

Decision Note – Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre Service



REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

	Policing:	Crime:	Fire & Rescue:
This decision relates to:		X	

APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

Rationale for approval

STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Signature

Date 12th October 2023

Date decision required by: 30th September 2023

If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:

For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office only:-

Decision Number: SCP/D/202324/006

Date Received: 14 November 2023

	Yes	No
Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?	x	
Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?	x	
Who is empowered to make the required decision? Staffordshire Commissioner		

Title	Contract Award – Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre Service
Summary: <p>This report seeks to gain support for the NHS approval of the award of the Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre Service to Mountain Healthcare Ltd, following a successful tender exercise. This service will commence once the current contract comes to an end on the 31st March 2024. Areas are required to have this provision in place; Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner commissions this service on behalf of victims but also for and with the support of Staffordshire Police. It also accords with the Victims Code of Practice.</p> <p>A regional Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (ASARC) Service, which covers four police force areas (Staffordshire, West Midlands, West Mercia and Warwickshire) has been re-co-commissioned by NHS England - Midlands. It will be a 24/7/365 service, including both forensic medical examinations and crisis care.</p> <p>The ASARC Service is a specialist service for those who are victims of rape or sexual assault or where there is suspected sexual abuse, who are over the age of 18 (plus children aged 16 and 17 where clinically appropriate and agreed by the Children's SARC Service provider).</p> <p>The service will commence 1st April 2024 and end 31st March 2032. This timeline includes relevant clauses for an agreed extension of 3 years.</p> <p>The total contract value for the 8-year term is [REDACTED], including a non-recurrent set-up cost of [REDACTED]. The cost to Staffordshire over the 8-year period is [REDACTED] (excluding inflation, VAT and the non-recurrent set up cost). The table below in section 1 of the report shows the annual partner contributions for the service.</p>	

Recommendation:

To support the award of the Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre Service to Mountain Healthcare Limited from 1st April 2024.

Chief Executive

I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.

Signature



Date

11/10/2023

REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

1. Introduction and background

The ASARC is a regional service co-commissioned by the 4 PCCs and NHS England - Midlands. NHS England are the lead commissioner. The service, for those aged over the age of 18 (plus children aged 16 and 17 where clinically appropriate and agreed by the Children's SARC Service provider), delivers a comprehensive holistic adult SARC service covering crisis care, medical and forensic examinations, emergency contraception and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

The current contract is delivered by G4S Health Ltd; they deliver the services under two separate contracts across the West Midlands (Lot 1 covering Staffordshire and West Midlands and Lot 2 covering Warwickshire and West Mercia). These contracts are due to expire 31st March 2023, however NHS England received approval from the Commercial Executive Group to further extend the Adult West Midlands SARC contracts from 31st March 2023 to 31st March 2024 to enable the Forensic Science Regulator (FSR) SARC ISO accreditation to be progressed (the initial deadline being set for Oct 2023). Subsequent to this the national FSR implementation, the date was put back to October 2025.

The re-commissioning exercise commenced late 2022, with support from NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGEM CSU), who used the Light Touch Regime of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. A Procurement Steering Group was established, which consisted of the region's co-commissioners, AGEM CSU procurement leads, SARC contract managers and police tactical representatives. The group directed and maintained oversight of the tender process including specification and tender question development as well as agreeing weighting methodology. A multi-agency and multi-disciplinary evaluation panel, including subject matter experts was also established to ensure that quality and financial requirements were met.

The Invitation to Tender was advertised on the 15th May 2023 on both Find a Tender and Contracts Finder portals in line with legislative requirements. A guide bid price was included in the tender of [REDACTED]. 2 bids were received; one from Mountain Healthcare Limited and one from G4S Health Ltd (the current service provider).

Based on the submissions, and the agreed evaluation criteria, Mountain Healthcare Ltd were identified as the preferred provider. The total bid price submitted by Mountain Healthcare Ltd, excluding set-up costs was £[REDACTED]. Compared with the advertised estimated service cost the submitted bid provides a

total saving across all co-commissioning partners of [REDACTED] (excluding VAT and cost per case for exceeded activity) or [REDACTED] across the life of the contract.

