



Decision Note –Domestic Abuse Victim and DA Perpetrator contracts (extension)

REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

	Policing:	Crime:	Fire & Rescue:
This decision relates to: Exercising the option to extend by 12 months, the Domestic Abuse (DA) Victim and the DA Perpetrator contracts		X	

APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

Rationale for approval

This decision supports the following priorities in my Police and Crime Plan:

- Ensure free specialist support services are in place for victims and witnesses.
- Ensure programmes are in place to address specific offences such as domestic abuse and harmful sexual behaviour.

STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Signature

Date 14 July 2025

Date decision required by:

If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:



For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office only:-

Decision Number: SCP/D/202526/004

Date Received: 14 July 2025

	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	Extension of the DA Victim and the DA Perpetrator Contracts
<p>Summary: The DA Victim and DA Perpetrator Contracts were let to Victim Support and operating under the brand 'New Era', effective from 1 October 2023 for a period of 3 years, with an option to extend both individual contracts by 2 individual 12 month periods. Funding is provided under a tri-partite agreement with Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council and led by the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office.</p> <p>This decision relates to the extension of both individual contracts for a single, 12 month period from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027.</p> <p>All three parties have approved the extension as detailed herein and the Tri-partite agreement will accordingly reflect this decision.</p>	
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>In line with discussions held, that the Staffordshire Commissioner approve the extension of the DA Victim and DA Perpetrator contracts held with Victim Support, operating under the brand New Era, effective from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027.</p> <p>In line with the above, that the Tri-partite agreement held between the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office (SCO) with Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council accordingly reflects this decision.</p>	



Chief Executive

I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.

Signature

Date 14 July 2025

REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

1. Introduction and background

Tackling DA remains a long term national and international priority enforced in the United Kingdom (UK) by developments in law and legislation such as the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and the on-going UK Government 'Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls' (2021) strategy.

The SCO in conjunction with Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council has on 19 June 2024 launched the pan Staffordshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment (DANA 2024) which clearly evidences and supports the need for continued and consistent DA community based services which align with Safe Accommodation services (SA) across the area.

In the same way as the national picture, prevalence of DA locally remains high with the Police Force area identified as home to almost 45,000 DA victims aged 16 years and over (comparing to the Crime Survey of England and Wales, year to March 2024) with over 25,000 DA victims recorded by Staffordshire Police in the year to January 2025.

In the year to September 2024, community based New Era Victim service supported 4,623 adult and child victims in the Staffordshire area and 2,523 adult and child victims in the Stoke-on-Trent area. The community based New Era Perpetrator Behaviour Change service supported 247 adult and child perpetrators of DA and 272 adult and child perpetrators of DA in the Stoke-on-Trent area.

Positive prevention and early intervention activity to raise awareness of DA and confidence in reporting ensures demand for support remains high. Additionally work with partners through new DA Local Authority led DA governance will aim to ensure that all children affected by DA are recognised as victims in their own right (Victims and Prisoners Act 2024).

2. Issues for consideration

Whilst extending current services for a further 12 months, the DANA 2024 highlights the volume of demand for DA and related support including but not limited to mental health, counselling, wellbeing and recovery support for adults and children. Waiting lists for support continue to be monitored and whilst volumes are not excessive when compared to other services, clearly there is a requirement to support those affected by DA in as timely a manner as possible. Therefore it is recognised that current investments can stretch only so



far and that additional funding is required to keep up with the level of demand and complexity of cases being supported.

The Victim and Prisoners Act particularly requires Health partners to play an even greater active role in the DA agenda and it is recommended that through new DA governance and other mechanisms, engagement and negotiation takes place with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) with a view to investment in local DA provision.

3. What other options have been considered?

It is recognised and acknowledged by all DA funding partners that there is significant strength in the current consistent, tiered DA service provision, recognised regionally and nationally as best practice.

Noting this, other options have not been considered. The current two contracts are well performing and in line with original requirements, evidencing positive outcomes for victims and perpetrators. As a result the proposal to extend existing arrangements is supported by all three funding partners.

4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken

Consultation surrounding the decision has been undertaken by the SCO with Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, both of whom are fully supportive of the approach.

Report Implications

5. Monitoring Officer comments:

Due process followed, contract extension exercise in line with contract conditions and Tri-partite agreement

Signature

Date 14 July 2025

6. Section 151 Officer comments:

SCO Budget with partnership contributions are in place for the extension for 2026/27.

Signature

Date 14 July 2025



	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: No legal advice has been sought, recognising that the ability to extend the existing two DA contracts is within the original contractual terms.		
8. Risks - please give the details of any operational or strategic risks that are affected by this decision (add risk reference number and title below) No risks are affected by this decision, noting the ability to extend the existing two DA contracts is within the original contractual terms.		
9. Equality Comments – please attach the completed EIA The Equality Impact Assessment dated 6 December 2022 remains unchanged with no adjustment or alteration.		
10. Background/supporting paper Full Business Case dated 1 April shared with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, SCO Chief Executive and SCO Director of Commissioning and Partnerships		
Please answer the following questions	Yes	No
11. Public access to information?	X	
12. Does this decision involve the processing of personal data? (If yes please attach a completed Data Impact Assessment)		X
13. Is the publication of this form to be deferred? (If yes approx. how long?)		X
14. 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) Business Case redacted for this notice	X	



15. ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Author	Helen Davies
Signed	Helen Davies
Date	14/07/2025