



## Report for: Cabinet

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	October 26 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	London Borough of Harrow Domestic Abuse Service
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes - By virtue of spend, which is above £500,000.
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Alex Dewsnap Managing Director
<b>Portfolio Holder (s):</b>	Cllr Anjana Patel - Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure & Community Safety Cllr Pritesh Patel - Portfolio Holder for Adult Services & Public Health Cllr Hitesh Karia - Portfolio Holder for Children's Services Cllr Mina Parmar - Portfolio Holder for Housing
<b>Exempt:</b>	Public except for the listed appendices which are exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in that they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All wards
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1 - Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)  Exempt Appendices: Appendix 2 - Specification Lot 1 - Domestic Abuse Support Service Appendix 3 - Specification Lot 2 - Safe Accommodation Appendix 4 – Pricing template Lot 1 Appendix 5 - Pricing template Lot 2 Appendix 6 - Tender Evaluation Model

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## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

The London Borough of Harrow's contract for domestic abuse services expires in March 2024. This report seeks Cabinet approval to reprocure and award new contracts for the service.

### **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Approve the commencement of a competitive procurement for the domestic abuse service for a contract term of three years to run from the **1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027**.
2. Approve splitting the provision of the Domestic Abuse service into two procurement Lots:
  - Lot 1: Domestic Abuse Support Service: Strategic coordination and direct support to domestic abuse victims/survivors.
  - Lot 2: Safe Accommodation: Refuge Support and Management and Floating Support.
3. Following the tender process, delegate authority to the Interim Assistant Director Strategy and Partnerships (as the Acting Corporate Director of Resources post is vacant) following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Environment and Community Safety and Finance and Human Resources to award the contract(s) for both procurement lots in the new domestic abuse services.
4. Delegate authority to the Interim Assistant Director Strategy and Partnerships (as the Acting Corporate Director of Resources post is vacant) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Community Safety Finance and Human Resources to allow any changes ahead of the final publication of the Invitation to Tender (ITT).

### **Reason: (for recommendations)**

The combined value of the two contracts to deliver the service is in excess of £500,000. Therefore, Cabinet approval is required to re-procure the service.

## Section 2 – Report

### 1 Introductory Paragraph

- 1.1 The London Borough of Harrow’s contract for domestic abuse services expires in March 2024. This report sets out the rationale for splitting the Domestic Abuse service into two Lots and, inviting applications to tender for a contract to run the service. The total available budget for the new service is £1,328,636 for the 3-year contract length.
- 1.2 The value of the domestic abuse service contract is split between the two Lots. The Table below highlights the budget break down for each lot:

£1,328,636 Over 3 Years	DA Annual Budget	LOT 1 IDVA Service	Lot 2 Refuge and Floating Support
Year 1	£431,989	£335,859	£96,130
Year 2	£442,789	£344,255	£98,533
Year 3	£453,858	£352,862	£100,996

- 1.3 Hestia Housing and Support provide the current domestic abuse service contract. The service includes:

**Community based support** consists of the following:

- Five Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) to support survivors assessed as high-risk over 1-3 months. Co-located in a community setting, Adults Social Care, Childrens service MASH and at Wembley CSU
- One Full-time Domestic Abuse Case Worker to support survivors assessed as medium risk, provide additional capacity to the IDVAs and help manage demand.
- One Full-time Safety Planner co-located in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) within Children Services. The safety planner is responsible for conducting risk assessments for those referred via the First Response Team and Police Merlin reports. Provide safety plans for those assessed as standard risk and guide those assessed as high-risk survivors of abuse and their families to the IDVA service.
- Coordination of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), which reviews cases of abuse assessed as high-risk and secures input and support from statutory and non-statutory partners to ensure the victim’s safety.
- One Full-time Service Manager to oversee the service.
- One Full-time Domestic Abuse Intervention Complex Needs Worker co-located in Housing Services (commissioned separately)

