

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker</b>	Executive Member for Public Health
<b>Date:</b>	16 March 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Serious Violence Reduction Grant
<b>Report From:</b>	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 £36,744 to contribute to an existing Reachable/Teachable Moments project in Emergency Departments enabling it to extend to Winchester and Basingstoke Hospitals. This project is part of a coordinated programme of work being implemented in Hampshire to tackle serious violence, funded by the Home Office. The budget for the grant is from the specific Violence Reduction Unit funds received from the Home Office via the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire for 2020/21.

### Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Public Health approves a grant to the value of £36,744 to be awarded to No Limits to provide the Reachable/Teachable Moments project in Winchester and Basingstoke Emergency Departments.

### Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to set out the background to the proposed project including the evidence base and what the grant funding would be used for. It highlights sustainability and longer-term funding issues and how the project fits with the wider context of the multi-agency approach to serious violence in Hampshire, including other key priority agendas such as suicide prevention, children and young people's mental health and crisis care. Consequently,

the project aims to reduce the number of attendances and re-attendances to Emergency Departments by young people with serious mental health and/or substance misuse issues, and/or with involvement with violence (either as a victim and/or as a perpetrator).

4. The proposed grant is from the 2020/21 Home Office funded programme for Violence Reduction Units (VRUs). The VRU grant allocation is managed by Public Health to deliver the multi-agency violence reduction work programme for Hampshire. The grant allocation comes from the Home Office via the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (OPCC) to the County Council .
5. The implementation of the 2020/21 VRU work programme has been delayed due to the impact of the pandemic, resulting in this residual amount of non-recurrent funding being available, to the value of £36,744. This is the current uncommitted spend from the total of £283,476 for 2020/21.
6. This VRU grant is received for the duration of one year with no facility to accrue to the following year, consequently if the funding is not utilised, it will be reclaimed by the Home Office.
7. The Home Office have recently confirmed VRU allocations for 2021/22 indicating a similar amount to 2020/21. The outcome of this pilot project will inform the viability of any further grant funding or commissioning of services. This is all subject to NHS contributions. Discussions are currently taking place with NHS commissioning colleagues as part of mental health crisis care.
8. A clear evidence base exists demonstrating a range of positive outcomes from embedding youth workers within the Emergency Department team. This provides opportunities for a public health approach to complex 'youth problems', such as violence, drug and alcohol addiction and mental health concerns.
9. The proposal is to fund an expansion of a project currently running at University Hospital Southampton (funded through Southampton VRU, the CCG and Public Health) to Winchester and Basingstoke Hospitals, embedding a Reachable/Teachable Moments project which will access and deliver a service to children and young people (up to the age of 25) who present to these Emergency Departments with mental health issues or exposure to violence.

## Contextual Information

10. On [6 January 2020 the 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.
11. A Violence Reduction Unit partnership model is central to the approach to Community Safety. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight 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.
12. 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.

## The Programme

13. The Home Office funded programme of work under the 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 being able to engage young people at reachable/teachable moments in their lives, such as when they are in an emergency department at hospital, or when they are in police custody. Part of the agreed Response Strategy for 2020/21 was to use the Reachable/Teachable Moments approach to engage with young people at moments when they are considering changing their lives and withdrawing from violent or risky behaviour. There is strong evidence that successfully embedding youth workers within the Emergency Department team provides opportunities for a public health approach to complex 'youth problems' or adversity-related injury e.g. violence, drug and alcohol addiction and mental health concerns. Recurrent emergency admissions for injury have been found to be more common in adolescents with adversity-related injury (girls 17.3%, boys 16.5%) than in those with accident-related injury only (girls 4.7%, boys 7.4%), particularly for adolescents with adversity-related injury related to multiple types of adversity (girls 21.1%, boys 24.2%). It is acknowledged that hospital-based interventions should be developed to reduce the risk of future injury in adolescents admitted for adversity-related injury. There is also cost-saving evidence, whereby Emergency Department visits are reduced, and criminal charges are avoided.

