

**RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE SUPPORT CENTRE – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Executive Summary**

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre has again applied for funding to assist with the costs of its Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service. It is seeking revenue funding of £20,000, a figure based around the number of new clients seen by the Charity from the Woking area. In view of the number of clients seen, the Charity operates a waiting list for its counselling services.

It is felt that, after taking into account the financial position of the Charity, the specialist nature of the services provided and the level of need in the Borough, the Executive should consider awarding a contribution towards the costs incurred through the support of Woking residents. Such a contribution, whilst not at the level requested, would demonstrate the Council’s support for the Charity and the clients it serves.

In view of this, it is recommended that a one-off grant of £10,000 should be awarded from the Council’s Community Fund for the coming year, to be used towards the costs of the services in the Borough. The Charity is to be advised that the award does not imply that a grant will be awarded in subsequent years, and that any future applications will be considered on their own merits and within the constraints of the budgets available.

It is further proposed that Woking Borough Council should work with the Charity over the coming year to explore any measures that could be taken to reduce the number of incidents of rape or sexual abuse in the Borough.

**Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:	<b>RESOLVE That</b> a one-off grant of £10,000 from the Community Fund be awarded to services in Woking.
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Reason for Decision	To support the work of the Charity in supporting clients from Woking through a range of services.
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Legal Authority	142 Local Government Act 1972
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Conditions	<p><b>Accounts.</b> The Organisation must submit accounts for the year in which the grant is awarded, including an income and expenditure account and balance sheet. Please note that accounts for other years may also be required.</p> <p><b>Monitoring Information.</b> The Organisation must submit monitoring information as a measure of its achievements. Failure to provide details will jeopardise the award.</p> <p><b>Publicity.</b> Where possible, the Organisation is required to publicise the support received from Woking Borough Council, including on websites and literature / leaflets produced.</p> <p><b>Payments.</b> Unless exceptional circumstances exist all invoices must be received quarterly with monitoring information for the previous</p>
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	<p>quarter.</p> <p><b>Payment Period.</b> Final quarter claims must be made by the second week in April. Unclaimed awards will not be available at a later date unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated to the Council before the end of the award year.</p> <p><b>Joint Working.</b> WBC expects the Organisation to engage positively on health and wellbeing multi-agency joint work affecting Woking. Groups which refuse may place their Council support at risk, e.g. grant, concessionary rent and other assistance.</p> <p>In particular, it is proposed that Woking Borough Council will work with the Charity over the coming year to explore any measures that could be taken to reduce the number of incidents of rape or sexual abuse in the Borough</p> <p><b>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.</b> Following the introduction of new legislation from April 2018, the Council expects the support of partner agencies in identifying people at risk of homelessness as early as possible to maximise the opportunities to prevent such. Partner agencies / organisations are expected to be engaged in joint working arrangements to assist in finding suitable housing and support solutions, and where appropriate to undertake and respond to the new 'duty to refer'. Groups which do not support this new legislation and way of working positively may put their Council support at risk.</p> <p><b>Surrey Funding.</b> The Group to be advised to seek contributions from other Surrey Local Authorities in the future.</p>
Performance Indicators	<p><b>Users.</b> The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the users.</p> <p><b>Enquiries.</b> The Organisation to provide a breakdown of the enquiries received.</p> <p><b>Publicity.</b> The Organisation to advise how the Council's support has been publicised.</p> <p><b>Statement of Use.</b> The Organisation to provide a statement stating the use to which the grant money has been put.</p>
Future Support	<p>The funding is recommended on a one-off basis through the Community Fund. The Charity is to note that the award does not imply that a grant will be awarded in subsequent years, and that any future applications will be considered on their own merits and within the constraints of the budgets available.</p>

**The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendation.**

### Background Papers:

2020/21 Application Form.

