

## **CHIEF OFFICER TEAM DECISION PAPER**

### **APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM PROVIDER OF SARC (MEDICAL) SERVICES BETWEEN 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

**Report of                    ACC Dodd**

#### **Summary**

West Yorkshire Police sought a provider of SARC services in 2013. The procurement failed and a decision was made by the Police and Crime Commissioner to enter into a procurement process with other forces in the Yorkshire and Humber region. That procurement is currently underway.

Whilst the regional procurement has progressed, interim arrangements were established. These have been provided by SERCO under a temporary contract that concludes on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

The Y&tH Procurement team-led process has not progressed as quickly as anticipated; a secondary issue is that forces have sought to harmonise the completion dates of their current SARC service contracts. It is anticipated that the procurement process will be completed in time for a new provider to deliver SARC services from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

There is a requirement to appoint a provider of an Interim Forensic Medical Examination service for West Yorkshire to bridge the gap between 1<sup>st</sup> February and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and until a regional procurement can appoint a provider of a fully functional SARC service. As a consequence, an extension to the interim arrangements is sought.

The cost of extending the interim arrangements is approximately £77,000. This is the current pro rata rate for the interim contract. NHS England has agreed to provide 50% of the funding in line with current arrangements.

A contract needs to be in place to start from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014 in order to ensure continuity of service provision to victims of sexual violence across West Yorkshire

#### **FOR DECISION**

**The item has been previously discussed at COT**

**The contents of this document will not affect Force Policy.**

**The contents of this document will not affect District/Department Plans**

**Financial Implications Verified by regional procurement**

**An Impact Assessment has not been carried out**

**The following consultation has been carried out:**

Police Healthcare partnership Board

NHS England

SARC Delivery Manager

## **BACKGROUND**

West Yorkshire Police sought a provider of SARC services in 2013. The procurement failed and a decision was made by the Police and Crime Commissioner to enter into a procurement process with other forces in the Yorkshire and Humber region. That procurement is currently underway.

Whilst the regional procurement has progressed, interim arrangements were established. These have been provided by SERCO under a temporary contract that concludes on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

The procurement process has not progressed as quickly as anticipated; a secondary issue is that forces have sought to harmonise the completion dates of their current SARC service contracts.

There is a requirement to appoint a provider of an Interim Forensic Medical Examination service for West Yorkshire to bridge the gap between 1<sup>st</sup> February and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and until a regional procurement can appoint a provider of a fully functional SARC service. As a consequence, an extension to the interim arrangements is sought.

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## **PROPOSAL**

That SERCO are requested to extend their provision of SARC services for two months and until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

Serco's model of delivery provides for:

- Both adult and child victims
- Consistency of provision – they are the incumbent provider
- Given the tight timeline, this option represents the least operational risk and allows for continuity of service for victims and service users

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The current interim contract provided by SERCO is £384,261.68 for the 10 month contract period.

Extending the provision for two months is likely to cost (pro rata) approximately £77,000.

NHS England accepts responsibility in supporting the provision of forensic healthcare to victims of sexual offending. On this basis, the lead Commissioner for NHS England has already provided 50% to the overall cost of the service with a commitment to continue to do so.

The financial commitment for West Yorkshire Police will be 50% of the agreed cost of the contract and in the region of £38,500.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To ask SERCO (the incumbent provider) to continue to deliver Forensic Medical Examination Services for Victims of Sexual Assault in West Yorkshire for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

## **DECISION REQUIRED**

The Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to approve the recommendation on the basis that the awarding of this extension to the contract could be seen as either novel, contentious or repercussive.

This option will allow the PCC and West Yorkshire Police to maintain consistent services to victims. Relevant stakeholders have been consulted on this approach.

