

Understanding domestic abuse in rural areas

Summary

The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) wishes to develop a comprehensive understanding of barriers to victims of domestic abuse in rural areas seeking support, how they manifest, and the specific impact of rurality on outcomes for victims, in order to improve services for victims of domestic abuse in rural areas.

The NRCN is seeking a partner to conduct this research, building upon initial analysis conducted by the NRCN. The selected partner will deliver recommendations as to policy and practice innovations necessary to support victims of domestic abuse in rural areas better. The agency will deliver a full report as to the findings and recommendations. The report should include a research toolkit to enable local areas to carry out their own local research using the methodology validated in this research should they wish to. The agency will deliver area specific research, analysis and reports on a case by case basis where individual PCCs demand this.

The research will be undertaken in two key phases:

Phase 1: A national study

Phase 2: Force area specific research

The contract will begin on Tuesday 2nd January 2018 and will last for four months until 5pm Tuesday 30th April 2018. There is a budget of £25,000.

Timeline

The timeline for tender and approximate delivery dates is:

Tender	Circulation date	Thursday 2 nd November 2017
	Closing date for clarification questions	5 pm Friday 10 th November 2017
	Closing date	5pm Monday 4 th December 2017
	Notify shortlisted tenderers	Thursday 14 th December 2017
	Interview of shortlisted tenderers	Wednesday 20 th December 2017
	Award notification	Thursday 21 st December 2017
	Notify all tenderers of outcome	Friday 22 nd December 2017
	Contract start date	Tuesday 2 nd January 2018
Phase 1	National research	4 months
	Final report	5pm Monday 30 th April 2018

Phase 2	Area research	Demand led
	Area reports	Demand led

Background

National Rural Crime Network

The National Rural Crime Network was founded with the aim to influence people who make decisions about policy and practice, so that rural communities are better understood and supported. The NRCN is a membership group, made up of Police and Crime Commissioners from across the political spectrum, as well as other members interested in community safety and/or rural affairs, such as Crimestoppers, Countryside Alliance and Historic England.

The NRCN commissions research and uses evidence-based insight to challenge and change local and national policy. Most recently, the NRCN undertook what is thought to be the largest rural policing survey ever undertaken, which led to significant changes in rural policing across England and Wales.

The NRCN's vision and mission are:

Vision – *A thriving rural community that feels safe, understood and is secure*

Mission – *Based on an in depth understanding of the needs, concerns and threats to rural communities, make substantive policy and practice improvements*

Domestic abuse in rural areas

Analysis of police data shows that the number of reported incidents from rural areas is about half that of urban areas, despite no evidence that the occurrence of domestic abuse is any different in rural areas than urban.

Moreover, a desktop review has revealed little existing evidence of research into domestic abuse in rural areas specifically, across England and Wales. This contrasts with research from other countries, which seems to show a higher incidence of domestic abuse in rural areas.

Police and Crime Commissioners also have anecdotal evidence that apparent under-reporting and the 'hidden' nature of this crime means it is not prioritised / sufficiently resourced by the police or partners, and that victims in rural areas therefore do not receive the same levels of support as urban victims, potentially suffering greater harm as a result.

The initial analysis is available in Appendix 1: Rates of Domestic Abuse in Rural and Urban Areas

Hypothesis

Given there is no evidence to suggest domestic abuse happens, per head of population, any more or less in rural areas than urban, NRCN analysis has led to the following hypothesis:

- Domestic abuse is reported less frequently in rural areas than in urban areas
- Victims of domestic abuse in rural areas are less likely to seek support because of:
 - Limited access to, and fewer, specialist support services
 - Less accessible public services generally e.g. GPs, public transport

- Close-knit communities and difficulties of moving/leaving after coming forward i.e. whole life change, impact on children
- Lack of witnesses
- Stigma and shame
- Social and physical isolation
- These factors can lead to victims in rural areas to take longer to come forward, if they come forward at all, resulting in more serious and harmful abuse
- Once identified, domestic abuse in rural areas requires a greater intervention from police and partners, and incurs more cost to the public as a result
- Outcomes for victims in rural areas are poorer than those in urban communities (e.g. court outcomes, ability to cope and recover)
- Interventions may need to be specifically tailored to meet the needs of rural victims, if reporting and outcomes are to be improved

Objectives

The project will provide evidence to Police and Crime Commissioners, the third sector and government regarding the scale and nature of barriers to victims of domestic abuse in rural areas.

It will seek to understand the validity of the hypothesis that under-reporting of domestic abuse is greater in rural areas than in urban, and associated causation factors.

The project will assess the nature and impact of barriers to reporting, the severity of abuse and the outcomes achieved for victims.

It will deliver recommendations on the services that are needed and how they can be improved in order to better prevent harm and support victims, enabling them to better cope and recover from their ordeal.