### Reporting Person:

Ray Morgan, Chief Executive  
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### **Contact Person:**

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### **Date Published:**

18 February 2020

## **Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre – Application For Financial Assistance**

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<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>The Charity RASASC was formed in 1992 with the aim of supporting all survivors of rape and sexual abuse who are aged 13 and above. The Charity is based in Guildford with a satellite service in Leatherhead. The support provided, however, covers the whole of Surrey, including Woking.</p> <p>The range of specialist services for survivors of rape and sexual abuse include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service</li> <li>• Long-term trauma counselling – up to two years</li> <li>• Youth Counselling Support Service</li> <li>• Family support and resilience programme</li> <li>• Telephone listening, information and signposting service (this operates nationally and focuses on Surrey)</li> <li>• Tailored community outreach and awareness to educate the local community about the impact of rape and sexual abuse, with the aim of reducing stigma and highlighting the referral pathways into the service for those in need.</li> </ul> <p>In 2018, RASASC was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The Award is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of The Queen's coronation.</p> <p>The Charity was also awarded the Small Charity of the Year by the Institute of Fundraising in recognition of its efforts to diversify its income and sustain the Charity into the future.</p>
1.2 Employees	18.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>57 whose activities include counselling, telephone helpline operatives, group support, office support and administration, outreach, fundraising and community engagement.</p> <p>Of those who volunteer their time as counsellors, all are fully qualified and have considerable experience of trauma therapy/counselling. Of those who work and volunteer for RASASC a proportion have direct experience of rape and sexual abuse. Former service users also work and volunteer for the Charity.</p> <p>All volunteers, especially counsellors and helpline, are provided with clinical supervision and six free continued professional workshops each year. This enables them to build on their knowledge which in turn provides an improved service to clients.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>1,272, comprising:</p> <p>123 male</p> <p>1,149 female</p> <p>29 disabled (minimum)</p> <p>312 ethnic minority</p>

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	<p>134 resident in Woking          46 aged 11-18          1,209 aged 19-65          17 aged 65+</p> <p>There are no charges and services are free at the point of need. Donations are encouraged from those clients able to provide a contribution.</p> <p>The figures exclude the number of contacts received through the telephone helpline.</p>
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£20,000 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>The Charity has applied for core funding towards the cost of delivering its Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service to survivors in Woking. The applicant has advised that over the past year 42 new clients from Woking sought help from this service. The average case load for an ISVA should be no more than 50 and the number of clients from Woking nearly utilise the skills and capacity of a full-time worker.</p> <p>This work is funded via piecemeal funding as is common within the voluntary sector. The majority comes from the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner whilst the significant shortfall comes from RASASC's core cost and from community fundraising and smaller grants.</p> <p>The applicant has stated that, in addition to the ISVA service, the Charity provides a disproportionate amount of outreach into Woking opposed to the rest of County with work being undertaken in partnership with Woking based organisations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your Sanctuary</li> <li>• The Lighthouse</li> <li>• The Foodbank</li> <li>• True Honour</li> <li>• Women in Prison</li> </ul> <p>The funding requested will contribute towards the cost of delivering support to Woking residents as well as towards community engagement and outreach in Woking.</p> <p>For residents who receive ISVA support then the aim is to help them overcome the trauma they have suffered and move forward with their lives. This is achieved by providing one-to-one, person centred support which assesses the issues faced by the survivor and then advocates on behalf of the survivor to enable them to address the issues that they have suffered.</p> <p>Typically, these will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to access GUM clinics</li> <li>• Support through the criminal justice system</li> <li>• Support to access peer-support groups</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to talk about their experiences and develop coping strategies with the support of the trained ISVA</li> <li>• Support with housing and benefits</li> <li>• Health advice.</li> </ul>
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>The application is for a contribution towards the cost of running the ISVA and counselling services. The Charity monitors the demographic information of these clients and on this basis seeks funding from Local Authorities towards the cost of supporting their residents. Accordingly a number of councils who benefit directly from the services have been approached for support.</p> <p>The applicant states that Woking clients account for 11.6 percent of all clients into these two services and that a contribution of £20,000 towards the cost of supporting them is therefore being sought.</p> <p>The applicant has not provided a breakdown of costs for which the funding is being sought. The budget provided by the applicant appears to be for the current year and does not refer to expenditure.</p>
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>The applicant has stated that the Charity ‘estimates’ that the funding requested will directly benefit the Woking residents who use the counselling and ISVA services. Over 2018/19 134 Woking residents used the Counselling and ISVA service.</p> <p>If funding was awarded, the Charity would commit to proactively outreaching in the community to ensure that community centres, supermarket community boards, places of worship and schools have direct information about the services.</p> <p>The Charity is the only non-statutory service in Surrey to provide direct support to survivors of rape and sexual abuse. For survivors, the Charity provides counselling for up to a year, and up to a year of active support through the ISVA services and two years of maintenance support.</p> <p>The Charity currently receives very little funding from Borough Councils and is keen that contributions are received in recognition of the number of residents supported across the area.</p>

