

Police and Crime Panel

8th January 2016

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 conclusion of the procurement exercise to select the provider of a victim needs assessment and referral service that will commence on 1st April 2016.

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:

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- Funding of two Restorative Justice Coordinators posts, one each in County Durham and Darlington;
- Contribution towards salary of a strategic advisor on re-offending based in the PCC office, on secondment from County Durham and Tees Probation CRC (£31,200);
- 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);
- Contribution towards a children at risk of domestic abuse project (£10,000);
- Contribution towards the development of a victim support information management module (£15,726);
- Set up costs for the recently awarded victim needs assessment and referral service to help a victim cope and recover from the impact of a crime (£36,250).

Organisation	Project	Grant Award
Funding to Durham PCC		£691,692
Funding Awarded by PCC		£691,692
Balance to be Awarded by PCC		£0
Funding Awarded by Project		
County Durham & Darlington MBC	Restorative Justice Coordinators Posts	£80,171
	Community Peer Mentors Project	£9,300
	Extending Restorative Approaches	£30,370
Durham Tees Valley CRC	Strategic Adviser Re-offending	£32,400
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
Durham Police	Through the Eyes of a Child	£10,000
	Developing Victim Support Module	£15,726
Restorative Solutions	Courts & Custody Restorative Justice Programme (50/50 funding split with Restorative Solutions)	£18,000
Safe in Tees Valley	Needs Assessment & Referral Service	£36,250

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Organisation	Project	Grant Award
	Setup	
Expanding Futures	Market Development for Victim Support Service	£5,220

Commissioning of Victim Needs Assessment & Referral Service

7. Victim Referral Services have been delivered by Victim Support via a grant from the PCC for Cleveland and the PCC for Durham. The current contract is due to expire on the 31st March 2016.
8. The PCCs decided to test the market and appoint a contract via an Open Tender, in order to ensure they offer the best possible service and improve value for money for the taxpayer. A Prior Information Notice (PIN) was advertised in the European Journal in September 2015 to enable some pre-market engagement with potential bidders.
9. The majority of the suppliers in the market for these services are not for profit and voluntary organisations and therefore Expanding Futures was engaged to provide aid to potential bidders with their tender submissions.
10. An event to brief 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.
11. In October, an advert was placed in the European Journal and on the Bluelight E-tendering system inviting suppliers to bid for the service.
12. Twenty One suppliers expressed an interest and accessed the documentation.
13. Five tenders for the victim assessment and referral service were received and opened on 23rd November 2015. The bids received were of a high standard and presented the assessment team with a real challenge to select the service provider.
14. The five submissions were evaluated, by a team consisting of members of both PCC offices, against the published evaluation criteria of 70% Quality, 10% Case Study and 20% Price.
15. In addition to evaluation of the bid submissions, the quality element required each bidder to attend an interview with the evaluation team. As part of this process each bidder was presented with the same case study and asked to present back how they would deliver services based on the scenario.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

16. The Procurement Process has been completed in line with EU Procurement Legislation and the evaluation has been conducted in a fair, comprehensive, thorough and transparent process.
17. The Evaluation Team is confident that the procurement exercise has achieved Best Value.
18. The Evaluation Team recommended that the PCCs award this contract to Safe in Tees Valley for a contract period of two years with an option to extend for a further two years.
19. The new service will focus on the needs of the victim, rather than assuming their requirements based on crime type, will provide immediate emotional support, and ongoing one to one help with those identified as particularly vulnerable.
20. The current service provider submitted a high quality bid, but did not accumulate the best overall score against the published criteria. The formal rules relating to the transfer of staff from the existing service provider to the new service provider will form an integral part of the transition process.
21. The OPCCs and Police forces are working with the new and previous providers in order to ensure a smooth transition, including integration of systems and processes.
22. The contract will cost Durham PCC £252,000 in 2016-17.

Recommendation

23. To note the application of restorative and victims' capacity building funding in 2015/16 and the conclusion of the commissioning process for a new victim needs assessment and referral service provider with effect from 1st April 2016.

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 have reviewed and advised on this service development.

Environment

n/a

Collaboration and Partnerships

This service has been 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

Contact Officer:	Charles Oakley
Job Title:	Head of Governance & Commissioning
Telephone:	03000 264978
Email:	charles.oakley@durham-pcc.gov.uk