***Support within safe accommodation*** consists of the following:

- A 6-bed refuge that accommodates up to twelve victims and their families per year, managed by one full-time refuge worker to provide wrap-around support and advice to victims and their children.
  - A Floating Support worker who provides housing and tenancy-related advice and emotional support to help prevent homelessness.
  - Part-time Refuge Manager to manage the refuge worker and floating support.
- 1.4 The service works in tandem with and signposts victims to other services provided by Council departments and externally through the voluntary and community sectors.
- 1.5 The service was last competitively commissioned in late 2015 for a contract period of four years (two years with the option to extend for a further two years to 2019). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Council and partners in tandem with the new Domestic Abuse Act coming live in April 2021, it became increasingly difficult to ascertain what domestic abuse services the Council would be responsible for commissioning. The cross-departmental project group recommended postponing the retendering exercise and awarding a direct contract to the incumbent service provider. Cabinet adopted this in July 2021, with the award period timed to allow for a re-design of the service specification, following the complete understanding of the implications of the Domestic Abuse Act. As a result, a direct award contract was made to Hestia Housing and Support for a period of 1 year and seven months, commencing on the 1st of September 2021 and ending on the 31st of March 2023. The total value of the contract was £536,850.
- 1.6 A further extension of the contract was granted in April 2023 for a 12-month period to allow for the undertaking of the recommissioning exercise. This included a robust market engagement and Survivor engagement process. We had gone out to tender in late 2022, however following an unsuccessful tender we have reviewed our service specification and are going out to tender with a new specification.

## **2 Options Considered**

### **2.1 Option 1:** Do nothing - allow the contract to end in March 2024.

This option is not recommended as domestic abuse has become an important local and national policy area. The Domestic Abuse Act came into force in April 2021. Therefore, discontinuing the service will create a gap in statutory and non-statutory provision which will be detrimental to adults, children and young people impacted by domestic abuse.

## 2.2 **Option 2:** Bring elements of the service in-house.

This option is not recommended for the following reasons:

- a) This would result in additional management resource and higher staff costs.
- b) The service requires extensive and specially trained staff, which does not currently exist in-house, as well as a high degree of objectivity and neutrality from the perspective of the victim.
- c) In addition, it would be challenging to mobilise an in-house service in the time available before the end of the existing contract term.

## 2.3 **Option 3:** Continue with a single contract for service provision, incorporating both the Domestic Abuse Support Service and Support in Safe Accommodation.

This option is not recommended for the following reasons:

- a) The market engagement undertaken in 2023 has indicated several potential service providers with the capacity and interest to engage in the procurement process. This engagement also highlighted the ability of potential providers to bid for external funding and facilitate collaborative partnerships working.
- b) While a single provider responsible for the delivery of the whole contract would simplify the procurement process and contracting arrangements, there are risks associated with this approach. There is a heightened risk of delivering the entire domestic abuse service if a supplier underperforms or goes out of business.
- c) The tender would only be obtainable for suppliers delivering both the support service and support within safe accommodation. As a result, this could make the process less competitive.

## 2.4 **Option 4:** Separate the two critical elements of the service into two lots: Lot 1 being the Domestic Abuse Support Service and Lot 2 being Support in Safe Accommodation. This approach does not impact the budget for the service, which will remain at £1,328,636 over the three years and does not exclude any one supplier from bidding for and potentially being successful in winning both contracts.

There are several benefits to this approach.

- a) Not restricting the process to suppliers who can only provide the whole service broadens the scope of applicants, increasing competition and mitigating the risk that the Council might miss good quality bids (which we have tested with the market to verify).
- b) It supports small and medium sized enterprises by encouraging and enabling them to do business with the Council.

- c) Splitting the contract also spreads the risk associated with relying on one service provider and may increase resilience into the overall service delivery.

**Option 4 is recommended.** It should be noted that as the funding for the service has been set at £1,328,636 for 3 years. The competitive nature of the tender process will not be based on cost benefit but on the quality of the service that suppliers can provide for the funding envelope.

### 3 Background

#### 3.1 Profile of domestic abuse in Harrow

Complete data beyond April 2022 will not be available ahead of the Cabinet meeting in October 2023. This information is usually only requested annually for the Strategic Assessment.

The number of recorded domestic abuse offences in Harrow has fluctuated in the last three years. In 2018, the number of recorded domestic abuse offences was 1,791 in April 2018; this rose to 2,254. In April 2022 and went down in April 2023 1,978. Police crime data for 2019/2022 shows that the number of incidents across the borough has remained stable at an average of 3,000 annually. However, there was a sharp increase in incidences of domestic abuse following the introduction of COVID-19 measures in 2022. There has been an upward trend in incidents flagged as domestic since November 2020. However, there has been a downward trend in the proportion of domestic offences resulting in injury – from 26% (July '22) to 20% (June '23)<sup>1</sup>