A funding formula (% split based on demand) to proportion the cost of the service across all co-commissioners was agreed at the start of the re-commissioning exercise.

[REDACTED]

	% split (Clinical & FME)	Clinical and FME Costs	Forensic Science Regulation (FSR) Costs	Annual financial contributions based on winning bid price (excl. inflation and VAT)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

2. Issues for consideration

There is no alternative local provision to which adults who are victims of serious sexual assault and rape can be referred to, should this contract not be awarded.

A marginal cost of [REDACTED] will also be applied should activity exceed the SARC referral thresholds set by the commissioners for years 1 to 8 by over 10%.

There is a risk that the incumbent provider causes difficulties during mobilisation with regards to the TUPE of staff and any assets.

The current cost of the service is included within the SCO baseline budget [REDACTED]. This new service will cost [REDACTED] 2024/25 but will be accommodated within the baseline budget. However, the contract price will increase during the contract period; inflationary uplifts (to be determined) are included within the contract terms and conditions.

3. What other options have been considered?

There are no other options to be considered.

4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken

- A Health Needs Assessment was completed.
- The evaluation panel consisted of a service user advocate.
- Engagement with Stakeholders was undertaken, including Local Authorities, Healthwatch Bodies, 3rd Sector Providers and Integrated Care Boards.
- Engagement on the specification was undertaken with Providers via the 'market engagement prior information notice' and with steering group members.

Report Implications

5. Monitoring Officer comments:

Signature _____ Date 11/10/2023

E. Claph

6. Section 151 Officer comments:

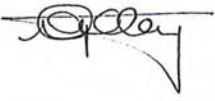
Signature _____ Date 11th October 2023

K. Ross

	Yes	No
Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report?		X
7. Legal Comments: Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGEM CSU) on behalf of NHS England is the lead for this commissioning exercise. The process was conducted under the Light Touch Regime.		
8. Equality Comments – please attach the completed EIA Please see EIA. The service is available to victims of sexual assault and abuse regardless of their, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and transgender. The service will implement strategies to engage and raise awareness of hard to reach groups, including improved self-referral pathways; making the service more accessible.		
9. Background/supporting paper Report from NHS England.		
Please answer the following questions	Yes	No
10. Public access to information?		X
11. Does this decision involve the processing of personal data? (If yes please attach a completed Data Impact Assessment) - NHS England - Midlands are the lead commissioner and will ensure compliance with GDPR and Data Protection, supported by the four PCC areas.	X see comment	
12. Is the publication of this form to be deferred? (If yes approx. how long?)		X

13. Does this form contain commercial or operationally sensitive information which is to be redacted? (If yes, please provide details with the submission of this note) We do not include the annual/total contract value and the annual/total bid price.	x	
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14. ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Author	Nicky Jolley
Signed	
Date	25.09.23

The purpose of this EIA is to ensure you consider any equality issues as part of your decision making when developing / reviewing your policy / procedure.

Please complete the sections below and send to the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office to be quality assured. New / revised policies cannot be published on the policy database until the EIA has passed the quality assurance process.

Title of policy/procedure:	Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Service Award
Department:	Commissioning and Partnerships Team, OPFCC
Date:	12 th October 2023

1. Identify the aims and purpose of the policy

To approve the award for the recently re-commissioned Adult SARC Service.

The service is for those aged over the age of 18 (plus children aged 16 and 17 where clinically appropriate and agreed by the Children's SARC Service provider). The service will deliver a comprehensive holistic adult SARC service covering crisis care, medical and forensic examinations, emergency contraception and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

2. Identify the individuals and organisations who are likely to have an interest in, or be affected by the policy.

Mountain Healthcare Ltd
Specialist providers of sexual abuse services
Current and historic adult victims of rape, sexual assault and abuse.

