

## **Financial modelling of domestic violence services**

### **Purpose of report**

For noting.

### **Summary**

At a recent meeting the Home Secretary asked the LGA to look at how councils could be provided with a financial incentive to invest in domestic abuse and violence against women and girls services. Essex County Council has been invited to give a presentation to the Board on their work on applying a whole place community budget approach to domestic abuse services.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to:

1. note this report as background information; and
2. receive the presentation from Essex; and discussion relevant issues for Cllr Lucas to input to the Ministerial roundtable in November.

### **Action**

LGA officers to continue work in this area further to members' comments.

**Contact officer:** Helen Murray  
**Position:** Head of Programmes  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3266  
**E-mail:** [helen.murray@local.gov.uk](mailto:helen.murray@local.gov.uk)

## **Financial modelling of domestic violence services**

### **Background**

1. The Home Secretary, Theresa May, met the LGA Chairman, Sir Merrick Cockell, and the LGA's Domestic Violence Champion, Cllr Ann Lucas, on 12 September 2012 to discuss local authority funding of domestic violence services and how domestic violence projects are commissioned.
2. At the meeting, the LGA Chairman highlighted positive findings from LGA research, which evidenced the numbers of people that local authorities are continuing to support through continued investment in domestic violence services.
3. Cllr Lucas explained however that financial incentives are often targeted towards police and health services which receive most of the financial reward, even when councils contribute the most investment. This makes it difficult for councils to invest limited resources in domestic violence services against other priorities, even when the evidence, moral case and risks of discontinuing this work are clear.
4. The LGA therefore agreed to work with our member authorities and the Home Office to develop a possible financial model to ameliorate this, informed by developing plans around community budgets.

### **LGA and community budget activity on financial modelling**

5. The whole place community budget pilots have developed local business plans based on a single local budget comprising all funding for local public services, or options for pooling and aligning resources. The plans are required to clearly set out a cost/benefit analysis, explaining how partner agencies will together transform local services, what the budget will be spent on, what the better outcomes for local people will be, and what financial savings will accrue.
6. The pilots have shared draft detailed information with the LGA ahead of signing off their business plans with the Department for Communities and Local Government by the end of October 2012. This has been a focused and sensitive time for the pilots, so the LGA is particularly grateful for their assistance.
7. The pilots are developing business cases to:
  - 7.1. analyse costs, savings, cashable and non-cashable impacts and benefits;
  - 7.2. explore reinvestment of cashable savings to reduce investment required;
  - 7.3. identify how costs and demands on services can be avoided, eg. by services addressing families' holistic or complex needs, joining up service provision for domestic violence and re-offending;
  - 7.4. explore and profile victims' journeys to identify service improvements;

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- 7.5. identify where service provision could increase, eg. where promotion and better access to services means more people approaching them; and
  - 7.6. explore how better use of current services, agencies working together and new interventions and innovation could better address domestic violence.
8. Work by one whole place community budget pilot estimates that by jointly reconfiguring services, partners would be making savings of over £4 million a year by year five of a joint programme, with the local authority seeing savings worth over £2 million a year at that point. These assumptions will however be tested through the pilots.
  9. Building on earlier work from Greater Manchester, Essex is focusing work specifically to explore what the benefits of a community budget approach would be for its domestic abuse services.

**Financial implications**

10. Any work arising out of this report will be met from existing resources so there are no financial implications for the Board.