<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £382,567 in the bank. The applicant has advised that many of the grants are paid in one instalment but need to cover fixed costs a whole year. The reserves policy of the Charity is to maintain in cash a minimum of the equivalent of three months of forecast expenditure, though ideally the Charity seeks to hold the equivalent of between 3 and 6 months of forecast expenditure.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for the current year (2019/20). The budget shows an anticipated income of £445,900 against an anticipated expenditure of £440,000, resulting in a small surplus of £5,900. The budget for 2020/21 would assume a 3% growth.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes grants (£423,900), donations (£19,600),</p>

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	<p>client contributions (£200), and events (£2,000).</p> <p>The applicant has advised that the Charity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ is applying to the National Lottery Community Foundation;</li> <li>○ receives funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Rape Support Fund, administered through the Ministry of Justice;</li> <li>○ received grant funding from Henry Smiths, Lloyds Foundation and BBC Children in Need;</li> <li>○ currently works with several Councils including Surrey Heath and Reigate and Banstead Borough Councils where there is a disproportionately high incidence of rape and sexual abuse to try and encourage support for the Charity's work.</li> <li>○ has worked with the National Lottery Community Fund on a bid for a Communications and Engagement Manager. The key aim of this post is to help deliver the Charity's message more effectively and reach those living within the community who have the capacity to support the charity on a longer-term basis.</li> </ul>
<p>2.2 Accounts</p>	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2018/19 for RASASC Guildford Limited which show an income of £422,951 against expenditure of £464,582, resulting in a deficit of £41,631. The sum of £260,564 was carried forward at the end of the 2018/19 year, comprising £115,903 unrestricted funds and £134,661 restricted funds.</p> <p>The deficit is due in part to the decision of the Trustees to spend funds on an initiative to reduce the waiting times for face-to-face counselling services.</p>
<p>2.3 Support over the past five years</p>	<p>2019/20 – Application for £25,000 not supported. The application was similar to the application now before the Executive.</p>

<h3>3.0 Assessment of Application</h3>		
<p>3.1 Key Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution</li> <li>○ Registered Charity</li> <li>○ VAT Registered</li> <li>○ Equal Opportunities Policy</li> <li>○ Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>○ Reserves Policy</li> <li>○ Quality Mark</li> <li>○ Other funding sources pursued</li> <li>○ Other support by the Council</li> <li>○ Fundraising</li> <li>○ Two quotes</li> <li>○ Regular monitoring provided previously</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>