- Most survivors of domestic abuse in the borough were female (74%). Men made up 24%.<sup>2</sup>
- Domestic abuse impacts all age groups, with 53% of survivors aged 25-44 and 24% of survivors aged 55-64 recorded as survivors of abuse. A further 4% were aged 65 plus. <sup>3</sup>
- The Police crime data for 2021 on the ethnic profile of survivors shows that Harrow's white population were impacted most by domestic abuse. The second largest group affected were Asian, followed by Black African and Caribbean.<sup>4</sup> (Police ethnicity data breakdown is limited and does not break down the Asian community profile any further)
- The main forms of domestic abuse experienced by survivors include Assault without Injury, Actual Bodily harm, and other Injury, Stalking and Harassment<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, Metropolitan Police Data June 2023

<sup>2</sup> Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, Metropolitan Police Data June 2023

<sup>3</sup> Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, Metropolitan Police Data June 2023

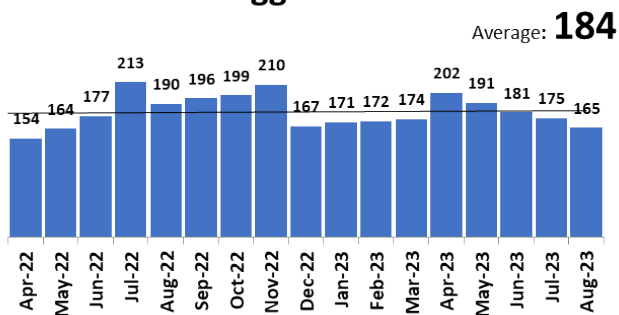
<sup>4</sup> Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, Metropolitan Police Data June 2023

<sup>5</sup> Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, Metropolitan Police Data June 2023

- Domestic abuse incidents have continued to increase. In April 2018 figures stood at 2,960 compared to June 2023 where they stood at 3,186.<sup>6</sup> However there have been some fluctuations.
- In March 2022 incidences stood at 2226 compared to 2183 in March 2023 rolling year. The number of flagged Domestic abuse offences in Harrow decreased by 2%.
- Compared to April 2021 and April 2022 rolling year, the number of flagged domestic offences in Harrow increased by 374. There were 2,195 offences for 12 months up to 2021 and 1,821 in 2019. This translates to a 1.48 rate increase.<sup>7</sup>
- In the 12 months until August 2023, the highest levels of flagged domestic crime occurred in Marlborough and Greenhill. The highest increases from August 2022 were in Headstone (+42) and Pinner (+45). In the 12 months until August 2023, the lowest levels of flagged domestic crime occurred in Belmont and West Harrow. The highest reductions from August 2022 are Edgware (-49) and West Harrow (-28).<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 1 : Number of domestic abuse offences in Harrow 2022-2023**

### All Domestic Flagged offences

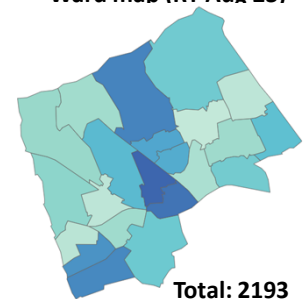


**Benchmark**  
(Aug RY)

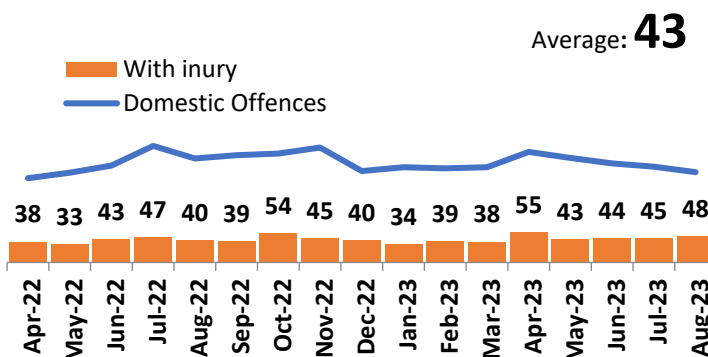
**8.7** - Harrow  
(offences per 1,000 pop)

**10.8** - London  
(offences per 1,000 pop)

**Ward map (RY Aug 23)**



### Domestic offences resulting in injury



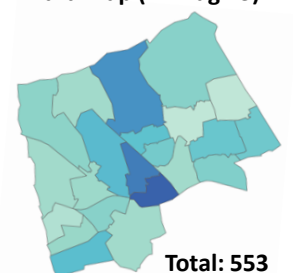
**Benchmark**

(Aug RY)

