

## **Ministry of Justice - National ISVA and IDVA Fund**

### **Expression of Interest**

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are providing an additional £12m funding for ISVAs and IDVAs this financial year. This funding will be for two years until end March 2023. The MoJ will also be extending the existing £4m ISVA funding for a further year until end March 2023. This brings the full national ISVA and IDVA Fund to £16m.

The National ISVA and IDVA Fund which will be distributed through Expressions of Interest (EOI). The template for the EOI is attached to this guidance. This funding is committed for two years - from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2023. Existing additional ISVA grants held by PCCs will be extended to 31 March 2023.

### **Scope of the Funding (Eligibility)**

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The purpose of the Fund is to increase advocacy support for victims and survivors of sexual violence (SV) and domestic abuse (DA) across England and Wales, including children. While the MoJ expects this to focus predominantly on increasing the number of ISVAs and IDVAs across local areas to expand service capacity in response to the pandemic, they are also interested in receiving EOIs for innovative models of advocacy support for these groups of victims.

The EOIs should ensure that;

- Funding is directed in full to the employment of additional advocates, including training and on-costs.
- Translation costs will also be considered.

### **The PCC invites EOIs for providers that:**

- offer tailored support for under-represented survivors and those with protected characteristics;
- propose innovative advocacy models as well as for established roles such as IDVAs and ISVAs, for both adults and children;
- adopt hybrid models supporting both DA and SV victims, as well as violence against women and girls (VAWG) advocates and advisers, provided they will be supporting victims of SV and/or DA.

### **Specific roles eligible for this fund include:**

- ISVAs And ISVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)
- IDVAs And IDVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)
- Child specialist ISVAs and IDVAs

## IMPORTANT

### Submission information

We are asking for providers to submit a completed needs assessment and return no later than **12noon Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**.

The needs assessment template accompanies this information on our website. Please complete and return using '**National ISVA and IDVA Fund EOI**' in the title of the email and send to both of the following email addresses.

[julia.clough@westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:julia.clough@westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk)

[jayne.davison@westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.davison@westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk)

**If you have not had a submission acknowledgment email by 5pm Monday 1st March please contact Julia Clough, Head of Commissioning on mobile: 07716 701 705**

### Outcomes

- ISVAs, IDVAs and other advocates for both adults and CYP will ensure that the rights and interests of survivors are always upheld - in accordance to the Victims Code of Practice. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime>
- It is expected all advocates to be working towards the following outcomes;
  - a. Survivors have access to support that is individually tailored to their level of risk and support needs
  - b. Survivors who want support to navigate the criminal justice system, and have been impacted by disruption in the criminal justice system, has an advocate to support them throughout all stages of their journey
  - c. Survivors have someone to advocate on their behalf, to ensure their views and needs are heard and upheld, such as within the criminal justice process, the MARAC process, or in engagement with a range of other statutory and voluntary agencies.

Guidance on the key elements of the ISVA and IDVA roles can be found here:

- The role of an ISVA is detailed in the Home Office document '[Essential Elements of the ISVA Role](#)'
- The role of an IDVA is provided by [Safelives](#)
- The role of a CYP advocate has not been specifically defined as this is still a developing area of support provision. However, guidelines on safeguarding are detailed in '[Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018](#)'

### Evaluation Criteria

Expressions of interest will be evaluated based on the information provided in the template for the following tabs:

- A. Local assessment of need and
- B. Detail of posts required.

The evaluation criteria the PCC will use is as follows:

**A. Local assessment of need** - this tab in the template will enable the PCC to inform the MoJ to understand need in West Yorkshire. There are four sections in which we require to submit a response:

**Part 1** requires information on the number of existing advocates in West Yorkshire by specialism. It requires additional demand data relating to caseloads and waiting lists. This information is for context only and will not be evaluated, it will simply provide the necessary information on the existing support provision in West Yorkshire to allow the MoJ to understand the current situation.

**Part 2** requires 'Analysis of current unmet victim need in West Yorkshire area and how the PCCs proposal will address these gaps'.

The MoJ will evaluate this section against the evidence provided demonstrating:

- Analysis of victim need in West Yorkshire (including additional pressures placed on services by Covid-19)
- Explanation of why current provision is unable to satisfy it
- How West Yorkshires proposal will address these challenges

**Part 3** requires 'Describe existing gaps in provision for underrepresented victims (such as those with protected characteristics and males) and how this proposal will address these'

The MoJ will evaluate this section against the evidence provided demonstrating:

- A clear understanding of how underrepresented victims, such as those with protected characteristics are currently supported, and whether there is adequate tailored provision in West Yorkshire.
- How the proposal will ensure proportional service provision for these groups.

**Part 4** requires 'How do the roles you are proposing to fund align with existing provision? (e.g. how these will work collaboratively with statutory and community services)'

The MoJ will evaluate this section against evidence provided demonstrating:

- Analysis of existing local provision for DA and SV has taken place, and roles have been designed to link in with these local structures
- What gaps in the existing provision exist, and how these proposals will address them.

**B. Detail of posts applied for** - This tab in the template is where you must detail information relating to the posts that are applying for funding for. You must complete all columns and use a separate row for each post.

You are also be asked to outline each role required, any tailored provision it will offer and a breakdown of cost. We expect to see EOIs for CYP and tailored towards underrepresented groups, such as those with protected characteristics, from every area in response to the local need identified