

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP – POCA FUNDING BID 2020-2021

Sponsoring SCP Organisation/ Department	City of London Police Public Protection Unit
Contact Name(s) and Positions	Anna RICE, Detective Inspector and MARAC chair
Contacts Job Titles	DI Public Protection Unit
Contact Details e-mail tel. no.	0207 601 2823 Anna.rice@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk

Name and purpose of activity	Vulnerable Victim Advocate (VVA) funding (one year) and Independent review of services for vulnerable victim across COL.
Amount of funding sought. (please attach detailed breakdown where appropriate).	£28,255.53 per annum for 3 day a week VVA (2 day a week role already funded by COLP) Estimated £7000 for independent review of COL services (exact cost and spec to be arranged on agreement of funding and procurement process) Total £35,255.53
Outline the objectives of this activity; success criteria; and how this work contributes to the SCP outcomes for 2019-22.	<p>Expand current VVA provision to 5 days a week. The provision was reduced in 2019 following removal of MOPAC funding. The VVA role is provided by Victim Support as has been the case for the previous 7 years. Victim Support will recruit appropriately trained individual. COLP PPU will continue to manage this role, liaising with both VS and COL.</p> <p>Aim – to restore service level to vulnerable victims across the City to previous capability. The reduction in this role has resulted in significantly diminished capacity to provide the gold standard service to victims. The uplift in service would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In house independent sexual violence advocate to support victims of sexual offences and child abuse. - Provide bespoke support and crisis management to vulnerable victims of ANY crime type who either live or work in the City. - Support DA victims at any risk level - Provide training to all partners on risk identification, DASH, supporting victims. - Raise awareness of victim services for vulnerable victim across the partnership to increase referrals and encourage victims to report. - Raise awareness through key campaigns within the City to include residents and the business community and hotels. - Hold regular surgeries/drop-in sessions to provide a third party reporting opportunity for vulnerable victims across the City.

- Encouraging reporting and engagement with hard to reach communities through local groups.
- Completion of surveys of vulnerable victims of crime as required by the Home Office. This has halted following the reduction in days of the VVA and has created a risk on the vulnerability risk register. Additionally, the HMICFRS have recommended that COL expand their surveys to include vulnerable victims of other crime types. At present there is no capacity to fulfil this requirement and the recommendation remains 'red'. A 5 day a week VVA would have the capacity to take on this function without the need for additional training.

The main benefit of a full time VVA being to co-locate within either police or partner agencies. This allows us to instantly refer to her, and her to prompt and identify cases where she could provide value. This is particularly important in enabling victims to feel confident in reporting. An example being where a reluctant victim reported a sexual offence to police. She was apprehensive about supporting an investigation. We were able to get the VVA into the meeting which provided a different angle and level of support and the victim supported the case through to prosecution.

One of the key roles for the VVA is the outreach surgeries and public engagement work. Due to the reduction in service to 2 days a week the VVA has been unable to work within the community to provide third party reporting opportunities (such as within the Mansell Street community and at Shoe Lane library and Universities.). Additionally (COVID aside) there has been no capacity for additional engagement campaigns. Future plans would be to expand on the 'spotting the signs' campaign working with the Business community to increase reporting, (provide reporting mechanisms within large companies in the City) and reaching harder to reach sectors of the community to tackle issues such as DA, HBV and hate crime.

Success criteria through twice yearly report from Victim Services. To include referral rates, timescale for contacting victims (within 48hrs), victim impact as measured in victim exit surveys, number of victim surveys completed, HMICFRS feedback.

The VVA has had previous success engaging with faith groups and community groups to raise awareness of issues such as HBA and hate crime. WE are unable to do this therefore unable to demonstrate we are doing all we can to encourage reporting and support victims of crime. Likewise, there is no capacity to build on work to engage with the business community and encourage referrals through this route which is something the partnership are keen to develop and build on earlier successes.

Previously the HMICFRS have referenced the positive role the VVA plays in the COL and in 2018 PEEL inspection raised concerns on the impact on victim should funding not been agreed.

This bid will impact 3 of the SCP outcomes – notably protecting and safeguarding the community as this is the key role of the VVA.

