

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker/Committee/Panel:	Executive Member for Public Health
Date:	18 March 2020
Title:	Serious Violence Grant
Report From:	Director of Public Health

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval of a grant of £12,000 to the Community Rehabilitation Company to fund a preventative project on knife crime. This project is part of a coordinated programme of work being implemented in Hampshire to tackle serious violence, funded by the Home Office.

Recommendation

2. To approve a grant to the value of £12,000 to the Community Rehabilitation Company for a preventative project on knife crime as part of a wider public health approach to tackling serious violence in Hampshire.

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to set out the background to the proposed project, what the grant funding will be used for and how it fits with the wider context of the multi-agency approach to serious violence in Hampshire.

Contextual Information

4. On 6 January 2020, Cabinet received a report from the Director of Adults' Health and Care on the Hampshire Community Safety Strategy which included

a summary of the coordinated, multi-agency approach to serious violence in Hampshire.

5. A newly established Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) partnership model is central to this approach. Hampshire's Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is one of 18 areas in England and Wales to receive Home Office funding to set up a VRU to tackle and prevent serious violence. Across the Hampshire Constabulary area, the OPCC adopted a devolved approach to delivery of its VRU comprising four local VRUs across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton in line with local authority boundaries.
6. Each VRU is required to support a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. In the Hampshire County Council area, the local VRU is led by the Director of Public Health.
7. The Home Office funded programme of work under the Hampshire County Council area VRU builds on a range of existing interventions with young people up to 25 years, reflecting national evidence of effective practice. One element of the programme focuses on young adult offenders. The responsibility for managing the rehabilitation of this group is with the National Probation Service (NPS) for high risk offenders and the nationally contracted Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) for low and medium offenders.
8. A proposal has been developed for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company to pilot a new knife crime intervention 'Consequences and Choices' in Basingstoke which will be offered to young adult knife crime offenders being supervised in the community either by the CRC or the NPS who are male, aged 25 or under and be willing to engage in a programme for change to support their rehabilitation. This will be offered to offenders on a voluntary basis and not form part of their statutory supervision conditions.
9. The programme raises awareness of the consequences of knife crime, explores reasons why individuals may become involved, and supports individuals to develop attitudes, behaviours and lifestyles that can facilitate positive change. The programme will be delivered as a stand-alone project and will consist of eight weekly one-hour sessions for up to 10 people. Two of the spaces will be offered to the National Probation Service.

Finance

10. It is proposed that a grant to the value of £12,000 is awarded to CRC in quarter 4 of 2019/20 to carry out and evaluate the preventative knife crime intervention.

CRC is the organisation contracted by the Ministry of Justice to provide statutory rehabilitation services for adult offenders in Hampshire.

11. The grant would be a one-off spend using Home Office funding for 2019/20; the project will be evaluated, and learning used to inform the wider serious violence response strategy for funding received in 2020/21.

Performance

12. Evaluation measures will be agreed with the provider of the intervention, including process measures such as number of people attending as well as outcome evaluation.
13. Insight will be gathered on motivations for engaging or not with the project.
14. This project will contribute to the overarching indicators of the VRU:
 - A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25
 - A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25, based on police recorded crime data
 - A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

Legal

15. The NHS Act 2006 Section 2B states that each local authority must take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. The steps that may be taken include providing grants or loans (on such terms as the local authority considers appropriate).

Consultation and Equalities

16. If funding is approved, this project will focus on the locality of Basingstoke, which has been identified through public health and police analysis as an area of higher risk for serious violence.
17. The population targeted will be young males who have been involved in knife crime. This is the group at highest risk of being perpetrators of knife crime and therefore there will be a positive impact in terms of age and gender for this

particular group. Young males are also at high risk of being victims of serious violence.

18. The Hampshire response strategy to serious violence is being informed by data and intelligence about the populations and geographies most at risk of serious violence. This ongoing workstream will enable resources to be targeted where they will have the greatest impact.
19. Stakeholders are being engaged throughout the life of the Violent Reduction Unit as part of the serious violence response strategy.

Conclusions

20. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Public Health approves the grant for the CRC project on knife crime, which forms part of a wider public health approach to tackling serious violence in Hampshire.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Home Office. Consultation on a new legal duty to support multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence.	July 2019

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

2.1 A full EIA statement has been completed. Please see below.

2.2 The grant to the Community Rehabilitation Company is to fund a preventative project on knife crime. This project is part of a coordinated programme of work being implemented in Hampshire to tackle serious violence which has received funding from the Home Office.

2.3 Implementation of the project is to target young people at risk of violence related to knife crime

2.4 Stakeholders are being engaged on an ongoing basis as part of the serious violence response strategy.

2.5 There will be a positive impact on young people and age group who are most at risk of serious violence

2.6 A Serious violence response strategy is being informed by data and information about sections of the population and geographies at highest risk of serious violence.