

Decision ID:

PCCDJ

000696

2023

Decision title

Violence Reduction Fund Grant Funding

Executive summary

Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones has a vision for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to be the safest places to live, work and visit in the country. One of her priorities is to develop greater understanding of root causes of serious violent crime and make better use of diversionary support services to prevent escalation of offending. In order to support young people, up to the age of 25 years, who are at risk of committing offences or who commit offences but who are not entrenched within the Youth Justice or Criminal Justice System, the Commissioner and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) launched the Violence Reduction Fund.

The Violence Reduction Fund is made up of financial contributions from the VRU Grant, The Serious Violence Duty Grant and the Police and Crime Commissioner's commissioning budget. The funding round welcomed applications for funding of up to £25,000 for either interventions or the purchase of items.

36 applications were submitted for a total of £761,253. After a thorough assessment of all applications the scoring team is recommending funding for 18 applications for £330,000.

Recommendation(s)

That the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to approve the **18** grant awards at a cost of **£330,000**, as detailed in **Appendix 1** as the Violence Reduction Fund grants funding allocations for the period of 1 October 2023 – 31 December 2024. All of the grant awards recommended for approval represent best value and prioritising of outcomes of the Violence Reduction Unit across the policing area, within the funds available.

Statement on publication

*delete as appropriate:

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*This Decision Record and supporting Decision Request documentation is suitable for publication.

Police and Crime Commissioner approval

I hereby **approve** the recommendation above.

Signature:



Name:

Donna Jones

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire

Date:

21 August 2023

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PCCDJ**000696****2023****Decision title:****Violence Reduction Fund Grant Funding****Requester details:**

Requester: Caroline Sargeant

Role title: Commissioning Business Manager

1 Strategic context

Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones has a vision for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to be the safest places to live, work and visit in the country. One of her priorities is to develop greater understanding of root causes of serious violent crime and make better use of diversionary support services to prevent escalation of offending. In order to support young people, up to the age of 25 years, who are at risk of committing offences or who commit offences but who are not entrenched within the Youth Justice or Criminal Justice System, the Commissioner and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) launched the Violence Reduction Fund.

The Violence Reduction Fund is made up of financial contributions from the VRU Fund, The Serious Violence Duty Fund and the Police and Crime Commissioner's commissioning budget. The funding round welcomed applications of up to £25,000 for either interventions or the purchase of items.

The core function of the VRU is to coordinate a partnership response to tackling serious violence and the root causes of that violence. As part of that function the VRU have led on this grant funding opportunity on behalf of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP). The VRP are a committed group of partners who come together across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to share data to understand drivers of serious violence and develop clear plans to combat violence with a focus on public space violence. Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones chairs the Strategic Violence

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Reduction Partnership which brings senior professionals to agree a strategy and joint actions. The VRP have a clear vision and mission:

*Our **Vision** is for Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to be a place where people can live their lives free from violence and the fear of violence.*

*Our **Mission** is to prevent violence by building a collaborative, courageous and sustainable partnership which will drive the change required to successfully address the causes and consequences of violence.*

The National VRU programme has fostered a 'public health' approach to preventing and tackling serious violence with much focus on early intervention and prevention. The programme has demonstrated that public money spent on the right interventions and projects will keep people safe and reduce overall expenditure. This is achieved by tackling the root causes of violence and preventing young people (predominantly those aged 25 years and under) from getting involved in violent crime.

Therefore applicants to the grants round were encouraged to tailor their applications to meet the following criteria:

- Meet the needs of the local community in response to the issues they face around serious violence. This should be based on evidence provided by partnerships. Applications may also reference the VRU Strategic Needs Assessment (See HIPS SNA 2023)
- Demonstrate the delivery of a multi-agency, collaborative approach to reducing serious violence
- Evidence based practice using resources such as College of Policing or Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit
- How the proposed intervention will result in a reduction of public spaces serious violence
- Evidence a Theory of Change for the proposed intervention

Applications to the Violence Reduction Fund were required to demonstrate how their proposed intervention or purchase of physical items contributed

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towards reducing serious violence and knife crime. The VRP has defined serious violence as the following crime types as part of the SNA to understand Serious Violence and the causes in our communities:

"The Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton Violence Reduction Unit aims to reduce violence across the two counties with a focus on crimes of particular concern including 'Most Serious Violence', robbery, possession of weapon, violent disorder, riot and any violence with injury where a bladed implement was used.

