

Police and Crime Panel

22nd June 2015

Update on Commissioning Activity

Report of Chief of Staff



Purpose

1. To update the Panel on the PCC's commissioning activity during the financial year 2015/16.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Panel on 3rd February, a report was shared with members on the position in 2014/15 and plans for 2015/16. This update will provide information of activities for the year to date in 2015/16.

Ministry of Justice Grants

3. The PCC received grants totalling £691,692 to commission services to support victims, funded from four discrete Ministry of Justice pots:
 - a. Victims' Services (£525,752);
 - b. Restorative Justice (£140,200);
 - c. Sexual Violence / Domestic Violence (£14,787);
 - d. Prisoner Earnings Act (£10,953).
4. We have grant-funded Victim Support to provide a referral and assessment service for victims in 2015/16 (for one year ending 31st March 2016), 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.
5. We are also commissioning specialist services, some of which have continued 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 the support they need will vary in complexity.
6. We are developing services based on identified need and are working with specialist providers to understand fully the scope of the service requirement. In addition, discrete research projects such as in mental health have been commissioned to identify need where services are not provided or where there is limited service provision.
7. 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

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deeper service offer for victims, and increase the value for money from the funds available.

8. Restorative approaches are well established in the Durham and Darlington area and have been for some time. The Safe Durham Partnership has a strategic group looking to develop restorative practices throughout all agencies. Darlington has a nationally recognised neighbourhood resolutions team with some of the highest take-up of this service across the country.
9. The PCC has used 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.
10. 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 the criminal justice process should they wish for this and appropriate support for all those involved.
11. The small Sexual Violence / Domestic Violence grant has been pooled with the larger Victims Commissioning grant to deliver services for the victims that have the most need, those who may have suffered from domestic or sexual abuse (or violence).
12. The monies from the Prisoner Earnings Act will be passed directly to Victim Support to provide a wide range of practical support to victims of crime, such as small scale security measures (fitting locks), assistance with short term temporary accommodation and assistance with travelling costs.

Community Safety Funding

13. The PCC has a budget of £735,000 to support community safety activities in the force area and has decided to allocate as follows:

Organisation	Award
Darlington Community Safety Partnership	£133,155
Safe Durham Partnership	£473,395
County Durham Community Foundation	£111,111
Check Point	£17,339
Total	£735,000

14. Both Partnerships have received monies representing a 5% reduction on the allocation in 2014/15, roughly to mirror the reduction to the Police Budget.
15. The monies have been allocated by the Safe Durham partnership and these are detailed in the next table.

Projects	Amount
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Projects	Amount
Anti-Social Behaviour Officers	£131,883
Contribution to the County Durham Drug and Alcohol Service	£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 award

16. The monies have been allocated by the Darlington Community Safety Partnership and these are detailed in the next table.

Projects	Amount
The development of a Desistance Model for Darlington	£10,032
No Bother - Detached Youth Work Service	£10,775
Safer Homes in Darlington	£20,000
Domestic Abuse Training Programme	£4,000
Harbour 27 Week Perpetrator Programme	£6,334
CSP Campaigns and Awareness/Emerging issues	£10,000
Funding Remaining	£5,512
Check Point Project	£39,113
YOS Restorative Justice Programme	£27,389
Total	£133,155

17. 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.
18. In 2014/15 the community safety grant funding process was administered by the team at the Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner. It proved to be a cumbersome, inefficient and time consuming process.
19. For the 2015/16 grant allocation, an alternative approach to manage the process more effectively and secure value for money was needed. The options considered were to manage the process in house, ask one of the local Councils to manage the fund on our behalf or appoint a third party grant administrator to manage the fund.
20. The net result was a procurement exercise that awarded the grant administration contract to County Durham Community Foundation ("CDCF").
21. The benefits of appointing the grant administrator include:

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- a. Funding of £50,000 from CDCF to boost a fund of £100,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner to £150,000, meaning that residents will benefit from more community safety initiatives throughout County Durham and Darlington;
- b. Effective use of staff time, the cost of administering the fund will be in the region of £11,000, which is less than 3% of the office salary budget and below our estimate of the equivalent time spent by the team administering the process in 2014/15;
- c. More opportunities for bids that do not meet the criteria for the Community Safety Fund to be directed to alternative sources of possible funding, as CDCF administer a wide range of other pots of money;
- d. Funding that directly supports the community and voluntary sector, not organisations already funded directly from core commissioned, statutory policing or community safety monies;
- e. Genuine independence in the decision making, with the PCC being at arm's length from the process;
- f. Stronger governance arrangements, including vetting of organisations to avoid the inappropriate allocation of monies;
- g. Local knowledge of communities and organisations;
- h. Experience in spotting genuine bids that offer real outcomes for individuals and communities, but may lack the polish offered by professional bid writers;
- i. Transparent performance management arrangements.

Recommendation

- 22. To consider the report and provide any questions.

Alan Reiss

Chief of Staff

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

All funding is within the 2015/16 budget.

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 Police and Crime Plan.

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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