

From: Matthew Scott, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Covid-19 Extraordinary Funding
Date: 8 September 2020



INTRODUCTION:

1. On 2 May 2020, the Government announced a package of £76m extra funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA), sexual violence (SV), vulnerable children and their families, as well as victims of modern slavery, during the Covid-19 emergency pandemic.
2. Of the £76m funding package, £25m was administered by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) with the funding being distributed via Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). £5m of this was provided to organisations already funded through the national Rape Support Fund; the table below shows how the remaining allocation was broken down by type of service for distribution by PCCs:

DA services already commissioned by PCCs	£10m
DA services not currently commissioned by PCCs	£5m
SV services already commissioned by PCCs and those not currently funded by PCCs	£5m

ELIGIBILITY:

3. To be eligible for the funding, organisations had to be a registered charity, a charitable incorporated organisation, or a social enterprise based in England or Wales delivering within a PCC's area.
4. As the funding was ringfenced, organisations also had to evidence that they provide tailored provision for DA and SV victims and their families.
5. The purpose of the funding was to support organisations meet the additional expenses or costs incurred (or that will be incurred) in adapting their services from 24 March (start of lockdown) to 31 October 2020, and to also cope with the increased demand resulting from Covid-19. For example, the funding could be used to:
 - address short term income disruption;
 - meet essential costs of sustaining activities, such as the purchasing of assets to support remote and digital working, or additional staff to cover those unable to work for reasons related to the pandemic; and
 - address increased demand, including adapting services to address user needs in light of Covid-19.
6. Organisations were not permitted to use the funding for:
 - the development of new projects or services not related to the Covid-19 response, for example designing technology platforms which would not be ready to deliver for the majority of the funding period;
 - campaigning activities;
 - religious activities outside of projects benefiting the wider community and not containing religious content;
 - political or lobbying activities;
 - loan repayments;
 - activities that make profit for private gain;
 - capital works (e.g. building repairs), but could be used for other capital costs such as ICT equipment to enhance communications and help reach local people;
 - goods or services bought or ordered before the 24 March 2020, start of lockdown; or
 - any outstanding debts, which an organisation incurred prior to 24 March 2020.
7. Organisations were also required to provide assurance that Covid-19 related costs could not be met from existing funding streams and that any spend committed to beyond 31 October 2020 would be met from their own funds.

8. To be eligible for:
- DA specific funding, the primary purpose of the organisation's service had to be to provide support to female and/or male victims who had experienced DA at any point in their life.
 - SV specific funding, the primary purpose of the organisation's service had to be to provide support to female and/or male victims who had experienced rape or sexual abuse at any point in their life.
- This could include adults and children and also support for existing clients as well as new referrals.
9. Types of eligible support that could receive funding included:
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) / Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs);
 - Children's IDVAs / Children's ISVAs;
 - court support;
 - face to face or remote counselling for individuals and/or their families; and
 - support for particular groups such as BAME/Disabled/LGBT victims.
10. The MoJ recognised that whilst PCCs already fund support services, it may be limited in some areas and, for this reason, required the process to be open to all DA and SV support services in the local area - whether or not currently funded - to ensure the broadest range of organisations could access the funding.

LOCAL ASSESSMENT:

11. PCCs had to undertake an assessment of need in relation to both DA and SV support services in their local area. They were required to ensure a number of general conditions were fulfilled:
- the process was open and transparent, and assessment criteria published;
 - the process was open to all relevant support organisations in the area – and encouraged applications from small specialist organisations supporting groups with protected characteristics;
 - there were named contact points in each PCC office for queries; and
 - the names of all organisations that requested funding, and those successful, would be published on completion of the process.
12. To ensure a fair assessment was made across all areas, PCCs had to establish the following as part of their needs assessment:
- if an organisation was currently funded by them;
 - if the organisation had lost income due to Covid-19 (e.g. a planned fundraising event not taking place);
 - if the organisation's existing contracts had been honoured by funders;
 - any additional income connected to Covid-19 that the organisation had received;
 - the organisation's reserve level compared to business as usual (was the organisation using reserves to keep running);
 - what additional costs the organisation had incurred due to lockdown from 24 March 2020; and
 - what anticipated additional costs due to lockdown the organisation expected to have until the end of October 2020.
13. PCCs were also required to ensure DA and SV organisations that provide tailored services for victims with protected characteristics were included when establishing local need, and were proportionately represented within funding allocations.
14. Once a PCC was satisfied that they had undertaken an effective assessment process and met the general conditions, they were required to provide a written statement to the MoJ. The statement had to confirm that the required process had been followed, include proposals for allocating the funding and also indicate whether there would be any underspend.
15. Whilst the MoJ were mindful of the independence of PCC's, in light of their expertise and that of their offices, the Victims' Commissioner and Domestic Abuse Commissioner fulfilled an advisory and oversight role throughout the process.

