



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

WMPCC bespoke Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault and Abuse Commissioning Framework.

Market Engagement Event

Background

- ▶ Funding for Victims devolved to OPCC's in 2015 with greater emphasis on local provision.
- ▶ MOJ retained responsibility for high impact / specialist support nationally, including Rape Support, Homicide Service, Court based witness services, Human Trafficking & National Victims Helpline.
- ▶ PCC remains committed to evolving the support available to victims and ensuring limited resources are being utilised effectively to meet rising levels of demand.

DA & SAA Funding

- ▶ Demand for Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault & Abuse Support services increased significantly following the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- ▶ In response to this unprecedented increase in demand for services and due to issues with throughput in the criminal justice system (CJS), many victims have been requiring greater and longer support through the CJS.
- ▶ Ministry of Justice (MoJ) made available additional funding to increase the provision of DA and SAA support. A total of £147m of funding was committed over a multiyear period, until the end of 2024/25 for victim services.
- ▶ Current 12 month financial settlement for 2025 - 26
- ▶ Utilising this extension to prepare for anticipated multi-year award from 2026-27.

Victims & Prisoners Act 2024

Duty to Collaborate

- ▶ The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 brought a number of reforms to the way services to DA and SAA are commissioned by introducing a duty to collaborate. The duty requires PCC's, integrated Care Boards (ICB's) and Local Authorities for a police area to work together when commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence - excluding accommodation-based support.
- ▶ The new duty aims to provide victims with a more joined up pathway, receiving the right support at the right time, reduced duplication by commissioners and a common understanding of local need and provision.
- ▶ In preparation for the duty to collaborate and the subsequent needs assessment which will follow, the OPCC is seeking implementation of this commissioning framework.

Local Authority engagement

- ▶ Engaged with LA commissioning colleagues
- ▶ Sought agreement on specification
- ▶ Local commissioners will be named on the framework as potential users
- ▶ Local commissioners will be able to purchase off the framework but will use their own terms and conditions

Procurement Act 2024

- ▶ The Procurement Act 2023 is UK legislation designed to reform public procurement, making it simpler, more transparent, and more effective.
- ▶ It came into force on February 24, 2025, and aims to improve how public money is spent, open up public procurement to more suppliers, and increase scrutiny of public spending.

What is a framework?

- ▶ A pre-arranged agreement between a buyer and multiple suppliers, outlining the terms and conditions for future purchases of goods, services, or works.
- ▶ It simplifies the procurement process by providing a pre-vetted list of suppliers and standardised contract terms, allowing buyers to make purchases without lengthy individual tendering processes.

Why a framework?

- ▶ Reduction in post code lottery.
- ▶ Improved service user outcomes with victims directed to the right service, the first time.
- ▶ Reduction of unwarranted variation in service operational delivery.
- ▶ Reduction in unwarranted variation in service delivery and commissioning arrangements.
- ▶ Consistent and more streamlined commissioning processes and approaches and improved sharing of best practice. This will support sustainable service delivery and commissioning going forward.
- ▶ Reduced duplication and fragmentation of commissioned services through collaborative agreements and joined up commissioning intentions and arrangements.
- ▶ Formalised and improved system integration with alignment through contractual obligations.

Framework Structure:

- ▶ Based on National IDVA ISVA Statutory Guidance
- ▶ Lot 1 - Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate IDVA
- ▶ Lot 2 - DA Cope and recover services (advocacy/outreach, counselling and therapeutic services peer support, Helpline, holistic creative services)
- ▶ Lot 3 -Independent Sexual Violence Advocate ISVA
- ▶ Lot 4- SAA Cope and recover (advocacy/outreach, counselling and therapeutic services peer support, Helpline, holistic creative services)

Potential Providers

- ▶ The PCC will be seeking applications from prospective providers to join an **approved supplier list** to deliver on the commitments (outlined in the specifications)
- ▶ Consortiums or single providers welcome
- ▶ Ambition to include delivery across the West Midlands region, including accessibility to all demographics and localities within the region
- ▶ Due regard for the needs of all victims
- ▶ Specialist IDVAs/ISVAs with appropriate accredited training in line with the IDVA/ISVA National Occupational Standard and statutory IDV/ISVA guidance

Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) from the perspective of a commissioning Local Authority

Andrea Cooke

Solihull Council, Public Health

Continuous Access to New Suppliers



No locked-in supplier list – Unlike a static framework, suppliers can apply and join the DPS at any time during its life.



