



Request for Quotation – Community Research and Consultation Project

Staffordshire Survive provides a free, non-judgmental and confidential service for adults, children over the age of 4, and close family members/significant others who have been affected by sexual assault or abuse at any point during their lives. Victims can seek support whether they report the crime to the police or not. Survive is delivered by Staffordshire Women's Aid.

Responding to the Needs of Sexual Assault and Abuse Victims from Black and Ethnic Minority Communities in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

Project Background:

A recent review and needs assessment of Sexual Offending and Abuse in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (2021) identified that victims of sexual assault and abuse from minority ethnic communities were a hidden cohort. At a national level, the 'Strategic Direction for Sexual Assault and Abuse Services, Lifelong Care for Victims and Survivors, 2018-2023' identified black and minority ethnic communities as a group who may find it more difficult to report sexual assault and abuse, and should be a key focus area for prevention efforts.

To address this gap, we have established an equality and diversity project across the partnership to inform and influence our responses to victims of sexual assault and abuse from Black and Minority Ethnic communities. The project's objectives will be to:

1. Carry out research to scope and map the particular needs of Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to provide a robust evidence base to inform and influence local policy, service delivery and future service provision;
2. Identify and implement ways in which to make sexual abuse support services more accessible and responsive to victims from Black and minority ethnic communities;
3. Promote and disseminate learning from our project.

We want to work with a specialist consultant/organisation to produce a mapping report that will enable us to consider, and understand, the unique needs and barriers that affect those victims of abuse from minority ethnic communities. In consultation with victims/survivors, and local stakeholders and communities, the research will identify the need for any culturally specific elements of service, and will examine how we can make existing, established support services more accessible and responsive.

Specification:

Staffordshire Women's Aid is seeking a specialist consultant to carry out research to scope and map the particular needs of Black and minority ethnic communities in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The successful applicant for this work will have experience of working with organisations led by, and for, Black and Minority Ethnic communities, ideally within the specialist VAWG and/or sexual violence sector.

The successful supplier will undertake the following activity:

- Identify and collate appropriate statistics from publicly available sources (e.g., central Government, local Government, local voluntary sector organisations and other relevant bodies).
- Identify and collate appropriate findings from national and international research.
- Conduct a minimum of 5 focus groups with victims/survivors, local stakeholders and communities throughout the County, including Stoke-on-Trent, ensuring a balance between north, south, east, west and central areas of the County. Focus groups will consist of at least 5 participants and should include representation from a range of diverse communities, including both male and female victims/survivors. These focus groups should seek face to face feedback on the needs and barriers that affect victims of abuse from ethnic minority communities, the need for any culturally specific elements of service, and will explore how existing, established support services can be more accessible and responsive to black and ethnic minority communities (Note: due to COVID-19, we acknowledge that some face-to-face focus groups may take place 'virtually').
- Prepare a detailed Mapping Report that draws together all aspects of the research and its findings to provide a robust evidence base and recommendations to inform and influence local policy, service delivery and future service provision. The report will need to be suitable for physical and online publication.
- Present the report and its findings to Staffordshire Women's Aid and the Office of the Staffordshire Commissioner.
- Develop and deliver training (4 sessions) to front line professionals, from within the statutory and voluntary sector, working with victims of sexual assault and abuse. Practice Outcome: Increase awareness of the particular needs of victims from Black and minoritised communities and improve practitioner responses to support, empower and protect those experiencing sexual violence and abuse.
- Develop an online, interactive webinar raising awareness of the needs and barriers that affect victims of sexual abuse from Black and minoritised communities and the support services available.
- Deliver a 'Train the Trainer' training day to a minimum of 4 local specialist organisations (at least 8 participants) to equip them to roll out the above training and webinar.

Timescales:

To be completed by March 2022.

Costs:

As a guide, Staffordshire Women's Aid anticipates the budget to be in the range of £12,000 to £15,000 inclusive of all expenses and VAT.

Request for Quotation:

We are keen to work with specialists from organisations that are led 'by/with and for' people from Black and minority ethnic communities. If you would like to be part of this project, please submit your quotation by 30th October detailing:

Description	Scoring
Experience, skills and knowledge around delivering services to Black and minoritised victims of VAWG, or communities at a grass root level, including consultation with victims/survivors	20%
Experience, skills and knowledge of delivering community development projects, including community consultation	20%
Experience of carrying out research and writing reports	10%
Project Plan, Availability and Proposed Timescales	10%
Price – including a breakdown of costs	40%

Please see Appendix 1 - Scoring Matrix.

Submission Details:

Interested parties are requested to return completed quotations to:

Charlotte Almond
Strategy and Business Development Manager
Staffordshire Women's Aid
Email: charlotte.almond@staffordshirewomensaid.org

Appendix 1

Quality Questions

The scoring matrix used by the evaluators is set out below:

Score	Description
0	Did not supply a response to the question, or the response fails to address any of the requirements
1	Inadequate response, showing a maximum lack of understanding of the requirement and / or service provision, very poorly presented and providing no confidence in the bidder's ability to deliver
2	Poor response, showing some limited evidence of understanding of the requirement but providing a limited or inadequate response and /or service provision, poorly presented and does not instil confidence
3	Average response that gives an understanding of the requirements but no more than that.
4	Good response, well presented, giving a good understanding of the requirements and providing a good service provision in that area
5	Excellent response, very well presented, giving a full and accurate understanding of the requirements, with demonstrable evidence and added value in service provision.

Cost evaluation

Please note: the cost evaluation equates to 40% of the overall score. The lowest cost bidder will score the full 40%, other bids will be scored relative to the lowest cost bidder using the formula below:

- Score of other tender = $40 \times \frac{\text{Lowest tender total price}}{\text{Other tender total price}} \%$