**2.1** - Harrow  
(offences per 1000 pop)

**2.7** - London  
(offences per 1000 pop)

**Ward map (RY Aug 23)**



<sup>6</sup>Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, Metropolitan Police Data June 2023

<sup>7</sup> Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, Metropolitan Police Data June 2023

<sup>8</sup> Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, Metropolitan Police Data June 2023

### 3.2 A Snapshot of the Referrals to the Current Domestic Abuse Service is:-

- The number of referrals to the IDVA service has seen an upward trend since 2017/2018, increasing from 354 to 649 in 2020-2021 and to 919 in March 2023
- Over half of all referrals to the service were from the MASH and other departments within Children's Services, followed by the Police.
- Most survivors referred to the service are female, with 4.7% of male survivors accessing the service.
- 7.8% of survivors were disabled.
- Services users with children made up 67% of the service.
- The service also provides support for those with no recourse to public funds who qualify for Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession However, the numbers are minimal at less than 1%.<sup>9</sup>
- The ethnic make-up of service users was evenly spread across white and non-white backgrounds, with 33% of service users of Asian origin, (Indian Subcontinent) 34.16%% White and 11.7%% African and Caribbean and Dual Heritage and 6% from other ethnic backgrounds.

### 3.2 MARAC

- The volume of referrals: MARAC in 2022-23 saw a slight increase by 8% of cases referred to MARAC from the previous year in 2022/2023. 2021-2022 (369 cases) and 2022/2023 (399 cases). With a repeat rate increased by 9% in 2022-23 (19%) compared to that of 2021-22 (10%).
- Majority of victims were female (93%) with male victims (7%). There was a (1%) increase in male victims in 2022-2023
- In 2021/22 MARAC received 5 LGBTQ+ cases. In 2022/2023 MARAC received 6 LGBTQ+ cases.

### 3.3 Refuge profile

<b>Year end 2022/2023</b>	
Gender Female	<10
Number of referrals received.	<10
Number of children at the end of period	<10
Disability (The Refuge does not provide specialised support to people with disabilities)	0

<sup>9</sup> Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession is aimed at protecting victims of domestic abuse, by allowing them to notify the UK Border Agency.



<b>LENGTH OF STAY <sup>10</sup></b>	
1-3 months	7
3-6 months	9
Over 6 months	8
Married Status or in civil Partnership	<10
Single	<10
Divorced	0

#### **4 Why a change is needed.**

- 4.1 The introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 together with national, regional, and local policies to protect all victims and those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence, continues to impact existing service provision. The Act has created a broader statutory definition of domestic abuse and placed additional duties on local authorities. In response London Borough of Harrow has set up a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sub-group which reports directly to the statutory Safer Harrow Partnership. This sub-group brings together key stakeholders to promote safety for women and girls in the borough. Additionally, the Council will continue to work in partnership with the Greater London Authority (GLA) and other Local Authorities in London to fully understand the expectations arising from the Act.
- 4.2 Demand for domestic abuse related support in the borough is increasing and is placing additional pressures on the existing service. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on victims of abuse and has helped highlight pressures on services.

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<sup>10</sup> Refugee users with long-term stays numbers have been carried over from previous year 2021/2022

## 5 Implications of the Recommendation

### 5.1 Costs

The total contract value for the service across both Lots 1 and 2, totalling £1,328,636 over the three-year contract period. Inflationary uplift is built into the budget envelope for years 2 and 3. Funding for the new service has been confirmed and pooled from across various service areas and directorates for the full term of three years. There is a small shortfall in year 3 of the DA budget, which is expected to be designed into the MTFS process in 206/27; this has been agreed by the Corporate Leadership Team. As a result, the commission will not offer additional years extension to the commission tender beyond the current term of the contract. External funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) has been confirmed for the first two years. In the event that the LCPF funding is not continued for the final year of the contract and funding is not available from other sources, the Authority will need to reduce services by variation of the contracts. This model of funding has been approved by the Councils Managing Director

Domestic Abuse Contract Funding from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027

<b>Domestic Abuse Service Budget Breakdown</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>2025/2026</b>	<b>2026/2027</b>	<b>Total Cost and Funding</b>
	£	£	£	£
Funding Required including estimated inflationary in year 2 and 3	431,989	442,789	453,858	1,328,636
<b>Total Funding Requirement</b>	<b>431,989</b>	<b>442,789</b>	<b>453,858</b>	<b>1,328,636</b>
<b>Funding source</b>				
Housing	72,000	72,000	72,000	216,000
Policy Team	209,334	221,134	180,532	611,000
Children's	84,655	84,655	84,655	253,965
Adults	15,000	15,000	15,000	45,000
Public Health	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000
<b>Total available funding</b>	<b>431,989</b>	<b>442,789</b>	<b>402,187</b>	<b>1,275,965</b>
Budget Gap			£52,671	Total Gap £52,671

Please see **Financial Implications** Section 10 for further details.

