



**SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF THE INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISERS (IDVAs) SERVICE CONTRACT**

**Background:** The existing IDVAs service contract commenced on 19/5/14 and is due to terminate on 18/5/16. The contract is held by Chapter1 and employs 2.5 full time equivalent staff.

The IDVAs service works closely with the domestic abuse floating support and refuge service which is also provided by Chapter1, the contract for which is due to terminate on 31/3/17. It is proposed that the IDVAs service contract is extended to 31/3/17 in order to bring it in line with this larger contract.

**Risk Assessment:** the original procurement approach and methodology was carried out in accordance with best practice as laid out in the EU regulations and in line with the criteria laid out in the ITT. The decision to extend the contract has been taken with agreement from procurement, accountancy and legal advisers.

**Decision:** That the North Somerset IDVA service is extended until 31/3/2017.

**Reasons:** A domestic abuse needs assessment will be carried out in 2016 in order to establish the optimum complement of domestic abuse support services needed in the district beyond 31/3/17 including floating support, refuge and IDVAs.

Extending the IDVAs contract until 31/3/17 will give the option of combining the 2 contracts (IDVAs and floating support/refuge) at that time, creating opportunities for greater efficiencies.

**Other Alternatives Considered:** This is considered to be the best option as the service is necessary to meet agreed priorities for the Council.

**Financial Implications:** The costs of the IDVA service from 19/5/16 to 31/3/17 is £81,712. The costs for this service will be met through a pooled budget managed by the Community Safety and Drug Action Team.

**Implications for Future Years:** The needs assessment to be carried out by the council will explore the options for providing domestic abuse services, including the IDVAs service, into the future.

Signed .....  
for (Director of Corporate Services)  
Dated ..... 16/5/2016 .....