

S13. REVIEW OF EXTERNAL FUNDING TO SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY ABUSE

The committee considered a report by the Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and of Social Work Services which outlined the review of the services provided by four organisations for people who have been affected by abuse.

The report provided detail on the organisational overview, the objective and process of the review and the review findings for the service provided by each organisation. It also summarised the key review findings, the underpinning principles of service framework and the financial overview and the impact of the findings. As a result of the review there were a number of conclusions and recommendations made which related to the way the Council works with the organisations and also some which related directly to the organisations.

Fiona Campbell provided a comprehensive summary of the report.

In response to a question in relation to the proposal for a triage service to be set up, it was noted that the project would be led by Women's Aid working in conjunction with Social Work Services.

Discussion took place on the challenges being faced by the organisations, particularly in relation to financial constraints. The committee also discussed the valuable and necessary work undertaken by the organisations, the expectation that organisations which receive funding from the Council deliver services in the Council area and the importance of ensuring best value.

Decision

The committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the outcome of the review;**
- (2) that the Council should commission services as described within the specification and enter into Joint Working Agreements with the four organisations based on this specification;**
- (3) in order to achieve the savings agreed by Council, that during 2014/2015, Open Secret be provided notice of a reduction in funding of £34,000 during 2014/2015, with a further reduction in 2015/2016 of £26,000, equating to a total reoccurring saving of £60,000;**
- (4) that Council Officers enter 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 organisations reserves to an acceptable level, and**
- (5) that these recommendations be remitted to the Executive for approval.**