BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

My Ref: FOI/4371
Your Ref:
Date: 09/05/2025
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Your questions and my findings are as follows:-

Freedom of Information Request: Funding for victim-survivors of sexual violence and abuse I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The request relates to the commissioning responsibilities of Local Authorities with respect to commissioning support for adult and child victim-survivors of sexual violence and abuse. We define sexual violence and abuse as any sexual activity that has happened without consent, and includes rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse (including child sexual exploitation), adult sexual exploitation, and sexual harassment.

Please provide the following information:

The amount of funding to be provided by the local authority to organisations supporting sexual violence and abuse victim-survivors in your area, for the 25/26 financial year. Please break this down by organisation funded, providing information about the nature of the funding arrangement, and the services to be provided by the organisation supporting victim-survivors of sexual violence and abuse.

Organisation	Funding arrangement	Value	Service Provision
BSARCS	Contract Expires 2028	£87,552 per annum	**Adult provision** IDAS funds BSARCS via a sub contract to deliver a range of support services, including: • Comprehensive support, advice, and advocacy for victims and survivors of sexual violence.

			• Training and awareness programs for professionals and stakeholders. • Dedicated counselling services for those affected by sexual violence. • Wellbeing initiatives designed to support survivors and victims.
BSARCS	Contract Expires 30/09/2025	£100,000 per annum 50/50 Split between BMBC and ICB	**Children and young people** • Specialist children's therapists and wellbeing workers carry out assessments. • The provision of therapeutic response to children and young people, up to the age of 18, who have experienced sexual violence, sexual exploitation or who are sexually vulnerable.
BSARCS	Grant Agreement Expires 2026 *Continuation will be reviewed during 2025*	£100,286	**Ask the Question Initiative** The "Ask the Question" project, led by BSARCS in Barnsley, aims to improve responses to sexual harm by encouraging frontline practitioners to proactively engage service users about their experiences. The initiative seeks to reduce stigma, create safer spaces for discussion, and ensure professionals are trained to ask these sensitive questions with compassion. Key objectives include enhancing the well-being of victims and survivors by supporting them in breaking the silence, providing comprehensive training to agencies, and offering

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			ongoing support to ensure that questions are asked safely and confidently. This also involves implementing a Practice Lead Programme to reinforce professional responses to child sexual abuse. The initiative aims to equip practitioners with the knowledge and confidence to support survivors, enhance client services without requiring ongoing specialist intervention, encourage disclosures from long-term service users, and drive lasting improvements in how Practice Leads and their teams address and assist those affected.
Total		**£287, 838**	

The contract below is commissioned to support victims/survivors of sexual violence/abuse and/or domestic abuse and works closely with BSARCS and IDAS.

Organisation	**Funding arrangement**	**Value**	**Service Provision**
GROW	Contract Expires 2027	£100,000 per annum	**Hear Her Voice** Hear Her Voice is an after-crisis support service designed to help women who have experienced domestic or sexual abuse/violence. The program focuses on recovery, resilience-building, and developing coping strategies for daily life. It aims to enhance self-esteem, confidence, mental well-being, and personal development while reducing the risk of harm. The service works alongside vulnerable women and girls,

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			offering creative and innovative activities that empower them to shape their own paths toward personal growth, expanded life choices, skill-based learning, and self-empowerment.
Total		**£100,000**	

The total amount of funding to be provided by the local authority to organisations supporting victim-survivors of domestic abuse in your area, for the 25/26 financial year.

£853,633*
*(This funding includes a grant allocation of £152,076 from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority which is awarded annually).

Please note that I am requesting anonymised data only and not any information that could identify individual cases or persons involved. I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

I understand that this request is especially complex or voluminous, and that an extension may be required. If this request is considered complex or involves a large volume of data, I am happy to receive the information in separate parts to facilitate the process. Should the request exceed the appropriate limit under s12(1) Freedom of Information Act 2000, please identify which elements of this request can be fulfilled.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence ‘Complaint’ and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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