Specifically, but not exclusively, the research will assess:

- Whether barriers exist to victims of domestic abuse seeking support, specifically in rural areas, and detailing what those barriers are and which have the most consequence
- What commonality there is between these barriers and those for victims in urban areas, as well how they differ
- Whether outcomes for victims of domestic abuse in rural areas differ, or are compounded by barriers to reporting (e.g. take longer to report, ostracization/greater isolation, severity, domestic homicide rates, the impact on children etc.)
- Whether there is a difference in the cost to police and other support services in responding to and addressing domestic abuse in rural areas (i.e. supporting victims through criminal justice and to cope and recover)
- What interventions or specialist services would facilitate more victims of domestic abuse in rural areas seeking support, those victims coming forward sooner, and how might these best be provided
- Whether improved access to, and availability of, current specialist support services would mitigate identified significant barriers or whether further measures would also be necessary

Target Audiences

It is expected that the research partner will need to liaise with the Network, police forces, victims, domestic abuse charities and other academics in the course of their work.

The NRCN can facilitate much of this, for example, the NRCN knows that charities such as the Independent Domestic Abuse Service in North Yorkshire and Women's Aid nationally are happy to help support this work. It may also be necessary, or helpful, to engage other parts of the public sector e.g. GP services, and the NRCN will also help facilitate this.

The final report is for the NRCN but will be made public.

Methodology

This tender is intended to promote innovation and competition in the bidding process, and so the NRCN is open to ideas on approach and expects the research partner to propose a full methodology.

The NRCN will facilitate access to anonymous victims' data as collected via Police and Crime Commissioners, and incident data from local police forces.

Whilst this tender has come from the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, the National Rural Crime Network is a national group and the research needs to have national coverage.

The research project will be conducted in two phases.

Phase 1: National report

It is expected the research partner will undertake necessary desktop work within the first few weeks to develop the methodology and understand where to best direct resources to achieve the stated objectives.

The proposed methodology will be conducted in three areas across England and Wales (i.e. North, South, Wales) to validate the methodology and mitigate methodological parameters being based on any particular procedure within any one force. The NRCN has no set idea about the nature of the methodology, and expects the research partner to propose a full methodology as well as justification for the approach taken, whether it be focus groups, one-to-one sessions etc.

A consultation with PCCs to determine their interest in taking part in phases one or two is currently underway. Those PCCs wishing to support in the national part of this research may want to contribute financially, and the NRCN will confirm this to the research partner through the bid process.

This research will be the basis for the Phase 1 report that will be delivered to the NRCN.

Deliverable

The Phase 1 report will be due: 5pm Tuesday 30th April 2018.

This report will deliver:

- Recommendations for policy and practice developments to increase the number of victims of domestic abuse in rural areas seeking support, and how to encourage victims to come forward earlier
- Recommendations for policy and practice developments to improve prevention, early intervention and bespoke support services for victims of domestic abuse in rural areas

This report will include:

- Analysis of the scale and nature of barriers to reporting for victims of domestic abuse in rural areas, and the impact of these barriers on the severity of abuse and on the outcomes achieved for victims
- Key themes and trends arising from the research
- Gap analysis of research findings
- Methodology validation and a toolkit to support national roll-out in force areas (should PCCs be interested in developing more in-depth research locally)

The report must be clear, manageable and user-friendly for its intended audiences.

Respondents are free to suggest any additional outputs which they think will add value for the stakeholders of this research. Any additional suggested outputs should be fully costed.

Budget

We are looking for proposals of up to £25,000 +VAT to complete Phase 1.

The budget must cover research, planning, meetings, travel, mailings, stationery and other materials and resources as required.

Please note that whilst an upper limit has been set, value for money is a key criteria in the assessment of quotes and potential suppliers will need to clearly demonstrate this in their responses.

Timing

The Network wishes the research to be undertaken without compromising on the quality and comprehensiveness of the document and the process of producing it. A period of four months has been allocated for this project.

The Network expects the contract to start on Tuesday 2nd January 2018. The final report will be due: 5pm Tuesday 30th April 2018.

Phase 2: Demand Led Area research

Phase 2 will consist of area-by-area research on a demand basis, based on the Phase 1 validated methodology. PCCs will be given the opportunity to contribute additional funds to validate Phase 1 findings in their own areas. The agency will deliver area specific research, analysis and reports on a case by case basis where individual PCCs demand this.

More detailed timelines and budget for delivery will be agreed between the Network and research partner.

Deliverable

Area reports will be delivered in agreement with the local PCC.

These reports will include:

- Local recommendations for policy and practice developments to provide prevention, early intervention and bespoke support services to victims of domestic abuse in rural areas

These reports will include:

- Local analysis of the scale and nature of barriers to reporting for victims of domestic abuse in rural areas

- Key themes and trends arising from the research

Budget

Your response to this invitation to quote should outline a budget for replication of the methodology at a local area basis.

The budget must cover research, planning, meetings, travel, mailings, stationery and other materials and resources as required.

Please note that whilst an upper limit has been set, value for money is a key criteria in the assessment of quotes and potential suppliers will need to clearly demonstrate this in their responses.

Timing

Timescales for area reports will agreed with the local PCC.

Ethics

This is a very sensitive area of policing and of victims personal lives, so the research partner will need to reassure the Network these risks are understood and accounted for. Research staff will need to be appropriately vetted.

