



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 30 April 2020

OPCC APPROACH TO GRANTS WITHIN THE CURRENT PANDEMIC

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner's ("PCC") approach to awarding Victims Services funding, Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants including the Prevention Fund, Casualty Reduction and Support Reserve Grants and small awards from the Youth and Community Fund for the period April 2020 to March 2021.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

2.2 The Constabulary work in partnership with the OPCC to re-start work to develop a prevention framework to inform funding awards from the prevention element of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant pot.

3. Background

3.1 Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Commissioner") is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan ("the Plan").

3.2 The Commissioner's Plan is structured around four key strategic themes: Victims, Offenders, Communities, and Transformation. Each theme has its own aim and a series of shared outcomes to enable all agencies with a part to play in community safety and criminal justice.

3.3 The current Victim Services, Crime and Disorder Reduction and the new Prevention Fund, and Road Casualty Reduction and Support Reserve awards, use a mixed model of grants and contracts and support the delivery of the key themes and shared

outcomes set out in the Plan. The awards are underpinned by strong evidence bases. The awards made in 19/20 are available to view on the OPCC website.

Approach during the pandemic

4. Victim Services Awards

- 4.1 The responsibility for commissioning emotional and practical support transferred to Police and Crime Commissioners from the Ministry of Justice (“the MoJ”) in 2014 along with an annual funding pot. The OPCC actively manages the commissioning arrangements for these services and since the start of the pandemic have been supporting services to move from face-to-face to telephone-based, online or virtual services. Contingency plans have been developed for each service.
- 4.2 A number of new pathways of support have been created as services embrace different ways of working. The existing strong partnership working arrangements have ensured a seamless provision throughout the pandemic to date. In particular the Victim and Witness Hub has been picking up additional work to support other providers. Weekly updates on provision, emerging issues and risks are collated by the OPCC and fed into the Multi Agency Incident Cell.
- 4.3 In the main the awards are similar to those from 19/20. However, the pandemic will delay the re-commissioning of two services which were due to go out to tender in 2020. The Cabinet Office released guidance in March 2020 (see Bibliography) which stated that **Public Contract Regulations (72) 1** allow contracts to be extended or modified without a new procurement procedure in a range of unforeseen circumstances. In line with the Commissioning and Grants Strategy, Single Tender Agreement Requests (STAR) have been completed. The intended awards for 20/21 are attached at Appendix 1.

5. Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants & Emerging Prevention Fund

- 5.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 gives the Commissioner the power to award Crime and Disorder Reduction grants to secure or contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction in the area. This includes a number of statutory contributions made on behalf of the Constabulary for partnerships arrangements for the Youth Offending Service, Safeguarding Boards and the Management of Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). It also funds work to deliver against the shared outcomes in the Plan.
- 5.2 The OPCC has spoken to all grant recipients over the past month to reassure them there are no planned changes to funding awards during this period of uncertainty. Support has also been offered to change ways of working that keeps staff and service users safe. All recipients have been asked to highlight any issues or risks as they emerge. In particular the OPCC has been supporting pathways for offenders during the pandemic bringing together key stakeholders to look at issues such as early release and housing. Community Safety Partnerships have been playing an important role in the place-based community support hubs and linking with the community resilience approach championed by the PCC.

- 5.3 The award recipients are in the main unchanged from 19/20. However, the allocated amounts to some services have changed in line with developing work. The intended awards for 20/21 are attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.4 The Prevention Fund was ringfenced in the 20/21 budget as a recurrent funding stream prior to the Covid Pandemic. It was created to enable the funding of evidence-based activities to support the reduction of current and future demand on the Constabulary and partner agencies. Pre Covid the OPCC was working with the Constabulary to develop a Prevention Strategy to ensure spends were linked to the force's internal prioritisation processes. The OPCC had also identified a number of emerging risk areas which would benefit from investment in prevention. While this current crisis has delayed that work new risks are coming to the fore which will be explored. Over the next month the OPCC will kick start this work again. It is hoped to have an initial spend plan by the next BCB meeting at the end of May.

6. Road Casualty Reduction and Support Reserve Awards

- 6.1 This reserve was created in 2015 with excess income over expenditure generated by the collaborated Cameras, Tickets & Collision Unit. This surplus is then split out in the agreed Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE) proportion across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire. The funds should be used on road casualty reduction activities. An update on planned spends was brought to this Board in April 2019 with a further update in December 2019.
- 6.2 The OPCC has been supporting the Road Victims Trust and Victim and Witness Hub to continue their work providing emotional and practical support to victims of road traffic incidents or their bereaved families. The Trust, which is a charity, has raised concerns over lack of fundraising opportunities (which it uses to pay for 60 per cent of its costs) and the OPCC is working with them to flag this risk to central government departments.
- 6.3 The visible funded partnership work to reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads has slowed during the pandemic. However progress is being made to complete a Road Safety Strategy and action plan. Against this background no changes significant changes have been made to the 20/21 allocations.

7. Youth and Community Awards

- 7.1 The Police Property Act allows the funds raised from unclaimed and recovered property by to be used for charitable work. In Cambridgeshire this is used to fund local youth and community groups to progress preventative and diversionary activities. Awards were capped at £3,000.
- 7.2 As pressures on the voluntary and charitable sector increase during the pandemic the OPCC is working in partnership with the local authority-run community hubs to see whether this fund needs to be diverted to immediate work. This work is ongoing however it is possible the fund would be best utilised as the county moves towards recovery phase.
- 7.3 Previous awards to this fund are available to view on the OPCC website: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/money/grants/youth-fund/>

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.
- 8.2 The Constabulary work in partnership with the OPCC to re-start work to develop a prevention strategy to inform funding awards from the prevention element of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant pot.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document(s)	Police and Crime Plan http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/ Attached: Responding to Covid-19 – Public Contract Regulations https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873521/PPN_01-20 - Responding to COVID19.v5_1 .pdf
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