16. To support due diligence and fraud assessment checks, those organisations awarded funding by PCCs were subsequently required to provide the following additional information:
- their registered address and charity number or company number;
 - copies of their annual report and annual accounts;
 - confirmation of whether receiving support through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and/or the three-month VAT deferral;
 - confirmation as to whether, within the past five years the organisation or any other person with powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation had been convicted anywhere in the world of specified offences – as listed [if yes, further information requested];
 - whether the organisation, by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of any part of the UK or the legal provisions of the country in which the organisation is established (if outside the UK), has breached obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions [if yes, further information requested].
17. Due to the nature of the funding, the timeline for managing the entire process was short at just over four weeks from the MoJ issuing the relevant guidance to PCCs receiving payment.

KENT ALLOCATION:

18. The PCC was initially allocated £624,000. This indicative allocation was calculated using the population based formula currently used to determine victim grant funding.
19. However, the bids received were in excess of this amount and the MoJ agreed to increase the allocation to circa £640,000 based on the written statement and demonstration of need in the county.
20. The funding was ringfenced for Covid-19 related extraordinary funding, and then ringfenced again for spend on each of the three types of service; the funding could not be moved between types of service pots.
21. The following table shows Kent's indicative and actual allocation of funding across the three types of service:

	Indicative allocation	Actual allocation
DA services already commissioned by the PCC	£312,000.00	£327,978.40
DA services not currently commissioned by the PCC	£156,000.00	£156,402.40
SV services already commissioned by the PCC and those not	£156,000.00	£156,000.01
Total	£624,000.00	£640,380.81

22. Attached at Appendix A is an overview of those organisations that the PCC awarded funding to. In accordance with the funding conditions, [further information and relevant organisation details](#) are available on the Office of the PCC website.
23. The PCC is required to provide a full monitoring end of term report for the Covid-19 extraordinary funding at the end of the grant agreement period, and no later than the 30 November 2020. The MoJ will be providing the reporting template.
24. In August, the MoJ announced that they were rescinding the rule that any spend committed to beyond 31 October 2020 had to be met from the organisations own funds. Funding received through the allocations can now be used for expenditure incurred after 31 October and up to 31 March 2021. No further funding for this period has been provided by the MoJ.
25. The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank his Partnerships and Commissioning Team for expeditiously and effectively coordinating the process, securing additional funding for Kent and overseeing its subsequent allocation whilst managing their own personal circumstances during the challenging lockdown period.

Organisations awarded Covid-19 extraordinary funding

Organisation	Description	Service Provision	Commissioned by PCC?	Funding allocated
Rising Sun Domestic Violence & Abuse Service	Counselling/IDVA/Hospital IDVA/Advocacy & outreach/children & youth work/adolescent counselling	DA / SV	Yes	£49,779.86
Victim Support	Tailored support for DA and/or SV victims	DA / SV	Yes	£83,138.33
Dads Unlimited	Counselling/Mentoring/Family Court support/Advice & Guidance	DA	Yes	£8,555.09
Choices	Counselling/IDVA/Hospital IDVA/Advocacy & outreach/children & youth work	DA	Yes	£64,366.90
Family Matters	SV therapy – provision of sessional therapists	SV	Yes	£37,004.18
Look Ahead	Support community and refuge responses	DA	Yes	£18,096.22
Oasis Domestic Abuse Service	Phoenix Project: 10-week educational programme for people who have experienced abuse	DA	Yes	£32,427.58
Fresh Visions People Ltd	Individual and family trauma informed counselling for children and adults	DA	No	£59,520.00
Clarion Housing	Remote support for One Stop Shop and Refuge	DA	Yes	£30,482.36
East Kent Rape Crisis Centre	Support for remote working	SV	No	£3,205.00
DAVSS	Tailored holistic wrap around support for victims of DA in West Kent	DA	Yes	£56,489.28
Health Action (HACO)	The Hidden Truth Project: support group for African men in Medway who are victims of DA	DA	No	£10,405.40
Dandelion Time	Running costs & additional delivery of single-family sessions & take home packs to support vulnerable families	SV	Yes	£69,693.76
NSPCC	Letting the Future In: to facilitate remote working between practitioners and children/young people	SV	Yes	£1,934.84
SATEDA	Equipment to set up home working; overtime to meet demand; Zoom licences for remote support; additional clinical supervision; & online chat support service	DA	No	£61,637.00
The Mary Dolly Foundation	Counselling in refuges to support men & women affected by DA	DA	No	£24,840.00
CrimeStoppers	To set up and run an awareness campaign to encourage people to report DA anonymously	DA	Yes	£7,050.00
Restorative Solutions	To respond to increased demand for Adolescent to Parent Violence restorative justice	DA	Yes	£21,755.00
Total				£640,380.80