

Police and Crime Panel

20th October 2015

Update on Victims Commissioning & Funding

Report of Head of Governance & Commissioning



Purpose

1. To update the Police & Crime Panel regarding the application of victims commissioning and restorative justice funds in 2015/16 and the process for the procurement of victims services in 2016/17.

Background

2. From April 2014 Ministry of Justice (MoJ) passed responsibility for the provision of victims' services (along with some funding) to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
3. The victims' funding included some provision for the development of local restorative justice practices.
4. For 2015/16 each PCC received a full year of funding to develop and deliver victims services. The next section of this report will describe how the funding received has been applied in 2015/16.

Application of Funding for 2015/16

5. The Durham Police and Crime Commissioner has received £691,692 of funding from the Ministry of Justice for the financial year 2015/16. That funding has been provided from four discrete sources and will all be directed at supporting victims of crime.

Fund	Amount
Victims Services	£525,752
Restorative Justice	£140,200
SV/DV (Sexual Violence/Domestic Violence)	£14,787
PEA (Prisoner Earnings Act)	£10,953
Grant Allocation	£691,692

6. Monies awarded (in the table in this section) so far this year include:
 - Funding of two Restorative Justice Coordinators posts, one each in County Durham and Darlington;

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- Contribution towards salary of a strategic advisor on re-offending based in the PCC office, on secondment from County Durham and Tees Probation CRC (£30,000);
- Extension of restorative justice in County Durham (£30,000);
- Support for the provision of counselling services to victims of sexual violence (£36,000);
- Delivery of emotional and practical support to victims of crime (£290,000);
- Strategic planning to develop future victims services (£27,000);
- Extension of grant to Victim Support to provide additional support to victims who suffer from poor mental health (£42,000);
- A pilot at Darlington Police Station to co-locate a multi-agency team working from a single information source (VICMAN) and sharing a decision making process that will assess victim needs on their individual circumstances, risks and vulnerabilities, as opposed to service eligibility based on the Home Office automated crime category process currently in use (£59,000).

Organisation	Project	Grant Award
Funding to Durham PCC		£691,692
Funding Awarded by PCC		£600,796
Balance to be Awarded by PCC		£90,896
Funding Awarded by Project		
County Durham & Darlington MBC	RJ Coordinators Posts	£80,171
Durham Tees Valley CRC	Strategic Adviser Re-offending	£30,000
	Peterlee, Chester-le Street and Bishop Auckland RJ Pilots	£30,370
RSACC	Funding from MoJ Victim & Witness Fund	£36,030
Victim Support	Victims Support Service	£290,000
Victim Support	Victims Strategic Planning	£27,000
Victim Support	Mental Health & Wellbeing Support Service	£42,000
Victim Support	Victim Support Darlington Pilot	£59,225
Spragg Consulting	Supporting Market Development for Victim Support Service	£6,000

7. Planned application of the balance of the monies (£90,000) include:

- Contribution to the development of a Victim module in the Red Sigma system to host a single version of information that will be available to police, partners and successful service provider to place the victim at the centre of the decision making process.

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- A number of alternative applications in the priority areas of supporting victims with mental health conditions, victims of domestic abuse or young victims are being developed.

Commissioning of Victim Assessment & Referral Service

8. The procurement service specification and subsequent exercise is being commissioned in collaboration with the Cleveland PCC to achieve better outcomes for the victims and value for money.
9. Placing the victim's individual circumstances, risks and vulnerabilities at the centre of any needs assessment is another core principle that is enshrined in the Victims Code of Practice and an EU Directive that becomes law in November 2015.
10. The Darlington Pilot is proceeding well, highlighting interesting opportunities for process improvement and informing the development of the service specification.
11. An event to invite prospective suppliers of the victim services was held on 8th September. It was attended by both PCCs and was well received by the potential suppliers. The event included the provision of key information to potential suppliers, a panel session for the suppliers to ask direct questions of the PCCs and their teams, and an independently facilitated session to enable potential suppliers to explore opportunities for collaboration.
12. A specific risk relating to a potential lack of tenders for the victim assessment and referral service has been mitigated by engaging with an independent organisation. This organisation has recently supported the Staffordshire PCC to a successful conclusion by independently supporting organisations interested in tendering for the service. The Staffordshire PCC awarded the contract to a collaboration of Citizen Advice Bureaux. There were three decent tenders returned for evaluation as a result the independent support.
13. The formal procurement exercise is planned to commence in early October 2015. That will give sufficient time to evaluate and appoint a service provider and mobilise the service by 1st April 2016. The attached table provides a high level time line.

Description	Complete By
PIN Notice (before Soft Market Testing)	N/A
OJEU Notice	16/10/2015
Issue of ITT (Must be available at same time as OJEU published)	16/10/2015
Tender Closing Date	20/11/2015
Evaluation and Report Complete	04/12/2015
Decision Record Forms	07/12/2015
Alcatel (Standstill Period) 10 days	08/12/2015
Contract Signing	18/12/2015

Recommendation

14. To note the application of restorative and victims' capacity building funding in 2015/16 and the commissioning process for 2016/17.

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

This is included in the main body of the report.

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

The Durham & Darlington Victim and Witness Planning Group is reviewing and advising this service development.

Environment

n/a

Collaboration and Partnerships

This service will be commissioned in collaboration with the Cleveland PCC.

Value for Money and Productivity

The joint commissioning will increase the opportunity to deliver value for money.

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

This is consistent with objectives in the Police and Crime Plan.

Commissioning

This service will be commissioned in collaboration with the Cleveland PCC.

Other risks

n/a

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