Supports **market growth and innovation**, as new providers can come on board as services, technology, or capabilities evolve.



Particularly beneficial in sectors where **new entrants and Small and Medium sized enterprises (SMEs)** can deliver value.

Faster Procurement for Individual Call-Offs

Once the DPS is set up, **mini-competitions** can be run quickly with pre-qualified suppliers.

Reduces lead times for purchasing because **supplier vetting is done upfront** during entry to the DPS.

Useful for **reactive or urgent needs** without sacrificing compliance.

Easier for SMEs and Local Businesses

Process to entry – the qualification process is generally lighter than a full tender.

Encourages participation from **local and niche providers**, aligning with social value and community benefit goals.

Supports economic growth by **broadening supply market access.**

Compliance with Procurement Regulations



FULLY COMPLIANT WITH **UK PUBLIC CONTRACTS REGULATIONS 2015** AND SIMILAR EU-BASED RULES.



PROVIDES A **TRANSPARENT, FAIR, AND COMPETITIVE** PROCESS FOR SUPPLIER SELECTION.



REDUCES RISK OF LEGAL CHALLENGE COMPARED TO AD-HOC PROCUREMENT.

Encourages Competition and Innovation

Because new suppliers can join, **incumbents have to remain competitive.**

Helps commissioners **access the latest solutions** in fast-moving markets (e.g., technology, care services, facilities management).

Keeps pricing and service levels sharp throughout the life of the DPS.

Flexible and Scalable

Can cover **multiple categories** within one system, allowing tailored mini-competitions.

Works for **small one-off contracts** or **large-scale rollouts**.

Adaptable to changing service requirements over the DPS's duration.

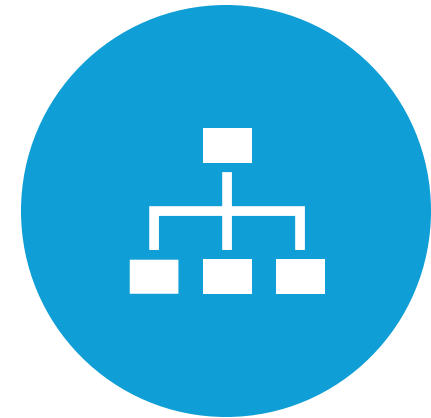
Reduced Administrative Burden for Commissioners



THE **PRE-QUALIFICATION STAGE IS HANDLED ONCE** FOR EACH SUPPLIER, AVOIDING REPETITIVE DUE DILIGENCE FOR EVERY PURCHASE.



ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT PLATFORMS CAN AUTOMATE MUCH OF THE PROCESS.



CENTRALISED CONTROL BUT **DECENTRALISED USE**
– DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS CAN RUN CALL-OFFS WITHIN THE SAME DPS.

Next Steps

- ▶ Finalise and agree specification (internally and externally) - taking on board feedback following various market engagement events
- ▶ Develop application processes (likely to be two stage)
- ▶ Finalise application documents including performance measures and terms and conditions.
- ▶ Schedule further competition arrangements and notify providers.

Indicative timelines

- ▶ Specification feedback - Sept 2025
- ▶ Finalise spec - Oct 2025
- ▶ Pre-procurement engagement event - Nov 2026 (application process)
- ▶ Framework open for application - December 2025-Feb 2026
- ▶ Approved suppliers onto framework Feb 2026
- ▶ **Mini applications - March/April 2026**
- ▶ **New services commence - July 2026**
- ▶ *** please note these dates may change in light of the Duty to Collaborate timescales.**

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Questions?

Feedback?

Email: commissioning@westmidlands.police.uk