## **6.2 Staffing/workforce**

- 6.2.1 The Council will advise bidders if the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (“TUPE”) and/or Property lease/rental agreements apply to the new contract.

## **6.3 Performance Management**

- 6.3.1 The contract’s performance feeds into the delivery of the priorities of the Community Safety and Violence Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy.
- 6.3.2 Performance and outcomes of the service are assessed on a quarterly basis against performance indicators, which incorporate KPIs and requirements of the Public Health grant conditions.
- 6.3.3 Quarterly performance monitoring meetings will continue to be held with the provider and attended by service leads across Peoples, Policy, and Housing. These meetings are in addition to the data which is submitted quarterly and provide an opportunity to gain an increased understanding of how the services are working to meet their KPIs. This includes the number of referrals, source of referrals and how the service has improved the health, wellbeing, stability and independence of the client.

## **6.4 Environmental Implications**

The service does not have a significant impact on the environment. However, the providers will be required to demonstrate their ability to meet the Council’s Climate Change obligations in ensuring that they have put in place measures to reduce waste, minimise unnecessary travel and adopt energy efficient practices.

## **6.5 Data Protection Implications**

- 6.5.1 The provider will be required to adhere to the Council’s Data Sharing Protocol (for the purposes of sharing some service user data with service areas across the Council and with external professionals). A Data Sharing Protocol will be drafted in line with guidance and approval by the Council’s Information Governance Lead. There will also be comprehensive data protection provisions in the contracts awarded given both the sensitivity of the data and the confidence of victims and survivors to come forward and use the services.

## 7. Risk Management Implications

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **No**

Separate risk register in place? **Yes**

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below.  
**Yes**

The following key risks should be considered when agreeing the recommendations in this report:

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
Insufficient funding for the term of the contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The recommissioning of the service is for the period 2024-2025 then 2026/2027.</li><li>▪ The current total funding secured is for the contract period 2024-2025 with a budget gap in 2026/2027 Therefore, the continuation of the contract is subject to funding for 2026/27 onwards being made available.</li><li>▪ External MOPAC funding is secured until 2025/2026. 2026/2027 external funding subject to confirmation. The council is confident that the funding will continue at present value as it has in the past.</li><li>▪ It is possible to vary the contract during the term by way of the Change Control Procedure set out in Schedule 7 of the contract. Furthermore, Clause 36A of the contract also allows the Council to terminate at any time by giving 6 months' written notice to the provider. Therefore, any risk of facing penalties for reducing services in line with funding will be mitigated. This has been reviewed and approved by the Council's Managing Director.</li></ul>	Amber
Insufficient inflationary uplifts have been built into the contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The commission has budgeted 2.5% inflationary uplifts. The previous commissioned service did not include inflationary uplifts. Service providers cited this as an issue in the market engagement process.</li></ul>	Amber

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
The provider becomes insolvent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The service contract will include mitigations to enable the Council to identify and issue a direct award to another provider.</li> <li>▪ Splitting the service into two lots may reduce the risk of the whole service being impacted, should a provider become insolvent.</li> <li>▪ The market has several competitor organisations in it, so we are not reliant on monopoly provision.</li> <li>▪ Prior to the award of contracts, the Authority will carry out financial due diligence checks on evidence provided by the recommended supplier(s), to validate information they provided in the Selection Questionnaire of the tender. This includes a review of the supplier's two years audited accounts (or other equivalent financial information).</li> </ul>	Amber
Failure of one Lot not receiving any viable bidders may result in an abandoned procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to alternative IDVA services in Harrow.</li> <li>▪ Refer refuge residents to other service.</li> <li>▪ Provide short-term accommodation for refuge tenants.</li> <li>▪ Consider all options 1. Award one lot 1 tender</li> <li>▪ Both Lots are not awarded</li> </ul>	Amber
Failure of provider in service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The contract performance measures and mitigations include regular contract monitoring of KPIs, improvement plans and break clauses.</li> <li>▪ Assessment of performance.</li> </ul>	Green
Risk of losing potential economies of scale due to splitting into two procurement lots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While recognising this is a potential risk, it is felt that the benefits gained from this approach (as set out in section 2.4 of this report) outweigh the risks.</li> </ul>	Green

