

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		20 March 2019	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Clare Cleary - Housing	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Fiona Goodfellow, Housing Strategy & Policy Manager	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Domestic Abuse Services	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek authority to enter into a Grant Agreement with HARV (Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Domestic Abuse Service) to enable HARV to deliver domestic abuse support services to enhance the domestic abuse safe house provision and deliver a sanctuary scheme in Hyndburn.

2. **Recommendations**

I recommend that Cabinet:-

- 2.1 Agrees to the Council accepting grant funding of £96,619 - for safe house support and an amount to be determined (approx. £5k to £10k) to support a sanctuary scheme - from Lancashire County Council to enhance domestic abuse support services in the Borough
- 2.2 Delegates authority to the Head of Regeneration and Housing following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Housing Services to agree the terms of, and enter into a grant agreement with Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Domestic Abuse Service (HARV) to enable them to enhance their domestic abuse safe house provision and deliver a sanctuary scheme in Hyndburn.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 Lancashire CC in partnership with the 12 Lancashire district housing authorities and 11 domestic abuse service providers has been successful in securing a grant award of £1,249,947.00 across the county via a bid to MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government). This nationwide '2018 – 2020 *Fund for*

Domestic Abuse Services is for local areas to work collaboratively across local authority boundaries to strengthen domestic abuse provision. An additional £120,000 has been awarded that will help towards the delivery of sanctuary schemes. The funding is a one off grant payment for 18 months (October 2018 to end of March 2020).

- 3.2 Through this bid Hyndburn has secured an allocation of £96,619 to assist in the enhancement of the domestic abuse safe house provision in the Borough. Funding will be used by HARV to employ support workers which include a dedicated BME (Black Minority Ethnic) and Complex Needs Worker and a part time Family Support Worker to support families living in the safe houses and ensuring that victims from all sections of the community are able to access the provision.
- 3.3 HARV also manages and co-ordinates the Boroughs sanctuary scheme provision for victims of domestic abuse in Hyndburn. This support enables victims of domestic abuse to stay safe in their own homes through the provision of physical security measures including window and door locks, strengthening doors, emergency alarms etc. The grant funding will ensure this scheme continues.
- 3.5 The Council will enter into a grant agreement with HARV which will provide funding to HARV to enable it to deliver support to the residents in Hyndburn's safe houses and to deliver a sanctuary scheme to keep victims of domestic abuse safe and secure in their own homes.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no realistic alternative options. Both Hyndburn Borough Council and HARV supported the successful bid to MHCLG. HARV has provided the support to the residents in Hyndburn's safe house for the last 5 years and has delivered the sanctuary scheme in the Borough since 2006. This new funding will enable HARV to continue to deliver support to vulnerable victims of domestic abuse in the borough. As the funding is for 18 months only it does not seem reasonable or proportionate to look at grant funding other agencies that would have set up costs etc. The grant funding received will deliver the outcomes stated in the bid.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Consultations were undertaken across Lancashire through the Lancashire Domestic Abuse Forum prior to the bid being submitted.

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	A grant of £96,619 plus an amount for a sanctuary scheme (£5 - £10k) will be paid by LCC to the Council. This funding will be passed onto HARV by way of a grant agreement to support their activities in the Borough. Upon expenditure of this funding
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	any additional grant funded services provided by HARV will cease unless further funding can be obtained by HARV.
Legal and human rights implications	A grant agreement will be put in place between LCC and Hyndburn BC for the award of the funding to the Council. A grant agreement will be drawn up between Hyndburn BC and HARV to fund the delivery of the support services at the safe houses and the proposed sanctuary scheme.
Assessment of risk	The Council as grant funder will manage the risk of the money being misspent. The risks associated with the delivery of the services will be the responsibility of HARV as service provider. The grant agreement will make these responsibilities clear.
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Attached.

**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

- 7.1 Application to DCLG: 2018/20 Fund for Domestic Abuse Services' to help local areas meet the priorities for Domestic abuse Services. (August 2018)

8. Freedom of Information

- 8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.