Project Management

Project management will come from the Network via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, fortnightly progress reports will be expected.

Costs and timeliness are expected to be managed on a day to day basis by the research partner, with the North Yorkshire OPCC holding the partner to account for the overall deliverables within this brief.

Instruction for proposals

Your proposal should include the following information:

- Your understanding of the NRCN and how this would shape your approach to the brief
- Three case studies of similar work for public sector clients
- Your proposed process, stages of work, methodologies and a project schedule / timings, working to the deadlines set out above
- Any potential barriers and issues you anticipate and how they might be overcome
- A breakdown of your financial quote – how you will allocate the fees and any expenses within the total you are quoting (see costing table below)
- Your standard day rates for the people who will deliver this project and the number of days each person will spend on the job
- Your proposed project team and their biographies demonstrating why they have the skills and experience to fulfil the brief
- Details of your approach to quality assurance and how you will guarantee quality research tools, analysis and deliverables
- Any discounts / added value you are prepared to offer bearing in mind that value for money will be important during in the evaluation process

Further information

Any questions and requests for information should be sent to Will.Naylor@northyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk.

Selection Process

The closing date for proposals is **5pm Monday 4th December 2017**. Proposals will be considered and the contract will be awarded by **Thursday 21st December 2017**.

It may be pitches will be required to fully assess bidders. If this is required, a shortlist of tenderers will be invited to a one-hour interview on **Wednesday 20th December 2017**.

The successful tenderer will be informed of the decision by Thursday 21st December 2017 and unsuccessful tenderers by Friday 22nd December 2017.

The successful partner will be expected to attend a face-to-face inception meeting to review and finalise the approach, timetable, roles, responsibilities and a communication plan.

You will produce a comprehensive but concise document that demonstrates how you will be able to fulfil the requirements of the specification. Selection will be based on:

- Evidence of ability to deliver against the brief – 50%
- Value for money - 50%

Evidence of ability to deliver against the brief

In determining ability to deliver against the brief, proposals will be marked on the following criteria:

Evidence of ability to deliver against the brief	% Available
Detailed methodology	50%
Case studies	
Staff skills and experience	
Schedule of work	
Quality Assurance	

Value for money

Proposal price accounts for 50% of the total score. Costs **MUST** be prepared inclusive AND exclusive of VAT. Proposals must be costed by activity and by team member using the costing table below.

	Team Member 1 - Name	Team Member 2 - Name	...	No of days	Cost Ex VAT	Cost Inc VAT
Inception Meeting						
Phase 1: National report						
Desk research						
Design of research tools						

Primary research						
Data analysis						
Reporting						
Phase 2: Area research						
Local area data collection/primary research						
Local area analysis						
Local area summary report						

Optional Elements – please detail costs separately	Cost Inc VAT

Other Costs - Dissemination Activity	Cost Inc VAT
Dissemination Activity	
Travel expenses related to dissemination activity	

Travel and Subsistence - Details	Cost Inc VAT
Basic proposal	
Additional Activity	



01/02/2017

Rates of Domestic Abuse in Rural and Urban Areas

Introduction

The following research was carried out in order to test the hypothesis that “Domestic Abuse is under reported in rural areas”.

The research was carried out by Dyfed Powys Police in order to inform the National Rural Crime Network on the possibilities of commissioning future research work into the subject area.

Police reported Domestic incident data, in the 2016 calendar year, from eleven different forces throughout the UK was utilised in order to calculate the domestic incident rate in rural versus urban areas.

The final robust dataset represented a total of 229,593 Domestic incident reports from 2,864 ward areas (1,230 rural, 1,634 urban) in the UK.

Key Findings

The following table displays the domestic incident rate in rural and urban areas in the UK:

Classification	DA Rate per 1000 pop	No. Reports	Population
Rural	9.23	36,907	3,999,063
Urban	17.92	192,686	10,753,077

The results show that the Domestic Abuse rate in rural areas is nearly half the rate of urban areas. This clearly shows that the Police reported Domestic incident data supports the hypothesis that Domestic Abuse is under reported in rural areas.

Methodology

In order to perform this analysis it was necessary to come up with a robust method for classifying Domestic Abuse records as either having occurred in urban or rural areas. Research identified the “Urban and Rural Area definitions for Policy Purposes in England and Wales” methodology. This piece of work updated a typology of urban and rural areas developed after the 2001 census and was commissioned by a consortium of government agencies comprising the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the Welsh Government (WG) and the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

The original typology had been developed to classify small area geographies such as Output Areas, Super-Output Areas and Wards for policy purposes. The updated work reclassified the areas of geography as used in the 2011 census and allows for classification at a ward level.

In order to perform the analysis, geographic shape files associated with the above typology were loaded into MapInfo, a Geographic Information System, which allowed anonymised Domestic Abuse data to be overlaid and classified as either urban or rural in nature. In total data from eleven force areas was classified and grouped by the 2011 census ward areas, which allowed the mid 2011 population estimates to be used to calculate the rate of domestic abuse reporting per 1000 persons at both a rural and urban level.