

Police and Crime Panel

3rd February 2015

Update on Commissioning Activity

Report of Chief of Staff



Purpose

1. To update the Panel on the PCC's commissioning activity ahead of the 2015-16 financial year.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Panel on 4th December, we gave members a verbal update on commissioning activity. This report provides a fuller update on the current position and plans.
3. Alongside a reduction in the Police Grant from the Home Office, the PCC has received additional money from the Ministry of Justice for 2015-16 for Victims' Services and for Restorative Justice.

Summary of Current Position

4. Broadly, there are four funding streams that the PCC has identified to commission services:

A	Community Safety Grant	Total: £606,550 (Safe Durham Partnership: £473,395 (Darlington CSP: £133,155)	Money that previously went directly to Community Safety Partnerships but which now comes to PCCs.
B	Victims' Services	£525,000	Two streams: one for the victims' referral and assessment service, which was previously funded directly by the MoJ through Victim Support; and one for specialist Victims' Services.
C	Restorative Justice	£140,000	Money from the Ministry of Justice to support the delivery of restorative justice in the force area
D	"Community Safety Fund" (working title)	TBD	A remaining pot of money which the PCC is likely to use to provide funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Detailed Current Position

A	Community Safety Grant	Total: £606,550 (Safe Durham Partnership: £473,395 (Darlington CSP: £133,155)	Money that previously went directly to Community Safety Partnerships but which now comes to PCCs.
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5. The PCC has again decided to allocate this funding to the two Community Safety Partnerships for projects that support his priorities.
6. Both Partnerships will receive monies representing a 5% reduction on the allocation in 2014-15, roughly to mirror the reduction to the Police Budget.

Durham Community Safety Grant Projects	2015-16 allocation (£485,577)*
Anti-Social Behaviour Officers	131,883
4Real Service and Drug Intervention Programme (in 2015/16 this will be a contribution to the County Durham Drug and Alcohol Service not specifically these two services)	177,790
Prolific and Priority Offender Mentoring	30,000
Fully Integrated Pre Court System (Out of Court Disposals)	105,872
County Durham Positive Futures Programme	55,000
Total	500,545

* There will also be £27,150 rolled forward from 2014/15 into 2015/16, hence the total spend equalling more than the allocation

7. The Darlington Community Safety Grant projects are still to be decided. A planning day is being held on 23rd January which the OPCC is attending.
8. We are developing formal arrangements for performance management of the Community Safety Grant, to ensure they provide outcomes and value for money. This will be taken into account when deciding how to allocate this funding in the future.

B	Victims' Services	£525,000	Two streams: one for the victims' referral and assessment service, which was previously funded directly by the MoJ through Victim Support; and one for specialist Victims' Services.
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9. Responsibility and funding for Victims' Services passed to Police & Crime Commissioners with effect from 1st October 2014
10. The Victims Code focuses on making sure that criminal justice agencies - such as the police and the courts – give victims the service that they are entitled to. That includes the areas of providing support and information on: what help a victim can expect; reporting the crime; being kept informed about

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the investigation; going to court; being a witness; response to a guilty verdict (Victim Personal Statement); and Restorative Justice.

11. **We are intending to commission Victim Support to provide the referral and assessment service in 2015-16**, jointly with Cleveland PCC. The service will provide the first point of contact for practical support for a victim of crime and the gateway to further specialist support for the more complex and serious cases.
12. **We are also commissioning specialist services.** First, there are some services we will continue from 2014/15. These services are for those victims that have the most need. They may have suffered from domestic or sexual abuse (or violence) and will need the most support that will vary in need and complexity.
13. Second, we will further develop services based on identified need. We are working with specialist providers to understand fully the scope of the service requirement. In addition, discrete research projects such as in mental health will be commissioned to identify need where services are not provided or where there is limited service provision.
14. Our default position is that all victims' services will be commissioned on a collaborative basis, in order to enhance the possibility of getting a wider and deeper service offer for victims, and increase the value for money from the funds available.

C	Restorative Justice	£140,000	Money from the Ministry of Justice to support the delivery of restorative justice in the force area
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15. Since 2013 the MoJ have allocated money to the PCC in order to establish the provision of RJ for those victims who want it or to improve the services which are currently in place.
16. Restorative approaches are well established in the Durham and Darlington area and have been for some time. The Safer Durham Partnership has a strategic group looking to develop restorative practices throughout all agencies and Darlington have recently committed to setting up a similar group. Darlington has a nationally recognised neighbourhood resolutions team with some of the highest take-up of this service across the country.
17. Our police have all been trained in Restorative Approaches and the Chief Constable is a strong advocate, actively promoting the use of Restorative approaches wherever possible.
18. The PCC therefore intends to use the additional funding to appoint Restorative Justice Coordinators – one for Durham and one for Darlington – with the responsibility of bringing together all the Restorative Justice activity in order to ensure good coordination, information sharing and learning.
19. The focus will be engagement with the victim to ensure that they understand the purpose of the approach, the possible benefits for them, the processes in place to ensure that a restorative meeting can take place at any point through

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the criminal justice process should they wish for this and appropriate support for all those involved.

D	Community Safety Fund” (working title)	TBD	A remaining pot of money which the PCC is likely to use to provide funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector.
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20. The Commissioner would like to allocate some funding to the Voluntary and Community Sector in order to support his, and partner, priorities.
21. In 2014-15 he allocated this fund in two rounds via a bid/ application process. We are currently deciding how to distribute this fund in 2015-16, including how the fund is managed, allocated and monitored – and its size (we have only been able to determine in early January that a fund of this type is possible, following receipt of the Police Settlement just before Christmas).
22. The fund will need to:
 - Support PCC and partner objectives
 - Provide measurable community based outcomes
 - Provide value for money.
23. Last year’s process of allocation was disproportionately burdensome and resulted in unrealistic expectations from the sector, with total bids exceeding the amount available by a factor of ten.
24. In order to secure best value for money, and to provide an efficient allocation process, we are considering allocating the money to a fund administrator who can provide both a management service and match funding, but still give the PCC input into the decision-making. We are considering whether a procurement exercise for this service is necessary.

Recommendation

25. To consider the report and provide any questions.

Alan Reiss
Chief of Staff

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

All funding is available within the 2015-16 budget. The balancing item is the “Community Safety Fund”, the precise level of which is to be determined.

Staffing

n/a

Equality and Diversity

n/a

Accommodation

n/a

Crime and Disorder

n/a

Children's Act 2004

n/a

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

Information about the PCC’s funding streams is set out in the draft Police and Crime Plan which is currently out for consultation.

Environment

n/a

Collaboration and Partnerships

n/a

Value for Money and Productivity

Value for Money is a key consideration in the allocation of all budgets.

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

All funding to have a positive impact on priorities

Commissioning

As per the report.

Other risks

n/a

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