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<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager</u></p> <p>The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) is based in Guildford but offers support to anyone in Surrey who is a survivor of rape and sexual abuse. RASASC is applying for £20,000 in Revenue Funding to contribute towards the cost of running their Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and counselling services. The Group employs two full time ISVAs and three part time ISVAs, two of these posts are already funded.</p> <p>An ISVA can usually manage a case load of about 50 clients and at RASASC they take a long-term approach to ISVA support (up to a year of active support and two years maintenance support). In addition they have qualified, experienced volunteer counsellors who provide long-term counselling (up to one year) as against a usual NHS offer of 6 sessions.</p> <p>Last year out of 1,272 users (this excludes telephone helpline which were included in their last application), 134 users were residents of Woking, with 42 new clients accessing the services of the ISVA from the Woking Borough. Woking clients account for 11.6 percent of all clients accessing either the ISVA or counselling services. It would be good if we could find some way to offer a contribution towards this valuable service.</p>
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre has again applied for funding to assist with the costs of its Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service. It is seeking revenue funding of £20,000, a figure based around the number of new clients seen by the Charity from the Woking area. In view of the number of clients seen, the Charity operates a waiting list for its counselling services.</p> <p>A summary of the support services provided is set out below.</p> <p><b>Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service</b></p> <p>ISVA support seeks to help individuals overcome the trauma they have suffered and move forward with their lives. This is achieved by providing one-to-one, person centred support which assesses the issues faced by the survivor and then advocates on behalf of the survivor to enable them to address the issues that they have suffered. The support may include assistance with access to Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics, the criminal justice system, peer-support groups, opportunities to talk about their experiences and develop coping strategies and support with housing and benefits.</p> <p><b>Helpline</b></p> <p>The free helpline provides information and emotional support to survivors of rape or sexual abuse, and to people who are supporting a survivor. The helpline is open 7.30pm to 9.30pm, Monday to Thursday (excluding Bank Holidays). The Charity will also signpost callers to a range of other relevant services depending on their needs.</p> <p><b>Counselling</b></p> <p>RASASC provides a range of counselling services to meet the needs of female and male survivors, aged 13 and over. Counselling gives the client the opportunity to talk to someone about their experiences and how they affect them, helping them to come to terms with what</p>

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has happened. Three types of counselling services are provided:

Adult counselling – face-to-face individual counselling for up to two years

Youth counselling – face-to-face individual counselling for young survivors aged 13-17 years

Family support – support for the families of survivors

### **Group support**

The Charity's group support gives survivors of rape and sexual abuse the chance to support each other in a safe and confidential environment.

### **Self-confidence and esteem programme**

The self-confidence and esteem programme aims to provide a safe space to look at some of the common issues that survivors experience and their feelings around them. Topics covered include relationships, self-esteem, guilt and blame. This programme is run in blocks of 12 weekly sessions. Each session is two hours long, with a choice of either daytime or evening sessions. The daytime programme is held one day a week in Guildford and the evening programme one evening a week in Woking. The maximum number for each programme is eight people.

Over the past year, the Charity has supported the following:

686 ISVA clients, of whom 57 were young people.

13 young survivors, who received specialist support from the Youth Counsellor.

108 outreach sessions across Surrey, reaching over 1,200 people.

1,305 clients through the helpline service.

3,672 free counselling sessions provided.

79 Group work sessions held.

87% of counselling clients and 93% of ISVA clients reported an improvement in their mental well-being as a result of using the services.

The Group last applied for funding in 2018, seeking £25,000 towards the costs of the ISVA services in Woking. In view of the significant level of funding requested, the likely ongoing nature of the costs and the comments of the Consultee, the application was not supported. RASASC has applied again this year, seeking a contribution of £20,000 towards the costs of their services in the Borough.

The budget this year is again such that no funds could be allocated to RASASC from the Council's revenue budget without impacting on one or more of the existing projects/services supported by the Council. It is felt, however, that, after taking into account the financial position of the Charity, the specialist nature of the services provided and the level of need in the Borough, the Executive should consider awarding a contribution towards the costs incurred through the support of Woking residents. Such a contribution, whilst not at the level requested, would demonstrate the Council's support for the Charity and the clients it serves.

In view of this, it is recommended that a one-off grant of £10,000

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should be awarded from the Council's Community Fund for the coming year, to be used towards the costs of the services in the Borough. The Charity is to be advised that the award does not imply that a grant will be awarded in subsequent years, and that any future applications will be considered on their own merits and within the constraints of the budgets available.

It is further proposed that Woking Borough Council should work with the Charity over the coming year to explore any measures that could be taken to reduce the number of incidents of rape or sexual abuse in the Borough.

REPORT ENDS