

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: COMMISSIONING PROCESS: SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF TRAUMA**  
**Meeting: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 29 SEPTEMBER 2015**  
**Author: HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK ADULT SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Falkirk Council Executive agreed that Officers would take forward a commissioning and procurement process for services for those affected by abuse (referred to as services for survivors of trauma from hereon in), with a view to the successful provider/s commencing the delivery of such services in April 2016. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the commissioning process and to confirm the current funding allocation to existing providers.
- 1.2 The Executive's decision in June 2015, presented an opportunity for Falkirk Council to work with local partners, both within statutory and third sector agencies, to develop a delivery model, which first and foremost, places survivors at the centre of the service.
- 1.3 The Scottish Government have stated that they would like to support the development of our commissioning model, noting that Falkirk Council is ahead of many other Scottish Local Authority areas in ensuring appropriate services are in place for survivors of trauma. This development is also particularly relevant given the imminent launch of the national inquiry into childhood sexual abuse.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 An internal review of abuse related services was undertaken during 2013/2014. The outcome was presented to Members in May 2014. Members approved that Falkirk Council move to a position of commissioning services, as opposed to providing a grant contribution to organisations and that the funding awarded to Open Secret reduce by £60,000 over a two year period to £89,446 in 2015/2016. An initial service framework was also approved.
- 2.2 In addition, following the decision at Falkirk Council's Executive in May 2014, an independent review of Open Secret was co-commissioned by Falkirk Council and the Scottish Government. The review commenced on 1 September 2014. The purpose of the review was to 'Ensure that the governance (The Board), management (staffing etc.) and operations (what is delivered, the way it is delivered etc.) of Open Secret is sound, safe and fit for purpose, and in doing so meets the expectations of funders, accreditors and regulators.'

- 2.3 The outcome of the external review was presented to Members on 9 June 2015, making recommendation that Officers put in place a commissioning and procurement process for the services for survivors of trauma, with a view to commencing the delivery of such services in April 2016.
- 2.4 Open Secret is currently the only local provider that is solely remitted to provide services to survivors of trauma, however there are a range of other local providers who note that a proportion of their service users cite historical trauma as an issue or catalyst to the condition or behaviour which has prompted service intervention. For example, individuals accessing support for substance misuse, domestic abuse, relationship or mental health issues may also be a survivor of trauma.

### **3. COMMISSIONING PROCESS**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the principles of the Public Social Partnership (PSP) approach be applied to the commissioning of services for survivors of trauma. This will be implemented on a phased basis allowing for testing of the concept with any amendment to process as required. It will also acknowledge and support the stepped change required in the individual organisational and delivery models across partners. Initial engagement with local providers will take place through the Gender Based Violence Partnership, which has an open membership and therefore all interested partners will be able to participate.
- 3.2 In developing the local partnership and thereafter service model, the following principles will be applied:
- Survivors will be at the centre of services and they will be supported to identify important personal outcomes which can be reflected in the support provided;
  - Services will be integrated, accessible and relevant to different points within the survivors life journey;
  - Support will be joined up with any transition between services planned, agreed and appropriately timed;
  - We will make best use of the collective resource and expertise across the partnership, to provide a range of support to enable survivors positive health and wellbeing; and
  - Continuous improvement and quality assurance will be a critical feature of the commissioning and delivery of services and will be supported through consistent monitoring and evaluation.
- 3.3 The service model will be developed in consultation with local partners, however a Steering Group will be formed to provide overall direction and will comprise of representatives from Council, Scottish Government, NHS Forth Valley and Police Scotland. This group will act as a reference point to ensure alignment with local policy; operational links with Council priorities, and procedural matters in terms of Contract Standing Orders and procurement legislation. The group will also monitor the commissioning process and take relevant decisions regarding direction, taking a lead on gaining relevant approvals.

### **4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 During the 2015/2016 Council Budget setting process, the budget allocation to Open Secret was noted as £115,442 for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016, however it was also

highlighted that this was subject to the outcome of the external review of Open Secret. The external review did not make any specific recommendation regarding the budget, therefore it is proposed that Members confirm the decision taken in June 2014 that the budget be reduced by £60,000 over two years resulting in the 2015/2016 allocation being £89,442, as noted at 2.1. It should be noted that the moratorium for referrals to Open Secret is still in place, but is under review.

- 4.2 It is proposed that the maximum resource allocated to the new service be £102,783. This amount comprises the allocation of £89,446 to Open Secret and the budget of £13,341 previously allocated to Central Scotland Rape Crisis before the organisation's demise. It should however be noted that service delivery costs will be determined during the process of developing the service specification and will also be subject to Member approval during the budget setting process for 2016/2017.
- 4.3 In order to support the development of the new service, the Scottish Government has awarded Falkirk Council £36,000 development funding. This additional resource will be used to commission short term specialist support to facilitate work with local statutory and third sector partners and develop the service specification. The Scottish Government will also provide information gathered from survivors across Scotland, which will help inform the design of the new service.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Officers are working with local providers and with support of the Scottish Government, to develop services for survivors of trauma, which will focus on achieving individual outcomes. The service will be developed using principles of the PSP approach. This will be reviewed and amended accordingly, if required. The final cost of the service will be determined during the development of the service and will be subject to Member approval during the budget setting process. The total value will be no more than £102,783 per annum.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are invited to:**

- 6.1 **Note the proposed commissioning model for services for survivors of trauma and support from the Scottish Government in taking this forward;**
- 6.2 **Confirm that the 2015/2016 budget for Open Secret is £89,446 in line with Executive agreement in May 2014;**
- 6.3 **Approve the maximum resource of £102,783 to support the new service commissioned for survivors of trauma, with the final figure being determined during the development of the service; and**
- 6.4 **Request that Officers provide a further report informing Members of the outcome of the commissioning process for services for survivors of trauma.**

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**HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK: ADULT SERVICES**

Date: 28 August 2015

Ref: ABB290915 - LMac

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**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. EXTERNAL REVIEW: OPEN SECRET, Executive Committee, June 2015
2. REVIEW OF EXTERNAL FUNDING TO SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO  
HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY ABUSE, Executive Committee, 27 May 2014

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506260 and ask for Lesley MacArthur.