

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP – POCA FUNDING BID 2020-2021

Sponsoring SCP Organisation/ Department	City of London Corporation Department of Communities and Children's Services
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Name and purpose of activity	<p>This paper outlines a proposal for a specialist domestic abuse, sexual abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) support worker for the Bangladeshi residents within the City of London. The proposed post would be part time, 3 days per week. The post would provide emotional and practical support to all Bangladeshi residents within the City of London who are victim/survivors of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and wider VAWG. They would work closely with partner agencies and neighbouring boroughs to encourage this community to engage in services. The proposed post would be able to provide specialist support to Bangladeshi workers within the City of London. In addition to providing support and community engagement, the proposed post would also provide specialist advice around this community group and cultural practices/beliefs to partner agencies such as children's and adult's social care, early help, mental health, education and police. The key aim of this proposal is to provide support to the Bangladeshi residents within the City of London, increase safety to victims and reduce the level of abuse through partnership working, training and education.</p> <p>This proposal aligns with national conversations around racism and ensuring local authorities are doing enough to support Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) communities. Historically, the Bangladeshi</p>
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residents within the City of London have not had access to specialist services and have only been able to access support in English.

In the London Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Case Analysis and Review 2020, Standing Together have highlighted key issues around BAME groups. They have indicated that agencies need to liaise more with BAME specialists when supporting victims of domestic abuse, immigration was a barrier for some people accessing support; access to services may be limited by the agencies' misunderstanding of immigration law, and that DHR panels did not always take an intersectional approach to DHRs or include a diverse range of members on the panel. The proposed post would work with the City of London Corporation to address these key issues that have been highlighted by Standing Together around DHRs.

This bid supports the following agreed SCP priorities:

1. Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded.
2. People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person.

The Bangladeshi residents in the City of London are unable to access specialist services within Tower Hamlets, which has the largest Bangladeshi population of London Boroughs. Due to funding restrictions on services within neighbouring boroughs, they are unable to offer support to City of London residents. As a result, the City of London Bangladeshi residents are not offered the same level of support as residents in other boroughs.

Bangladeshi is the largest ethnic minority group within the City of London for both adults, children and young people. In 2018/19, 11.9% of Children and Family Assessments completed by the City of London Children's Social Care were for Bangladeshi children and young people. This has decreased to 4.5% in 2019/2020, which could indicate a lack of engagement in services and a risk of hidden harm. For Adult Social Care, 2.68% of people accessing long term support are for Bangladeshi vulnerable adults. This increased to 2.94% in 2019/20.

The City of London Police (City Police) data also reflects a low number of reports of domestic abuse/VAWG from this community where there are so many barriers which can prevent effective support. There were 4 recorded cases in 2018/2019 on the police database from this cohort. This could indicate a gap with the way crimes are being recorded on the system, as the City Police referred 7 cases to the Vulnerable Victims Advocate (VVA) during this time period. The data could also indicate barriers the Bangladeshi community face when reporting, such as language barriers, cultural differences and distrust of services. The

Bangladeshi residents could also have a lack of knowledge of services, such as the police and social services and how they are able to help. The proposed post could work with the Bangladeshi residents and partnership organisations to overcome these barriers.

The VVA supported 10 Bangladeshi residents in 2018/2019, this decreased to 2 residents in 2019/20. This could be a result of the VVA reducing to a part time post and less work being done around community engagement, therefore the Bangladeshi residents not knowing where to go for support. Language barriers are also a significant issue, for City of London residents the only option available to them is to be supported by the VVA via an interpreter. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the support offered to Bangladeshi residents is very limited, with support being provided via a telephone interpreter service. This is problematic as the victim does not know who the interpreter is and if they could potentially report information back to their wider community, putting the victim at significant risk of harm. This is also not an effective way to support a victim of domestic abuse, manage the risk and implement a safety plan.

The City of London Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (City MARAC) has received 6 referrals for high risk BAME residents within the past 2 years. This is 30% of cases that SafeLives estimate the City MARAC should receive each year. The City MARAC has recently heard a case for a Bangladeshi resident who has been known to City services for several years, however the support provided has been limited due to language barriers and lack of appropriate support available. The proposed post would provide appropriate support and develop referral pathways with organisations in neighbouring boroughs for a holistic approach, which in turn would reduce the risk of domestic abuse.

The proposed post has the potential to support, signpost and identify other areas of crimes and issues which may affect this community such as prevent, exploitation, crime prevention and anti-social behaviour. The post holder will have direct communication to the City Corporation's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Prevent Coordinator, police and all other agencies.

