



## Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

**1. Subject and details of the matter** (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

This decision notice outlines the decision to provide a total of £78,858 grant funding to NEL Women's Aid and The Blue Door (Independent domestic abuse advocates) to support victims of Domestic Abuse with complex needs such as alcohol and substance misuse, mental health and sex workers. The funding will be allocated from the Domestic Abuse Safer Accommodation budget for the period 01/07/2021 – 31/03/2022 and additional funding is agreed up to 30/06/2022 should this be required whilst procurement and commissioning of these services is undertaken.

The grant funding will extend the complex needs support provided in the Borough, previously funded via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in 2020/2021, whilst a needs analysis of domestic abuse support services across the Borough is carried out. Once the results have been collated, domestic abuse support services for victims and their children will be commissioned and a cabinet report submitted.

### **Background:**

Domestic abuse is currently high on the Government's national agenda with them committing to support all victims of domestic abuse. Whilst drawing up the Domestic Abuse Bill, the Government offered funding for support to victims of domestic abuse with complex needs. North East Lincolnshire Council were successful in securing

£105,000 which was granted to Women's Aid and The Blue Door to work with and support victims with complex needs and children of victims.

The Domestic Abuse Bill was passed on 29th April 2021. The Act introduces a Statutory Duty for the Authority to provide support to all victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other safe accommodation across the Borough.

North East Lincolnshire Council were allocated £373,916 and were asked to begin work to meet the requirements of the new duty from 1st April 2021.

North East Lincolnshire Council formed a task and finish group to understand the duties of the new Act and have now formed a Local Partnership Board to oversee the commissioning of the domestic abuse support to victims and families. A decision was taken on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to continue to fund the complex needs support. The operational start date of the Government funded support slipped due to the pandemic, but services were put in place from 01/07/2020 – 30/06/2021.

## **2. Decision being taken**

It was agreed in a Safer Accommodation Duty Task and Finish Group meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 that Blue Door and NEL Women's Aid should continue to receive the equivalent complex needs case worker and children's worker funding that we had secured from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for 2020/21 from 01/07/2021 up to 31/03/2022 (9 months pro rata £26,286 Blue Door and £52,572 NEL WA).

From 01/04/2022 the complex needs funding will be factored in to longer-term Domestic Abuse commissioning arrangements and there will be clear and focused outcomes and expectations to report the impact of the interventions.

## **3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

Those with complex needs who are unable to access refuge accommodation can continue to receive collaborative support from the Authority, domestic abuse, substance misuse and mental health services via grant arrangements with The Blue Door and NEL Women's Aid.

**4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision**

Not to continue funding would result in both partners reducing staff numbers which would impact negatively on the client group currently receiving the much-needed support.

**5. Background documents considered** (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

[Local authority support for victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444444/Local_authority_support_for_victims_of_domestic_abuse_and_their_children_within_safe_accommodation_factsheet_-_GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk).pdf)

**6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

No

**7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

No

**8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

The decision to award the grant funding to extend the complex needs support will allow the Council to meet the requirements of the statutory duty to provide support to all victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other safe accommodation across the borough.

**9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

The grant funding will be allocated from the Domestic Abuse Safer Accommodation budget. As detailed above, the Council were allocated £373,916 to meet the requirements of the Domestic Abuse bill from 1st April 2021.

**10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications

**11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

The funding will be provided to The Blue Door and NEL Women's Aid whilst the Borough-wide needs analysis is completed, and a draft Domestic Abuse strategy submitted in October.

The necessity of complex needs support has been identified during the work with rough sleepers, and those in this cohort are unsuitable for night shelter and hostel provision, requiring bespoke, domestic abuse and complex need support in accommodation considered suitable, which would not necessarily be the refuge.

The decision maker is satisfied that there is sufficient demand for complex needs support in the interim and this will be factored in to commissioning accordingly from 01/04/2022.

A Local Partnership Board has been set up to agree the service required and to monitor their effectiveness.

Outcome and contract monitoring will be built into the new commissioning arrangements and a specialist data analyst will be in place to co-ordinate the need analysis and data received from monitoring, and this will be used to drive improvements and changes in delivery going forward.

**12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?**

N/A

**13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Mark Nearney

Title: Assistant Director for Housing,  
Highways, Transportation & Planning  
Environment

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 13/12/21

**14. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Cllr Ron Shepherd

Title: Portfolio Holder for Safer and  
Stronger Communities

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 18/11/2021