service, commissioned to Children1st and provides practical and emotional support to adults and children. This service works with the medium to low risk cases, across the five localities in the Scottish Borders

The CEDAR Workgroup programme delivers a 12 week groupwork programme for mothers and their children to recover from and rebuild their lives after domestic abuse

The main funded outcome for the Pathway:

More individuals who are affected by domestic abuse in the Scottish Borders have increased access to a more comprehensive range of support services.

The current funding for the Pathway project ends in March 2017.

The Big Lottery have agreed in principle to consider a Stage 2 application from Scottish Borders Council with a clear set of criteria to support a successful award:

- A funding bid no more than £449,000, over a minimum of three years
- An increase in partner agency contributions and a clear direction of travel in moving to a more sustainable funding model for the Pathway project

This funding must be match funded. It was requested that the ICF provide part of this match funding. Executive Management Team agreed to support the funding allocation from the Integrated Care Fund as per their discussion on 2nd December 2016.

Update: 9th March 2016 – CONFIDENTIAL – Big Lottery have verbally confirmed that they will award SBC £449,000 over three years

2 Reasons

There is clear evidence of continued need for the DAAS and DACS services to enable Scottish Borders to maintain a coordinated community response to addressing domestic abuse. Domestic

abuse incidents reported to Police Scotland have increased year on year, with 904 incidents reported in 2015/16.

Referrals to the DAAS service have also increased year on year with 60% of all referrals coming from Police Scotland. There were a total of 1544 referrals (2012-16) with 30% of these assessed as high risk. DAAS delivered a children/young people's service till 2015, and this supported, face to face, 179 children.

DACS supported 138 adult victims and 67 children/young people over the same period. There were 64 children and their mothers attending and completing CEDAR Groupwork between 2012 and 2016.

The current funding for the Pathway project ends in March 2017.

3 Strategic Alignment

We will make services more accessible and develop our communities.

The Pathway project delivers support via a range of interventions, including telephone based support, face to face, groupwork. Support can take the form of risk assessments, safety plans, information, advice and signposting. Supporting victims with multiple and complex needs is a core tenet of the Pathway in recognition that not all victims can access support due to factors such as age, disability, rural isolation, ethnicity, sexuality etc. Face to face work is delivered in a locality easily accessed by victims and their families.

We will improve prevention and early intervention.

All referrals received by DAAS are responded to within a 24hour period of any police incident, or 48 hours of any partner agency referrals. Standardised risk assessments and safety planning identifies quickly ways to ensure victims are safer, and these are reviewed weekly. Early engagement with services has been shown to significantly reduce further risk of harm as it avoids minimisation of risk by the victim

We will reduce avoidable admissions to hospital.

There is no direct evidence that engaging with pathway services directly avoids hospital admissions but victims report less physical violence and therefore potentially fewer visits to hospital. There is no data collection that ties up admissions to hospital directly with the impact of support from Pathway services

We will provide care close to home.

Pathway services strive to ensure that travel for victims is minimised and often accessing support is risky for some victims, therefore good partnership working with health/GP surgeries enables creativity in planning face to face meetings

We will seek to enable people to have more choice and control.

All support work in the Pathway is delivered from the ethos of empowerment, choice and taking control, these are the key principles of advocacy and domestic abuse work

We will further optimise efficiency and effectiveness.

An external evaluation of Pathway detailed ways in which more effective use of time, resources can be achieved e.g. use of database, telephone support, groupwork. Training staff to increase resilience within small teams improves efficiency in light of resilience issues

We will seek to reduce health inequalities.

Pathway services are delivered from an understanding that gender inequality is both a cause and consequence of domestic abuse, and that in order for recovery to begin, victims and their families are afforded safety in the first instance and then within a trauma recovery model, are supported to move on, reconnect and reintegrate into their communities. The health inequalities that exist are clearly identified in support plans, safety plans and long term goals for victims

We want to improve support for Carers to keep them healthy and able to continue in their caring role

Domestic abuse victims in a caring role have significantly complex and multiple needs, whether caring for a child, parent or the person causing risk. Long term work, helping the carer “see” the difference between abuse, control and caring impact can improve their coping mechanisms.

4 Options

The funding model created for Pathway 2 (2017-20) has been designed to ensure funders are clear about their contribution, we move reliance away from external funding, and build a strong foundation for sustaining services long term. The Pathway 2 model for the next three years is also based on an External Evaluation, which identified gaps in the current provision.

Exit strategies for services are developed, and until a final decision is received from Big Lottery (March 2017) and Scottish Government (May/June 2017), current service provision will continue on a month –on-month basis.

Use the Integrated Care Fund to part fund the match funding required - £120k over 3 years

5 Expected benefits

Outcome 1

Survivors of domestic abuse feel safer, better supported and more resilient by having increased access to new and improved support services.

Outcome 2

Survivors of domestic abuse feel more supported and empowered to influence and shape services to meet their needs.

6 Expected dis-benefits

There are no expected dis-benefits

7 Risk

The big lottery funding and Scottish Government funding may not be approved, however, there is potential to use ICF funding and other partner agency funding to continue elements of Pathway 2.

8 Cost

A Pathway Project Board, established in August, proposed the following funding arrangements which have been submitted with the Stage 2 application:

Integrated Care Fund £120,000 over 3 years (this equates to £20k a year for both SBC & NHS)

Borders Housing Alliance	£30,000	
Police Scotland	£45,000	
Children1st	£51,000	
Scottish Government	£120,000	application March 2017
Big Lottery	£449,000	confirmed

9 Timescales

Funding decisions expected in March 2017. The project is already running, so will continue and run for the following 3 years.

10 Sustainability

A full scale review of domestic abuse services will commence in 2017/18 with the aim of ensuring sustainable funding solutions for the range of services at local level.

11 Equality Impact Assessment

No changes to services currently provided.