

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

**Executive Summary**

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) is based in Guildford. It provides a number of services, including a telephone helpline, face to face counselling, self-help support groups and support counselling for families and friends of those affected by rape or sexual abuse.

The Centre has applied for funding of £25,000 towards the costs of employing an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) to provide support for an additional 50 residents of the Borough. The role of an ISVA includes practical advice on HIV, contraception, STIs, Police procedures, reporting, court, counselling, medical signposting, accompanying to appointments, the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) or court.

Taking into account the comments of the consultees, the longer term implications of supporting the creation of a new post and the lack of clear justification for the proposals, it is recommended that the application is not supported. However, it should be emphasised that the Council is keen to develop the relationship between the Charity and the services of the Council.

**Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:

**RESOLVE That** no grant be awarded.

Reason for Decision

It is not considered that the application has provided sufficient justification for the Council to fund an additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisor post.

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

**Background Papers:**

2019/20 Application Form.

**Reporting Person:**

Douglas Spinks, Deputy Chief Executive  
Extn: 3440, Email: douglas.spinks@woking.gov.uk

**Contact Person:**

Frank Jeffrey, Democratic Services Manager  
Extn: 3012, Email: frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk

Doug Davern, Democratic Services Officer  
Extn: 3018, Email: doug.davern@woking.gov.uk

**Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Ayesha Azad

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

Email: Cllrayesha.azad@woking.gov.uk

### **Shadow Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Ian Eastwood

Email: cllrian.eastwood@woking.gov.uk

### **Date Published:**

4 December 2018

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

<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>The charity Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) was formed in 1992 to support all survivors of rape and sexual abuse who are aged 13 and above. The Centre is based in Guildford with a satellite service in Leatherhead and 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</li> <li>• Youth Support Service</li> <li>• Family support and resilience programme</li> <li>• Telephone information and support line</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>The Charity was commended by HRH the Countess of Wessex in 2017 after which it was awarded the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of the impact of its work for local survivors. RASASC has also been awarded 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	11, including the Operations Manager, Counselling Coordinator, Crisis Counsellor, Office Administrator, Helpline Supervisor and Clinical Lead and Counselling Coordinator.
1.3 Volunteers	<p>87 whose activities include counselling, telephone helpline operatives, 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.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>2741, comprising:</p> <p>763 male</p> <p>1,978 female</p> <p>103 disabled (320 not stated)</p> <p>1,724 ethnic minority</p> <p>126 resident in Woking, including ISVA clients, counselling clients and youth service.</p> <p>75 aged 11-18</p> <p>2,584 aged 19-65</p> <p>82 aged 65+</p> <p>No charges are made for the service, so it is therefore available to</p>

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	<p>those at the point of need. However, clients are advised of the charitable status of RASASC and are given a flyer highlighting this fact and inviting them to consider giving a donation should they be able to do so.</p>										
1.5 Members	None.										
1.6 Sum Requested	£25,000 (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. Last year 39 new clients from Woking sought help from this service. The Applicant has advised that, as the average case load for an ISVA should be no more than 50, residents of Woking nearly utilise the skills and capacity of a full-time worker.</p> <p>Furthermore, the applicant has stated that, in addition to the ISVA service, RASASC provides a disproportionate amount of outreach in Woking compared to the rest of County, with work being undertaken in partnership with organisations such as Your Sanctuary, The Lighthouse, the Foodbank, True Honour and Women in Prison.</p> <p>The funding will therefore 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 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> <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> <p>The applicant has advised that the work is not fully funded. Funding is provided by the Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner but does not cover the full cost of delivering the work. The remaining funding comes from within the Group's core funds.</p>										
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<p>The cost of funding an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor for one year is:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£24,720</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National insurance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,966</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pension</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,236</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supervision</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,472</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clinical Supervision</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,000</td> </tr> </table>	Salary	£24,720	National insurance	£2,966	Pension	£1,236	Supervision	£2,472	Clinical Supervision	£2,000
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1.9 Community Benefit	<p>RASASC anticipates that 50 additional local Woking based residents will access the ISVA support as a result of the Council's support. These individuals will be survivors of rape and sexual abuse so will present in a vulnerable state with a definable mental health issue. It is anticipated that over 80% of these survivors will report an improvement in their health and wellbeing because of the Charity's intervention.</p>																

