

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Rape Crisis</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder – Councillor Paul Kelly</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Martin Holt – Head of Healthy Communities</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Martin Holt – 01895 837354 – Martin.Holt@SouthBucks.gov.uk</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

To consider requests for funding for Rape Crisis (Wycombe, Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire)

### FOR DECISION

The Portfolio Holder with advice from the Policy Advisory Group is asked to consider the grant request outlined in the report and decide the level of funding that should be awarded.

## 2. Executive Summary

The Portfolio Holder has received the following request for funding:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Details of Request</b>	<b>Sustainable Community Strategy</b>	<b>Sum Requested</b>
Rape Crisis (Wycombe, Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire)	Revenue Funding to enable service delivery following the loss of funding from the Police Crime Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Community safety</li> <li>• Work with communities affected by the closure of services to deliver them in alternative way</li> <li>• Sustain and Grow a Thriving Voluntary and Community Sector</li> </ul>	A contribution to the organisations running costs

## 3. Reasons for Decision

Decisions to award funding to voluntary organisations are reserved to members.

## 4. Content of Report

### 4.1 Request from Rape Crisis (Wycombe, Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire)

4.2 Rape Crisis has advised the Council that its service delivery is at risk following the loss of funding from the Victim and Witness General Fund which was transferred from central government to the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

- 4.3 The OPPC tendered for a service delivering Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) which the Rape Crises service tendered for in association with other Rape Crisis specialists, but a Domestic Violence organisation was commissioned.
- 4.4 Rape Crisis had two accredited ISVA's funded through the home office and Bucks County Council, whom are still employed because of the volume of work.
- 4.5 Following the loss of contract Rape Crisis is faced with a shortfall in funding of £220,000 and has appealed to agencies to support its funding requests. The organisation has promises of £124,000 for 2016/17 and unless funding is found the service will close later in the financial year.
- 4.6 Informal discussions with the other local authorities in Buckinghamshire indicates that current funders are unable to increase any grant contribution to Rape Crisis at this time but that consideration could be given in future years.
- 4.7 South Bucks District Council currently does not fund Rape Crisis but within the shared service Chiltern District supports the organisation through its own budget allocation in return for a Service Level Agreement.
- 4.8 The organisation currently supports non abusing female and male partners, friends, relatives, and parents of victims as well as victims themselves. The organisation also supports educational campaigns, counselling, befriending, advocacy, drop in sessions, outreach, a helpline, emotional support and the ISVA service across Southern Bucks.
- 4.9 The ISVA service works in a multiagency setting to provide victims of sexual violence within and outside the criminal justice system including providing;
  - i. Risk assessments to ensure safety
  - ii. Enabling users to access their rights and health and other services
  - iii. Close working with police, witness unit, sexual assault referral centre and CPS
  - iv. Support through the criminal justice system
  - v. Attend and input into serious case reviews and multi-agency groups
- 4.10 It is proposed that South Bucks District Council supports the funding appeal from Rape Crisis through the award a grant or £4,000/annum on condition of a signed three year funded Service Level Agreement with a 12 month review.

## **5. Consultation**

Not Applicable

## **6. Options**

- a) There is currently an underspend in the Community Development Grant Scheme, it is proposed to vire funds to the subs and donations fund and award £4,000/annum subject to a three year SLA with a 12 month break clause being agreed.
- b) The Council could decline the funding request

## 7. Corporate Implications

### 7.1 Financial

There is currently a underspend of £12,951 in the Community Development Grant Scheme, it is recommended to vire £4,000 to the Subs and Donations scheme to enable this award to occur

### 7.2 Legal - No specific implications

## 8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- Improve Community safety
- Work with communities affected by the closure of services to deliver them in alternative way
- Sustain and Grow a Thriving Voluntary and Community Sector

## 9. Next Steps

Issue a service level agreement to Rape Crisis

<b>Background</b>	Grant applications.
<b>Papers:</b>	