14. The project expansion in Winchester and Basingstoke would be similar to the model already in place at University Southampton Hospital delivered by No Limits and would be delivered by the same provider, utilising the Southampton site as a hub creating additional spokes in Basingstoke and Winchester hospitals with specialised youth workers engaging and intervening with young people often in mental health / addiction crisis and/or exposure to violence.
15. The charity 'No Limits' offers free confidential information, advice, advocacy, support and counselling to children and young people under the age of 26 years. Over a 5-month period the expansion of the existing model would cover areas such as: embedded specialist youth workers in the Emergency Departments across the two hospitals, access to social prescribing navigators, reaching vulnerable young people, training of clinical staff in the Emergency Department, access to health promotion materials and development of effective referral pathways into partners counselling and support services.
16. A range of positive outcomes are being demonstrated from the existing project including quality interactions with vulnerable young people, signposting to a full range of services, and training to Emergency Department clinicians with exceptional positive feedback from both young people and professionals. Expanding the project would provide more information on the generalisability of this early evidence to the Hampshire context as well as enable more robust evaluation of outcomes from a larger population.
17. No Limits currently adheres to COVID-19 secure practices which would be extended to both Winchester and Basingstoke hospitals. Key elements of this include:
  - Undertaking appropriate COVID-19 risk assessments
  - Completing relevant training on infection control and PPE
  - Following local guidelines on wearing masks and other PPE
  - Participating in testing/vaccination programmes as appropriate

## **Finance**

18. It is proposed that a grant to the value of £36,744 is awarded to No Limits as the provider to scope and deliver the Reachable/Teachable Moments intervention in Emergency Departments in the Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Basingstoke and Winchester) to build on the programme delivered in Southampton General Hospital Emergency Department and extend the benefits to more Hampshire residents and stakeholders.
19. The grant would be a one-off spend using the residual funds of £36,744 from the total £283,476 allocation for 2020/21 from the Home Office. If in the

unlikely event that this project requires additional grant funding in 2021/22 an additional request for approval will be sought.

## Performance

20. The performance and evaluation of the pilot project will include nominating a liaison officer from the County Council whose responsibility is to monitor how the grant is spent. Specifying within the grant agreement that the grant is 'restricted' funding for the provision of the specified activity only.
21. Performance would be monitored through existing senior VRU governance structures. It is envisaged that benefits derived would exceed the one-off cost invested and would have positive impact beyond just the VRU objectives.
22. An evaluation of the programme would aim to demonstrate the financial sustainability and add to empirical data in this new area of work. This would be factored into the design of the programme from the start. Evaluation process and impact measures would include areas such as:
  - The number of young people per month aged under 25 across Basingstoke and Winchester hospitals that receive reachable/teachable moments.
  - 20% reduction in re-admission rate with this same cohort within 3 months.
  - Reduced serious violence risk and reduction in associated risky behaviours.
  - Reason for attendance
  - District of residence (to ensure violence hotspots areas are served)
  - Intended outcomes.
  - Unintended outcomes are monitored.
  - Staff training outcomes:
  - Staff feedback and service user feedback – quantitative and qualitative
23. This project would contribute to the overarching outcome 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**

24. 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**

25. It is for the Executive Member as decision maker to have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
26. If funding is approved, this project will focus on the localities of Basingstoke, Eastleigh, and Andover which have been identified through the VRU Problem Profile (2020/21 and 2021/2 - public health and police analysis as areas of higher risk for serious violence).
27. The population targeted will be young people who are at risk of violence as victims and / or perpetrators.
28. The Hampshire response strategy to serious violence is being informed by the VRU Problem Profile (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.
29. Stakeholders are being engaged throughout the life of the Violent Reduction Unit as part of the serious violence response strategy.

## **Conclusions**

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Public Health approves the grant to be awarded to No Limits to extend the existing model for Reachable/Teachable Moments to Winchester and Basingstoke Emergency Departments.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

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

**Other Significant Links**

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

**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.)**

Document

Location

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.

2.2 The grant to No Limits is to fund a secondary and tertiary preventative project on violent 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 and the risk factors for involvement with violence.

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.

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