

Standing Order 42

Consultation with Appropriate Chairman and Vice-Chairman for Urgent Action to be Taken Under Standing Order 42

To (Chair & Vice Chair):	Cllr Tom Gracey, Leader of the Council & Cllr Chris Howorth, Chair of Community Services Committee Cllr Stephen Walsh, Vice Chair of Community Services Committee
Relevant Committee:	
Date:	28/04/2023
Report Author:	Darren Williams
Report Title:	<u>Grant Funding for Women's Support Centre, Surrey (WSC)</u>
SO42 Proforma Number:	1021

1. Synopsis of report

On 9th February 2023, a letter was written to the Chief Executive, from NHS England, outlining the risk of closure facing Surrey Women's Centre. Women's Support Centre, Surrey (WSC) provides a county-wide prevention service for some of the most vulnerable women in Surrey. Included within the Trauma-informed provision is a Recovery Service, Domestic Abuse Service, Generic Service, Counselling Service, Checkpoint Plus (out of court diversion scheme) working with Surrey Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), as well as a varied group offer.

The letter, sent to all District and Borough Councils, outlined the funding gap faced by the organisation in 2023/2024, as it transfers its operations from Woking Borough Council to Catalyst and requested that District and Borough Councils support the transitional period, by agreeing to provide £15,000 of grant funding from each Council partner.

Following an exchange of emails with the Corporate Head of Community Services, a further letter was received, dated 4th April 2023, providing an update on the financial position of the service and providing details of the numbers of women supported by the service each year, from 2019/2020 to 2021/2022. The breakdown of this in relation to women from Runnymede is as follows:

Year	Number Supported
2019/2020	31
2020/2021 (covid)	23
2021/2022	15
Total	69

County wide, the data provided showed that in the same period 1,237 women and families were supported, highlighting the critical importance of the service within the County.

At the request of the Chief Executive, the Corporate Head of Community Services has been asked to consider the request for funding and this SO42 provides a recommendation in relation to this.

2. Reasons why this matter cannot wait for a Committee Decision.

(Please state if agreement of Chairman and Vice-Chairman required within 24 hours, and why)

The pressing need of Women's Support Centre Surrey to understand their financial position for 2023/2024, means that deciding whether to commit financial support cannot wait until the next meeting of Community Services Committee, scheduled for June 2023.

<p>3. Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Officers recommend that grant funding of £15,000 is awarded to Women's Support Centre Surrey, paid to Catalyst who will be delivering the facility and services in 2023/2024.</p>
<p>4. Context of report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see synopsis section
<p>5. Report and, where applicable, options considered In relation to this matter, there are two options available for consideration:</p> <p>1. Provide Financial Support via Grant Funding Requested</p> <p>This option is to support the work of Women's Centre Surrey, and to support women and families in Runnymede and across Surrey, who are facing domestic violence and abuse. This is the recommended option to Members, given the importance of this work.</p> <p>2. Do not Provide Financial Support</p> <p>There is the alternative option of not providing the financial support requested. However, given the importance of the service and the fact that funding has been identified, this has been discounted as an option.</p>
<p>6. Policy framework implications</p> <p>Within the Council's Health and Wellbeing strategy, the priority of Healthy Homes outlines the Council's commitment to "ensuring residents of all ages can live in safe, secure, good quality homes". In the context of this SO42, the word safe includes the safety of residents within their homes, including those facing or at risk of domestic violence and abuse.</p> <p>The delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is supported by the Service Area Plan for Community Services in 2023/2024, which requires a Community Safety Strategy for the borough. This will strongly link to the work and priorities of the Community Safety Partnership, where Domestic Abuse featured within the Runnymede Community Safety Partnership (RCSP) plan during 2022/23 under the heading of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) after National Government released the Domestic Abuse Act and Tackling violence against women and girls' strategy in 2021. Whilst the partnership plan for 2023/24 has not been finalised, it is expected that VAWG will remain a priority for the partnership moving forward.</p> <p>The Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy also highlights Domestic Abuse as an area of focus under Priority 3 – "Supporting people to reach their potential by addressing the wider determinants of health". Within the intended outcomes for this priority, is "people are safe and feel safe (community safety including domestic abuse, safeguarding)". This element of the strategy links to the Surrey Against Domestic Abuse Strategy.</p>
<p>7. Financial and Resource implications (where practicable)</p> <p>A sum of £15,000 sum required to provide the financial requested to Women's Support Centre, Surrey, would be funded by a grant received by Community Services in late 2022/2023, with the balance ringfenced for appropriate use in 2023/2024.</p>
<p>8. Legal implications</p> <p>None relating to the recommendations of this report.</p>
<p>9. Equality implications</p> <p>None relating to the recommendations of this report.</p>
<p>10. Other implications (Environmental/Biodiversity/Sustainability must be addressed)</p> <p>None relating to the recommendations of this report.</p>
<p>11. Background papers</p> <p>None.</p>

12. **Chief Officer(s) Decision**

Signature of authorised officer



I have been consulted and am in agreement with the above

Signature(s) and position(s) of
other relevant Chief Officer, Corporate Heads or authorised representatives

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NB: this must include the Assistant Chief Executive or his authorised representative where the decision involves expenditure, loss of income, or future implications for budget or financial forecast.

13. **Chief Executive's Decision**



Signature of Chief Executive

I have been consulted and am in agreement with the above

14. **Chairman and Vice-Chairman Comments**

I concur in the Chief Officer's decision.

Signed electronically signed by C Howorth and S Walsh 02/05/2023
email trail to confirm consent obtained

Date _____

Signed _____

Date _____

I have the following further comments:

The completed copy is to be returned by the Councillors to the Corporate Head of Law and Governance (Democratic Services) who will send a copy to the Chief Officer and report to the relevant Committee for information.