

Approved By:	Classification of Paper: Not Protectively Marked
Report to PCC	Report reference number PCC/ 0032/15
Date of Decision 11 March 2015	Area of County/Stakeholders affected Countywide
Title of report PCC Victims Fund – Provision of specialist sexual abuse services in 2015-16	
Report by Greg Myddelton	
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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £441,547 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the Victims Fund to specialist sexual violence support service providers; South Essex Rape & Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC), Southend-on-Sea Rape Crisis (SoSRC) and Centre for Action on Rape & Abuse (CARA), whose activities will contribute to the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan for Essex.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of the 2015-16 victims' commissioning fund grant to service providers for the delivery of specialist sexual violence support services across Essex, Southend & Thurrock, including the expansion of these services into West Essex.

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1. To support sustainability of the existing Rape Crisis Centre's provision and extend service provision in the West of Essex from April 2015. The funding is to:
- develop 'wraparound' sexual violence services to include West Essex where there has previously an absence of specialist provision.
 - continue to support the new Ministry of Justice Rape Crisis Centre; Southend-on-Sea Rape Crisis (SoSRC)
 - increase the sustainability of service provision in the existing Rape Crisis Centres based in Colchester and Thurrock.

- identify gaps experienced by sexual violence victims trying to access support service in Essex

3.2 The funding will be broken-down as follows;

Organisation	Value
South Essex Rape & Incest Crisis Centre (SERRIC)	£172,254
Centre for Action on Rape & Abuse (CARA)	£189,693
Southend-on-Sea Rape Crisis (SoSRC)	£79,600
Total:	£441,547

Sheila @ SERRIC

4. **Background and proposal**

4.1. The three Essex Rape Crisis Centres provide independent, free, crisis and long-term specialist support, counselling and independent advocacy for victims who have experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives, whether recently and/or in the past. The three centres in Essex; CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse), SERRIC (South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre) and SOSRC (Southend On Sea Rape Crisis Centre) are autonomous organisations with their own governance. The Essex Rape Crisis Centres are independent from the police, criminal justice system, health or any other statutory agencies.

4.2. Specialist sexual violence services are a critical part of any local, regional or national strategy to reduce violence against women and girls in their area. Rape Crisis Centres play an important role in addressing the root causes of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) by raising awareness in their communities.

4.3. The intention of this grant-funding is to use existing specialist providers to stabilise the provision through 2015-16, whilst expanding services to cover the West of the County which previously has been devoid of specialist SV provision. The OPCC intends to use this opportunity to develop sufficient understanding of the needs of victims, and gain insight from the outputs of this provision, to be able to formally commission these services from 2016-17 onwards.

5. **Police and Crime Plan**

5.1. This proposal supports the PCC's vision and delivery of the following key areas of focus:

- Supporting our victims of crime
- Reducing Hidden Harm
- Ensuring local solutions meet local problems

6. **Police Operational Implications**

6.1 There are no operational implications

7. **Financial Implications**

7.1 The PCC would fund a £441,547 contribution to specialist rape crisis centre in Essex

Lindsay @ CARA

Publication

Reasons for non-publication (state 'None' if applicable)

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication

YES

NO

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.