<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £251,723 in the bank. The sum of £162,591 is reserved. The restricted income is ringfenced for specific projects or programmes that are grant funded and therefore the income can only be used for the purpose for which it was secured.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2019/20 which shows an anticipated income of £464,500 against an anticipated expenditure of £464,908, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £408.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes grants (£424,000), donations (£24,000), client contributions (£12,000), and events (£4,000). Items of expenditure include ISVA (£280,000), youth counselling (£24,000), counselling (£34,000), helpline (£18,908), and office costs (£100,000).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for the period 1 November 2016 to 31 March 2018 which show an income of £486,469 against expenditure of £484,151, resulting in a surplus of £2,318. The sum of £292,195 was carried forward at the end of the period.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	<p>New application.</p>

<b>3.0 Assessment of Application</b>		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution</li> <li>○ Registered Charity</li> <li>○ VAT Registered</li> <li>○ Equal Opportunities Policy</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>No</p> <p>No</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Adam Thomas, Family Support Programme Team Manager</u></p> <p>RASASC is requesting £25,000 to fund a full time Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) for Woking clients. The Charity is based in Guildford and covers the whole of the County, however, I note from the application that it already works with Woking-based partners and has a clear service-need within the Borough.</p> <p>I support this application, considering that the funding is for a Woking-based client group and I would hope that RASASC would look to work together with Woking partners to ensure that it is well utilised and accessible for Woking residents. Should the bid be successful then either I or the Council's Community Safety Officer can be a point of liaison for partnership links. A consideration is that the funding will only cover one year, therefore there needs to be ongoing thought regarding sustainability.</p> <p><u>Sylvie Marshall, Community Development Manager, and Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager</u></p> <p>The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) is based in Guildford but offers support to those across Surrey who are survivors of rape and sexual abuse.</p> <p>RASASC is applying for £25,000 in Revenue Funding to go towards the costs of employing an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA). The Group employs two full time ISVAs and three part time ISVAs, two of these posts are already funded.</p> <p>Last year out of 2,741 users, 126 users were residents of Woking with 39 new clients accessing the services of the ISVA from the Woking Borough.</p> <p>We would like to see the group start to build closer relationships with Borough services going forward in order to increase the proportion of clients from Woking. Building a robust external referral network with local partners we feel would support this. At this time we would not support the application from RASASC.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>RASASC has applied for funding of £25,000 towards the costs of employing an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA). The ISVA service provides advice, advocacy, practical and emotional support. The Advisers assist in making appointments for forensic medical testing at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), pregnancy testing, sexual infection testing, mental health, physical health, housing, court, police, claims, signposting and support. The Centre currently employs seven ISVAs.</p>	

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The Group has advised that demand for Woking over the past year has represented a large proportion of the case load of a single ISVA (39 cases in Woking, against an average case load of 50 for an ISVA). On this basis the Group is seeking a proportion of the costs of employing a further ISVA (approx. 65%). The applicant has advised that 50 additional Woking residents would be able to access the support of the ISVA work. Each client can receive up to a year of active support and two years maintenance support through the ISVA programme.

The Charity receives funding from a variety of organisations, with grants forming the majority of the Centre's income (£432,245 of the total income of £486,469 over a 16 month period to March 2018). During that period, the Charity received funding for a new Community Engagement Officer and the establishment of a new youth counselling and family support service. The youth service will provide face to face counselling to young people aged 13-17 years old. Over the same period, the Charity has expanded its ISVA service with the introduction of two new specialist ISVAs. The young person's ISVA started in February 2018 and an ISVA specialising in survivors with mental health issues started in March 2018. Three year funding was awarded for both posts.

Over the 16 month period, the Charity supported 845 clients across Surrey through the ISVA service, received 2,086 calls to its helpline, conducted 420 client interviews and provided 5,582 counselling sessions to clients in need.

The Charity has submitted a funding application to the Big Lottery to fund the Community Engagement work; the result of which is pending. Ongoing funding is received through BBC Children in Need, the Henry Smith Charity and the Lloyds Foundation. The Charity's proactive approach to seeking grant funding has resulted in a substantial increase in grant income. RASASC has also worked with corporate partnerships to develop two-way relationships to deliver sexual abuse and awareness training and see the partners providing much needed financial support.

RASASC is an extremely successful Charity and in the past year has been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service and the Institute of Fundraising Small Charity of the Year Award. The services have assisted many residents of the Borough and the Charity has applied for funding on the basis of the level of demand seen across Woking. The funding would enable the Charity to employ a further Independent Sexual Violence Adviser and as a new revenue application is likely to have an ongoing call on the Borough Council's Community Grants budget.

Attention is drawn to the consultee comments set out earlier in this report. The comments reflect the desire by the key teams of the Council to work closer with the Centre to build relationships with the services of the Council and do not support the award of funding at this stage. It is not considered that the application has provided sufficient justification for the Council to fund an additional ISVA post and, in view of this and the suggestions of the consultees, it is recommended that the application is not supported.