

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE
DECISION RECORD**

Decision Record Number: **07/2021**

Title: Humber wide research to identify the extent of unreported violence against women and girls

Executive Summary:

This is a record of the decision to commission research company VictimFocus to undertake inclusive research on the extent of violence experienced by women and girls in the Humber area.

Decision:

That the request to commit to provide funds of up to £18,000 to VictimFocus to deliver an inclusive survey measuring the extent of violence against women and girls in the Humber area be approved.

Background Report: Open/Closed (with FOI exemption(s) stated)

Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above decision has my approval.

Signature



Date 21.6.2021

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

SUBMISSION FOR: DECISION

OPEN

Title: Humber wide research to identify the extent of unreported violence against women and girls

Date: Tuesday 25th May 2021

1. Executive Summary

The Public Health Approach to Domestic Abuse (PHADA) Project has reached a point where we need to better understand the prevalence of domestic abuse (DA) and associated violence in Humberside that remains unreported. This research will be used alongside police and other partner's data to form a more informed profile of the severity and spread of violence affecting women across our area.

2. Recommendation(s)

To approve the commissioning of research company 'VictimFocus' to undertake a Humber wide survey of women and girls' experience of violence.

3. Background

VictimFocus recently carried out a survey of 22,500 women nationally to identify, using an inclusive question set, the prevalence of violence they had been subjected to, both historically as children and currently as adult women: http://www.victimfocus.org.uk/womens_experiences_violence_abuse_study

We would like to commission the researchers to replicate the survey locally, using a similar methodology and with input initially from a range of stakeholders, including Humberside Police.

The research would aim to take place over a period of six months and the findings to be utilised in identifying data trends, perpetrator demographic and offending location, causes of violence and gaps/barriers in identification and support of victims and their children.

Where appropriate, those who take part in the research will be invited to maintain future contact with our office to help shape and guide the formation

of the 'Victim's hub' and enable evidence base for future commissioning of sexual assault services.

Research findings will be shared with key stakeholders to support work in preventing domestic abuse, tackling violence against women and girls and supporting victims of violence, rape and sexual offences.

4. Options

- 1) Do nothing, do not provide the funding. This option is not recommended as there is a clear opportunity to evidence and form a response to women who have experienced violence, intimidation and abuse.
- 2) Use an alternative method to identify unreported violence.
- 3) Fully fund the request. This option is supported and recommended as it will provide us with an evidence base of unreported violence to work with in relation to domestic abuse and VAWG in the Humber area.

5. Financial Implications

Estimated spend is between £16-18,000 to carry out the research and analysis within a six month time frame and adopting a trauma informed approach whereby participants will be supported and guided to additional support where needed.

The proposed spend is in-line with similar survey costs (comparison quote can be found here). A direct commission is required in order to replicate previous research which is the intellectual property of VictimFocus, reduce start-up costs and provide us with a national comparator for findings.

6. Legal Implications

Ethical research methods to be agreed and met by VictimFocus. GDPR requirements for future contact with respondents to be agreed and signed off by OPCC Data Protection lead.

7. Driver for Change/Contribution to Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan

This research will help progress several key areas of OPCC activity: identifying vulnerable victims and increasing support provided to them, increasing public confidence through direct engagement and providing objective research to support a public health approach to preventing and reducing domestic abuse and primarily, violence against women and girls.

8. Equalities Implications

This research is solely aimed at women and those who identify as women as police data has identified that 76% of reported domestic abuse is perpetrated by men to women.

National research indicates that 1,425 women were killed by men in the UK from 2009-2018 (National Femicide census ten year report). VictimFocus national survey initial findings found the following:

“In total, 22,419 women reported that they had collectively been subjected to at least 808,607 acts of violence including 216,965 physical assaults and 363,964 sexual assaults. In their childhoods, women were collectively subjected to 395,558 acts of violence (49%) and in adulthood, women were subjected to 413,050 acts of violence (51%). Overall, this meant that of 22,419 women living in the UK, they were all subjected to at least 37 acts of violence each, in their lives since birth...findings in this report suggest that current statistics of the prevalence of violence against women have been underestimated for decades, and instead, it is likely that every woman and girl will be subjected to violence, abuse, rape or harassment. In the vast majority of cases reported here, women were subjected to multiple crimes and the perpetrators were overwhelmingly male.”

In order to take a public health approach we need to identify who is perpetrating the violence and who are the victims, we know from wider research women are most likely to be the victims and men the perpetrators. We are using a research company that employs two women as lead researchers who have backgrounds in trauma informed research methods.

9. Consultation

Key stakeholders views have been sought and used to inform this proposal.

10. Media information

This proposal forms part of our wider partnership work in tackling violence against women and girls.

11. Background documents

Initial research from VictimFocus is available here:

https://www.victimfocus.org.uk/womens_experiences_violence_abuse_study

12. Publication

Open/ (with exemptions and review date where relevant)

PLEASE COMPLETE AND APPEND THE FOLLOWING TABLE TO ALL REPORTS THAT REQUIRE A DECISION FROM THE COMMISSIONER

This matrix provides a simple check list for the things you need to have considered within your report. If there are no implications please state

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, OPCC officer(s) etc. prior to submitting this report for official comments	N/A
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget?	No
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Yes – additional quote attached below
The report is approved by the relevant Chief Officer	Yes
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	Yes
I have liaised with Corporate Communications on any communications issues	N/A
I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	N/A
I have included any equalities, diversity and or human rights implications within the report	Yes
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	N/A
I have included information about how this report contributes to the delivery of the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan	Yes

ⁱ Taylor, J. & Shrive, J. (2021) ‘I thought it was just a part of life’: Understanding the scale of violence committed against women in the UK since birth

Additional quotation

We have looked into this for you and unfortunately wouldn't be able to hit the numbers you need, I have however, provided top level costs for what we could provide if this helps, online option 1 is for the North East, option 2 is based on your specific authority areas:

a) Online Survey x,1000

- x1,000 respondents in the North East (not specified authority areas)
- Survey build host and programme up to 50 questions
- Data analysis
- Results presentation

£7,500 + vat

b) Online Survey x,200

- x200 respondents in specific local authority areas (Humberside, Hull, Grimsby and Scunthorpe)
- Survey build host and programme up to 50 questions
- Data analysis
- Results presentation

£5,800 + vat

Focus Groups x 3 sessions

Duration: 1-1.5hrs: 6-8 participants

Targeting ethnic minorities and older women

- Recruitment
- Incentives
- Moderation guide scripting
- Focus group moderation x 3 sessions
- Focus group results report

Based on online focus groups currently.

12,000 + vat

For face to face focus groups:

£13,500 (to include 1.5 day venue hire)

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