	<p>Funding the role will demonstrate the COL's commitment to keeping the community safe and supporting the most vulnerable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded • People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person • People are safe and feel safe in the Night-Time Economy <p>POCA funding will resolve this ongoing issue in the short term whilst it is recognised that this is not a sustainable means to fund this role.</p> <p>As such part of the second part of this bid is for an independent review of the services provided across the City of London (Police and Corporation) to identify current provision and by whom, consider capacity and scope models for maximising resources and the future of the VVA . Within scope will include VVA, MOPAC IDVA, CST, Police, DAVRO. It is anticipated that an independent review will cost approximately £7000. Terms of reference and timescales are still to be agreed and managed between COLP and CST/DCCS, reporting through VAWG forum and Director of DCCS. The exact cost will be agreed once procurement has taken place.</p> <p>This approach seeks to ensure cover for a year and while doing so will subject the area to an external, independent review to consider demand against existing capacity and whether there is scope to make fuller use of other pan-London provision. This to provide an agreed understanding and picture for future resourcing to be shared with CoLP and City of London Corporation.</p>
Detail resources that will be provided from partners supporting this bid. E.g. Matched funding or other input. (further details can be attached).	COLP have been funding the VVA role, 2 days a week for the previous 2 financial years (approx. £20k) and this has been built in to COLP budget on an annual basis.
Timescale funding required for?	September 2020
What are the proposals criteria for success; measurable outcomes/outputs? Officer(s) responsible for monitoring the spend	<p>Measurable outcomes will be detailed on the bi-annual report from Victim Services, reported to COLP and the VAWG forum.</p> <p>This includes qualitative and quantitative measures, including number of referrals by crime type, source, MARAC referrals, victim demographic, risk level, type of support in addition to detail from victim surveys and service user feedback.</p> <p>DI Anna Rice (Public Protection Unit DI) will be responsible for managing the role and monitoring the spend. This will be reported into the Vulnerability Working and Steering Group and COL VAWG forum.</p>
Budget code/Account details for funds to be transferred.	COLP PPU budget CJ210 39000 ZZZZ

Please note recipients will be required to provide quarterly reports on the progress of their funded activity to the SCP. They will also provide a full report, detailing lessons learnt, upon its conclusion.

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP TEAM USE ONLY

Date received: _____ 7th September Checked by: __Valeria Cadena

Approved: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Approval arrangement: _Subject to SCP

Approved by (CoL) 1: Valeria Cadena – Community Safety POCA responsible

Approved by (CoLP) 2: _____

Appendix 1 – VVA referral 2019- 2020

VVA referrals received from April 2019 to March 2020. The VVA reduced to 2 days a week in December 2018- this period has not been included as the data would not reflect the reduction of the service.

	April 19- Sep 19	Oct 19- March 20
No. Referrals	51	37
Female	48	33
Male	3	4
Trans	0	0
Referral Source	15 self-referrals 28 City police 1 MARAC 7 other agencies	13 self-referrals 22 City police 2 other agencies
Crime Type	31 DA 4 rape 9 sexual assault 1 sexual grooming 1 harassment/ HBV 1 hate crime- harassment 1 road collision 2 public fear 1 exposure/ voyeurism	20 DA 2 rape 5 sexual assault 1 stalking 1 trafficking 2 blackmail 1 harassment 1 road collision 1 assault 1 hate crime- assault 1 kidnapping 1 theft
Residence	12 City of London 1 Brent 2 Ohio, USA 1 Westminster 1 Scotland 2 Waltham Forest 1 Newham 1 Lambeth 1 Suffolk 4 Enfield 1 Hackney 3 Tower Hamlets 2 Haringey 3 Essex 4 Southwark 1 homeless 2 Surrey 1 Sheffield 1 Harrow 1 Bromley 1 Hertfordshire 1 Kent 1 Hounslow 1 Wandsworth 2 Unknown	5 City of London 2 Tower Hamlets 1 Camden 2 Greenwich 1 Islington 1 Hounslow 1 Bromley 4 Southwark 2 Barnet 1 Brent 3 Redbridge 1 Bromley 1 Croydon 1 Essex 1 Egypt 1 Hackney 1 Havering 1 Merton 1 Hertfordshire 1 Newham 1 Uganda 1 Ohio, USA 3 Unknown