Most Serious Violence – Existing Definition (1a and 1b where it is GBH and above)

Robbery (3a and 3b)

Possession of Weapon Offences (7)

Public Order (Violent Disorder [65] and Riot [64/1] only)

Any Violence with Injury (1b) not included under MSV where a bladed implement was used."

Any applications failing to demonstrate how their intervention or physical item reduced serious violence, as per the above definition, or reduced knife crime were deemed ineligible for funding.

Launch of the Violence Reduction Fund

The opportunity to apply for funding under this grants round was launched on 19 June 2023 when the Commissioner and the VRU invited organisations to apply for funding. A 'Guide to applying for funding' document was made available which provided guidance on the type of interventions that would be accepted for funding. It also provided the eligibility criteria and information on how the applications would be scored.

There was no limit to the number of applications an organisation could submit however they needed to demonstrate that there was no duplication of geographical service provision within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

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The application window was open for one month and closed on Wednesday 19 July 2023. A total of 36 applications were received worth a total of £761,253, far outweighing the amount of funding available.

Application Assessment Process

A rigorous process was followed to assess and score the applications. The first stage was to consult with the fourteen Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) from across Hampshire and Isle of Wight to ensure that the views of partners within the Violence Reduction Partnership were taken into account. This information was fed into the evaluation and scoring process.

The applications were assessed following a clear, fair and transparent process. They were scored using only the information provided within the applications against the criteria provided in the 'Guide to applying for funding' document. Furthermore, applications have been scrutinised for suitability in financial terms, business costings and staffing provision.

Applications that scored well showed evidence that the interventions could be tailored to the needs of each young person and seek to reduce their risk of offending, harm and vulnerability, empowering them to positively thrive and achieve better life outcomes. Examples include developing positive life skills, building resilience, building social capital, improving 'attitudes, thinking and behaviour', conflict resolution, increasing opportunities for education, employment and training, promoting healthy relationships and emotional coaching.

Any application that scored lower than 70% of the maximum score were deemed unsuccessful and are not being recommended to the Commissioner for funding. Any application that achieved the minimum score or above was then reviewed against other applications for the same geographical area to ensure there was a fair spread across the fourteen Community Safety Partnership areas. If it was deemed that there were too many projects for the same theme in a geographic area, the scores and the views of the Community Safety Partnership were considered in prioritising applications. This resulted in two applications in the

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Southampton area and one in the Isle of Wight not being recommended for funding due to the areas having too many interventions.

The assessment of the 36 applications has resulted in the recommendation that the allocation across the geographical areas are as follows:

Geographical Area	No of Interventions	Amount
Basingstoke and Deane	1.5	£30,000
East Hampshire	0	£0
Eastleigh	1	£20,000
Fareham	1.1	£22,000
Gosport	1.1	£17,000
Hart	0	£0
Havant	1.8	£31,000
Isle of Wight	1	£20,000
New Forest	2	£30,000
Portsmouth	3.3	£61,000
Rushmoor	0	£0
Southampton	4.1	£77,000
Test Valley	1	£20,000
Winchester	0.1	£2,000
	18	£330,000

Unfortunately there were no applications received for East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor and Winchester that were solely for those areas and passed the eligibility criteria. For all the other areas there is at least one intervention that will be delivered.

2 Options appraisal

There are two ways in which the Commissioner supports services. Grants with grant agreements and procurement leading to contracts.

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Contracts are appropriate for core services which the Commissioner wants to ensure are available, often to safeguard the people most vulnerable to crime. Contracts require a rigorous and open procurement process with a clear specification.

Grants are generally more flexible, short term and for less money than contracts. They are less rigorous in terms of specification and are therefore more appropriate for smaller voluntary organisations providing local services.

For this funding round grants were deemed the most appropriate as the funding is only for a period of twelve months. We also wanted to harness the knowledge and expertise of the third sector organisations with Hampshire and the Isle of Wight by allowing them to tell us what works best and grants are best placed to do this.

3 Timescales

The funding for the Violence Reduction Fund is for a period of twelve months starting 1 October 2023 and finishing 30 September 2024 with an option to extend the timeframe until 31 December 2024 if required.