The proposed post will be delivered by the specialist domestic abuse and sexual abuse organisation Solace, who already provide advice and support to City of London residents and workers. The service will be available to all Bangladeshi residents within the City of London. There is an option for Solace to sub-commission the service to be delivered by a specific Bangladeshi organisation. Solace have recently been awarded the contract to deliver the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service in Tower Hamlets. The proposed post will therefore be well connected to the Bangladeshi community and services within Tower

	Hamlets, with the opportunity for the post holder to be line managed by the Tower Hamlets IDVA service.																
<p>Amount of funding sought. (please attach detailed breakdown where appropriate).</p>	<p>The total money required from SCP POCA for this bid is: £71,818</p> <p>The total amount is for the proposed post, 3 days per week, 2 years fixed term. This bid is requesting funding for a 2-year fixed term post due to the need for the service to be embedded through awareness raising and community engagement within year 1, to increase referrals in year 2.</p> <p><u>Year 1</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 663 1158 824"> <tr> <td>Salary (3 days a week)</td> <td>£25,540</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Venue Hire/Community Engagement</td> <td>£6,347</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Solace Central Costs</td> <td>£3,826</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£35,713</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Year 2</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="488 943 1158 1104"> <tr> <td>Salary (3 days a week)</td> <td>£25,890</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Venue Hire/Community Engagement</td> <td>£6,347</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Solace Central Costs</td> <td>£3,868</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£36,105</td> </tr> </table>	Salary (3 days a week)	£25,540	Venue Hire/Community Engagement	£6,347	Solace Central Costs	£3,826	Total	£35,713	Salary (3 days a week)	£25,890	Venue Hire/Community Engagement	£6,347	Solace Central Costs	£3,868	Total	£36,105
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<p>Outline the objectives of this activity; success criteria; and how this work contributes to the SCP outcomes for 2019-22.</p>	<p>The objectives of the proposed post are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of Bangladeshi residents accessing support for domestic abuse, sexual abuse and VAWG. • Increase awareness and education of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and harmful practices within the Bangladeshi community, for example through religious centres, schools, social care, universities, healthcare centres, police, housing estates. • Develop partnerships with services in neighbouring boroughs and pan-London. • Work closely with the City of London Police to build confidence with Bangladeshi residents and increase reporting. • Offer support to Bangladeshi City of London workers. • Provide advice to partner agencies around the Bangladeshi community and cultural practices/beliefs. <p>The success criteria for the proposed post will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in the number of Bangladeshi residents accessing domestic, sexual abuse and VAWG support within the City of London. • An increase in the number of police reports from the Bangladeshi 																

	<p>community within the City of London.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in referrals from partner agencies, both statutory and non-statutory into the proposed post. • An increase in Bangladeshi City of London residents engaging with both statutory and non-statutory services. • 3 awareness/training sessions delivered within the Bangladeshi community each quarter. • An increase in awareness of the Bangladeshi community's cultural practices/beliefs across partnership agencies. <p>The proposed campaign contributes to the Corporate Plan 2019-2022 through the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1: People are safe and feel safe. • Outcome 2: People enjoy good health and wellbeing • Outcome 3: People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential. • Outcome 4: Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.
Detail resources that will be provided from partners supporting this bid. E.g. Matched funding or other input. (further details can be attached).	<p>The City of London Police will support this bid by promoting the service internally to officers and staff and refer/signpost Bangladeshi victims to the service.</p> <p>The City Corporation Department of Communities and Children's Services will support this bid by referring/signposting Bangladeshi victims to the service and promoting the service within the organisation and to external partner agencies.</p>
Timescale funding required for?	<p>1-year fixed term OR 2 years fixed term</p>
What are the proposals criteria for success; measurable outcomes/outputs? Officer(s) responsible for monitoring the spend	<p>The success of the proposed post will be measured through an increased number of police reports from the Bangladeshi community and an increased number of referrals/self-referrals for Bangladeshi residents into the service. The success will also be measured through the number of training sessions delivered across the Bangladeshi community. The post holder will share quarterly updates on the progress/success of the service with the City of London VAWG Forum.</p> <p>Ayesha Fordham, the Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer will be responsible for monitoring the spend.</p>
Budget code/Account details for funds to be transferred.	<p>AP005-64301-1L-ZZZZ</p>

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: _____ Checked by: _____

Approved: Yes No

Approval arrangement: _____

Approved by (CoL) 1: _____

Approved by (CoLP) 2: _____