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
Risk of procurement Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Competitive tendering process to be undertaken in compliance with the Council's contract procurement rules and Public Contracts Regulations 2015</li> </ul>	Green
Lack of value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The risk is mitigated by a competitive and rigorous tender process which will enable us to select a supplier that can provide the domestic abuse help service that we require for this fixed budget amount.</li> </ul>	Green

## 8 Procurement Implications

8.1 The procurement process will be carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. A UK Notice will be issued, and the Council will follow an Open Procedure route. The proposed top level evaluation criteria will be:

- Price 30%
- Quality 60% (including 5% allocated to Carbon Reduction)
- Social Value 10%

## 9 Legal Implications

9.1 The value of the Council's proposed spend for the services as set out in this report exceeds the relevant procurement threshold. The Services fall within Schedule 3 (Social & Other Specific Services) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) and the threshold is £663,540. The PCR 2015 therefore require a Procurement exercise to be undertaken as is proposed in this report.

9.2 In accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs), for contracts with a total aggregate value of £500,000 and over, authorisation to commence the procurement must be sought from Cabinet.

9.3 Legal have been instructed to draft the contract terms and conditions for both Lots and the contracts will be included as part of the invitation to tender documents. The final contracts will be sealed in accordance with the CPRs.

9.4 The service enables the Council to discharge its duties in relation to:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Children Act 1989
- The Care Act 2014
- Housing (1996) and Homelessness (2002) Acts
- The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

## **10 Financial Implications**

10.1 The award for this contract requires in total £1.328m over three years as per Table 1 in Paragraph 5.1. Service has confirmed 100% funding for Year one and Year two of the contract totalling £0.875m. The external funding from London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) has only been confirmed for the first two years of the contract. Funding from LCPF for the third year of the contract (2026/27) has not been confirmed due to cycle of grant allocation matching the mayor's term in the office and so has been included in the Risk Management Implications Paragraph 7.

Whilst there has been an increase assumed in the budgeted costs of 2.5%, the grants and funding for 2026/27 are yet to be confirmed. If there is a funding shortfall, then either the cost will need to be reduced by a variation of the contract or there will be a growth bid made which will need to be considered as part of the Budget setting for 2026/27.

Please note the 2.5% inflation factor is applied at the level consistent with the average Bank of England published targets for years 2025/26 and 2026/27.

## **11 Equalities implications /Public Sector Equality Duty**

11.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public sector equality duty to which the authority must have due regard. The Council's public sector equality duty is set out in s149 of the Equality Act 2010.

11.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

11.3 The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation. The proposed service must be open to all residents and the Council will have due regard to those with protected characteristics. Equalities monitoring is incorporated as part of the contract monitoring process to help identify the profile of service users accessing the service to ensure that the service is able to meet their needs and the Council is able to fulfil its equality duty.

11.4 As part of the re-commissioning process, a full EQIA has been undertaken to identify and address any disproportionality.

### **Council Priorities**

The Domestic Abuse re-commissioning is in line with the following council priorities:

- A borough that is clean and safe.
- A place where those in need are supported.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance (TBC)**

### **Statutory Officer: Sharon Daniel**

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

**Date: 27 September 2023**

### **Statutory Officer: Mariam Khan**

**Date: 28 September 2023**

### **Chief Officer: Alex Dewsnap**

Signed by the Managing Director

**Date: 28 September 2023**

### **Head of Procurement: Nimesh Mehta**

Signed by the Head of Procurement

**Date 28 September 2023**

### **Head of Internal Audit: Neale Burns**

Signed by the Head of Internal Audit.

**Date: 28 September 2023**



## **Mandatory Checks**

**Ward Councillors notified:** NO, as it impacts on all Wards.

**EqlA carried out:** YES

**EqlA cleared by:** Jennifer Rock

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Hodan H Elmi, Domestic Abuse/ VAWG Policy Officer  
[Hodan.Elmi@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Hodan.Elmi@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:** No

**Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** NO