3. Data

- In 2022/23 there were 187,641 total sexual offences recorded across England and Wales by the Police, equivalent to a rate of 3.15 per 1,000 population. An increase of 0.4% compared to the previous year.
- Of those, 66,455 were incidents of rape and 121,186 were Other Sexual Offences.
- In 2022/23 there were 3,429 sexual offences recorded by Staffordshire Police. Of those, 1,180 were rapes. An increase of 9% compared to the previous year.
- The Adult SARC received 301 referrals. Of those, 283 were adults 18+.

3.1 Age

The service is available to those aged 18 years and above (plus children aged 16 and 17 where clinically appropriate and agreed by the Children's SARC Service provider).

3.2 Disability

This policy will not discriminate against disability. The service is available to any victim regardless of their disability.

3.3 Race

This policy will not discriminate against race. The service is available to any victim regardless of their race.

3.4 Religion or Belief

This policy will not discriminate against religion or belief. The service is available to any victim regardless of their religion or belief.

3.5 Sex

This policy will not discriminate against sex. The service is available to any victim regardless of their sex.

3.6 Sexual Orientation

This policy will not discriminate against sexual orientation. The service is available to any victim regardless of their sexual orientation.

3.7 Transgender

This policy will not discriminate against transgender. The service is available to any transgender victim.

4. Research

Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy for all or any of the protected groups. This could include information you have obtained from other sources e.g. Home Office.

4.1 Age

In 2022/23 Staffordshire Police recorded:

23% of victims were aged 18 to 29

27% of victims were aged 30 to 49

9% of victims were aged 50+

Those aged 30 to 49 years make up the second largest group of victims, after 10 to 17 year olds.

4.2 Disability

There is no data to support this group, however, this service will be available to any victim regardless of their disability.

4.3 Race

In 2022/23 Staffordshire Police recorded:

93% were White – North European

1% were White – South European

2% were Black

4% were Asian

4.4 Religion or Belief

There is no data to support this group, however, this service will be available to any victim regardless of their religion or belief.

4.5 Sex

84% of sexual offence victims recorded by Staffordshire Police are female, 15% are male and 0.1% indeterminate. This proportion is essentially unchanged over the last three years.

280 women and 21 men accessed the SARC service during 21/22.

4.6 Sexual Orientation

There is no data to support this group, however, this service will be available to any victim regardless of their sexual orientation.

4.7 Transgender

There is no data to support this group, however, this service will be available to any transgender victim.

5. Consultation

The following consultation exercises were undertaken to inform the procurement exercise, in particular the development of the service specification.

- A Health Needs Assessment was completed.
- The evaluation panel consisted of a service user advocate.
- Engagement with Stakeholders was undertaken, including Local Authorities, Healthwatch Bodies, 3rd Sector Providers and Integrated Care Boards.
- Engagement on the specification was undertaken with Providers via the 'market engagement prior information notice' and with steering group members.

5.1 Age

see above

5.2 Disability

See above

5.3 Race

See above

5.4 Religion or Belief

See above

5.5 Sex

See above

5.6 Sexual Orientation

See above

5.7 Transgender

See above

6. Conclusions

This project will not have an adverse impact on any of the equality strands and is available to all adult victims of sexual abuse either current or historic.

6.1 Age

A SARC service for children and young people aged under 18 years is commissioned separately.

6.2 Disability

See conclusions

6.3 Race

See conclusions

6.4 Religion or Belief

See conclusions

6.5 Sex

See conclusions

6.6 Sexual Orientation

See conclusions

6.7 Transgender

See conclusions

7. Decisions

If the policy will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how the policy will change or why it is to continue in the same way.

If no changes are proposed, the policy needs to be objectively justified.

No negative impact expected.

8. Monitoring arrangements

If the policy is new what consideration has been given to piloting the policy?

If monitoring is not already in place what arrangements have been made to monitor the effects of the policy on equality and diversity?

This is not a new service. It will continue to support the PFCCs drive to improve services and responses to sexual abuse, in particular the way sexual abuse victims are supported. Contract management and performance monitoring will continue to be overseen by the SARC Board.

This equality impact assessment will be published on the OPFCC website.