It is important that this Decision Request is agreed by the end of August so that applicants can be informed of their allocation of funding and be able to mobilise their intervention to start 1 October 2023.

4 Financial and resourcing implications

This proposal has financial implications of £330,000 over a twelve month period and it is recommended that the funding be allocated from the Violence Reduction Unit budget, the Serious Violence Duty budget and the Commissioning budget.

Total cost	£330,000
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Decision ID: **PCCDJ 000696 2023****Timeframe funding required for** October 2023 to December 2024**Table 1 - Funding allocation in each financial year**

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Capital	£?	£?	£0
Revenue	£237,500	£92,500	£0

Table 2 - Funding source - Capital and Revenue

	Capital (insert 'Yes' if applicable)	Revenue (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Transformation reserve		
Commissioner's reserve		
Commissioning budget		Yes
Approved capital programme		
General fund		
Other - VRU budget		Yes
Serious Violence Duty budget		Yes

5 Communications and engagement implications

Successful organisations will be asked to ensure that they publicise that their intervention is supported by both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Violence Reduction Unit. The Commissioning Team and Violence Reduction Unit will work closely with the Communications Team to identify opportunities to further promote these funding allocations.

6 Legal implications

Under S.143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Commissioner may provide or arrange for the provision of services to secure or contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction or which

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help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and antisocial behaviour. These arrangements may include the making of grants subject to such conditions as the Commissioner thinks appropriate. Funding awards will be subject to a written agreement setting out the terms and conditions on which payment is made.

7 Risks and mitigation

The process used to assess the applications has been rigorous and transparent and fully in accordance with guidance from Internal Audit. Applications have also been scrutinised for sustainability in financial terms, business costings and staffing provision. Furthermore, funding allocations have been allocated using a fair and proportionate distribution between geographical areas using population and crime statistics, where possible.

8 Strategic policing requirement

The investment in interventions to reduce serious violence and knife crime will contribute towards reducing the demand on policing across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

9 Equalities

Every applicant is asked to outline, and is assessed on, how their project will contribute towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination, the advancement of equality of opportunity for everyone, including those having a protected characteristic and the fostering of good relations between all including those having a protected characteristic. Applicants were asked to provide specific information on how their project worked with, or could be adapted to work with, people with protected characteristics. A question was also included, and scored against, to ascertain whether a project was inclusive of persons with a relevant protected characteristic or if it excluded any group. If the project did exclude any group, the organisation was asked to outline the basis of the

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exclusion to ensure that the use of an exemption was a proportionate means to achieve a legitimate aim.

The responses within the applications were taken into account during the assessment process and scored according to their response. Any application that did not score at least an 'adequate' score for the Equality & Inclusion questions were deemed unsuccessful as they did not meet the Commissioner's legal obligations set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Equality Duty). Therefore all of the recommended applications met the standard required in order to satisfy the Commissioner's public sector equality duty under s149 of the Equality Act 2010.

10 Data Protection implications

The only General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) implications associated with this decision request is that the Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships Team holds the information of the organisations that applied for funding under this grant round. This includes names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and bank details for the successful applicants. This information is stored and will be destroyed according to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office's data security policy.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office will not hold any personal information of service users of the projects funded through the Safer Communities Fund. This will be held by the organisations providing the projects and each organisation funded complies with GDPR regulations as per their safeguarding checklist and grant agreement.

11 Publication status

This report is suitable for publication.

12 Personnel consulted

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The following personnel were consulted on the Decision Request.

Table 3 - Personnel consulted

Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner	OPCC	Yes
Chief Executive	OPCC	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
OPCC/Hampshire Constabulary liaison	OPCC / HC	Yes
Head of Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships	OPCC	Yes
Head of Business	OPCC	
Head of Estate	OPCC	Yes
Accountant	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
Deputy Monitoring Officer	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
Head of Strategic Procurement	HCC	Yes
Commissioning and Grants Business Manager	OPCC	Yes
Data Protection Officer	OPCC	Yes
<i>[others as appropriate]</i>		

OPCC - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

HCC - Hampshire County Council

HC - Hampshire Constabulary

13 Appendices

Appendix 1 Proposed applications being recommended for funding
(Official Sensitive)

14 Background papers

Guide to Applying for Funding – Violence Reduction Fund