

## SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP – POCA FUNDING BID 2021-2022

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<b>Sponsoring SCP Organisation/ Department</b>	City of London Corporation, Department of Community and Children's Services
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<b>Name and purpose of activity</b>	<p>This paper outlines a proposal to fund additional counselling for people who have experienced domestic or sexual abuse who live or work within the City of London. Part of the requested funding is to provide additional funding to Iranian, Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), who are currently commissioned by London Councils to provide free counselling to women who live and work within the City of London. The requested funding is also to spot purchase specialist counselling from an appropriate service on an individual basis, to ensure the City of London can provide counselling for the whole community.</p> <p>Due to the size of the City of London, London Councils only commission a small number of counselling and this does not meet the needs of the community. IKWRO are commissioned to provide counselling to 3 women one to one, and 3 women for group sessions yearly.</p> <p>In 2020/2021 IKWRO reached their target for referrals in July 2020 resulting in the service being closed to the City of London until April 2021, leaving women within the City of London with no access to specialist, free counselling if they had experienced abuse. In 2020 Victim Support received one off funding to commission a range of services, including counselling. From this the Vulnerable Victims Advocate</p>
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referred five women to receive six counselling sessions between July 2020 to September 2020, due to IKWRO counselling service being closed to the City of London. As this funding was only available for a few months, victims/survivors had to be referred through their GP, which is problematic as the waiting list can be up to a year before they start sessions and the counselling is not specialist for people who have experienced abuse.

IKWRO have stated that they still evaluate each case on an individual basis, assessing the risk and needs of the client. They accepted 5 referrals for one-to-one counselling in 2020/2021. However, this is dependent on risk level and it is not guaranteed that every woman referred in will be accepted.

The IKWRO counselling service has already reached capacity for 2021/22 and has closed until April 2022. The Vulnerable Victims Advocate has referred three City of London residents into the service in October and November 2021, which have not been accepted due to capacity. The only option for counselling available to these victims/survivors is to be referred through their GP which will be a substantial waiting time. Funding for counselling for City of London residents is urgently needed for November 2021 to April 2022, which is when IKWRO reopen their service.

IKWRO have been unable to provide exact data for the number of referrals they could not accept, however they have stated that they 'did not accept a number of referrals for City of London as [they] met [their] targets early in the year and they needed to focus on other London boroughs'. Moving forward, this data will be requested from IKWRO through the VAWG Forum.

IKWRO offer counselling in English, Farsi, Dari, Arabic and Kurdish, therefore the counselling sessions could be offered to Afghan refugee women. IKWRO are a specialist service however they provide counselling to women from all ethnic backgrounds.

Access to counselling is problematic across London and is dependent on a 'postcode lottery' as to what is commissioned for each London borough. The data provided by IKWRO for 20/21 and 21/22 highlights the counselling provision currently commissioned is not enough for the number of victims/survivors within the City of London in need of counselling.

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.
<b>Amount of funding sought. (please attach detailed breakdown where appropriate).</b>	<p>The total money required from SCP POCA for this bid is:</p> <p><b>£4,000</b></p> <p>£2,500 for IKWRO to provide 60 counselling sessions to women who live and work within the City of London.</p> <p>£1,500 to spot purchase counselling sessions from an appropriate service on an individual basis, to meet the needs of the victim/survivor.</p>
<b>Outline the objectives of this activity; success criteria; and how this work contributes to the SCP outcomes for 2019-22.</b>	<p>The objectives of the requested funding are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IKWRO to provide specialist counselling sessions to women who live or work within the City of London have experienced domestic or sexual abuse.</li> <li>• To support women victims/survivors to feel empowered and to help cope with the trauma they have experienced.</li> <li>• To provide counselling from an appropriate service to anyone who lives or works within the City of London who has experienced domestic or sexual abuse.</li> </ul> <p>The success criteria for the requested funding will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sixty counselling sessions are delivered by IKWRO to women who live or work within the City of London.</li> <li>• Appropriate counselling is available for any individual who lives or works within the City of London, who has experienced domestic or sexual abuse.</li> <li>• After completing their counselling sessions the victims/survivors feel better able to cope with the trauma they have experienced.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed campaign contributes to the Corporate Plan 2019-2022 through the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome 1: People are safe and feel safe.</li> <li>• Outcome 2: People enjoy good health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Outcome 3: People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.</li> <li>• Outcome 4: Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.</li> </ul>
<b>Detail resources that will be provided from partners supporting this bid. E.g. Matched</b>	<p>The City of London Police will support this bid by signposting and referring victims/survivors to the service.</p> <p>The City Corporation Department of Communities and Children's</p>

<b>funding or other input. (further details can be attached).</b>	Services will support this bid by signposting and referring victims/survivors to the service.
<b>Timescale funding required for?</b>	November 2021- April 2022
<b>What are the proposals criteria for success; measurable outcomes/outputs? Officer(s) responsible for monitoring the spend</b>	<p>The success of the counselling sessions will be measured through an increase in the number of people who live and work in the City of London having access to specialist counselling. The impact of the counselling will be measured when each person has finished their sessions, by assessing if they feel better able to cope with the trauma they have experienced.</p> <p>Ayesha Fordham, the Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer will be responsible for monitoring the spend.</p>
<b>Budget code/Account details for funds to be transferred.</b>	AP005-64301-1L-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.

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**SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP TEAM USE ONLY**

Date received: 18/11/2021 Checked by: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:  Yes  No

Approval arrangement: \_\_\_\_\_

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



Approved by (CoLP) 2: Supt Bill Duffy