

**EX26. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 MAY 2014  
REVIEW OF EXTERNAL FUNDING TO SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO  
HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY ABUSE**

The Executive had, on 27 May 2014 (ref EX18), continued consideration of recommendations arising from a review of external funding to services for people who have been affected by abuse.

The report to the Scrutiny Committee set out the background to the review of the services provided by Women's Aid, Relationship Scotland, Central Scotland Rape Crisis and Open Secret. The range of services provided, purpose of each organisation, together with Falkirk Council's contribution to each organisation's funding were set out.

The aim of the review had been to ensure that the most appropriate range and quality of support is provided by the right providers to those most in need within the area.

Overall it was concluded that the Council should, through agreed joint working arrangements, commission specific services to ensure clarity in service provision and expected outcomes. The report set out conclusions in relation to future service delivery and budgeting provision for each organisation.

**Decision**

**The Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to commission services as described within the specification and to enter into Joint Working Agreements with Open Secret, Rape Crisis, Relationship Scotland, and Women's Aid based on this specification;**
- (2) that, in order to achieve the savings agreed by Council, Open Secret be provided with notice of a reduction in funding of £34,000 during 2014/2015, with a further saving in 2015/2016 of £26,000, equating to a total recurring saving of £60,000;**
- (3) that Council Officers are to enter into discussion with Women's Aid to develop a triage service thereby establishing a framework for service provision under the new service specification and reducing the organisation's reserves to an acceptable level; and**
- (4) to commission an independent review of the service provided by Open Secret.**