

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) FOR LINCOLNSHIRE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

REF: 034 / 2015

DATE: 29 October 2015

SUBJECT		COMMISSIONER'S CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANTS FOR 2015/16
REPORT BY	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
CONTACT OFFICER	Howard Hunt, Deputy Chief Executive Telephone 01522 947192	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT		
To approve Grants which will contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction and/or help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.		
RECOMMENDATION	That the proposed grants as outlined in Appendix A be approved.	

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

I hereby approve the recommendation above, having considered the content of this report.

Signature:



Date: 29/10/15

A. NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC**A1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner undertakes detailed discussions and consultation with Lincolnshire Police, partners and the public regarding the use of funding to support the delivery of the strategic aims and priorities set out within his Police and Crime Plan. Proposals resulting from those discussions are set out below. These are in addition to those commitments made by the Police and Crime Commissioner earlier in the year (decision report ref 018/2015 refers).

Hate Crime

2. Following the murder of Stephen Lawrence the subsequent McPherson enquiry made a recommendation that independent reporting options should be established that are available 24 hours a day to facilitate the reporting of hate motivated incidents.

3. In the Lincolnshire Police area in response to this recommendation independent charity Stop Hate UK currently provide the Stop Hate Line service. The service is available 24 hours a day and can be accessed via Phone, Text, Text-Relay, Web-chat, Email, Online Form, BSL and Post. The helpline supports reporting of all forms of hostility (crimes and Incidents) and other forms of discrimination. Service users contacting the service are offered immediate practical and emotional support and where consent is given referral to Police and other local support agencies. The service also provides the option for anonymous referrals to aid collection of intelligence and tension monitoring. Quarterly monitoring data is provided to partner agencies throughout Lincolnshire to provide increased understanding of the nature of Hate Incidents taking place and the groups affected by hostility.
4. Locally there are also a number of community based reporting centres operating within the 7 council districts however these typically operate independently of the Stop Hate Line service resulting in lack of coordination between the range of options available to victims and witnesses.
5. In order to provide a comprehensive and consistent service across the area, Stop Hate UK propose to link the above existing service together. This would involve maintaining the provision of the Stop Hate Line service and developing the community based organisations to act as signposting centres to the helpline.
6. In developing this structure community based organisations would be provided with general training to recognise the nature of Hate Crime and provided with the knowledge to refer service users to the Stop Hate Line service. This will negate the need for community organisations to take full referrals and then transfer the reports to the police and other statutory agencies as this task forms part of the existing Stop Hate Line service. Community based organisations will additionally benefit by being able to direct their resources to their core activities whilst still being able to provide a gateway to accessing hate crime reporting services.
7. To support the structure Stop Hate UK are able to provide a range of resources to be distributed through the community based organisations and will also be able to identify themselves as Hate Incident Signposting Centres via existing resources provided by Stop Hate UK. Current resources that are available include Hate Crime posters, Taxi Stickers, Takeaway Posters, Learning Disability and Mental Health resources, large print leaflets and language booklets and posters in 46 different languages.
8. Data from Stop Hate UK indicates 115 calls for service in Lincolnshire during the year 14-15. National hate crime statistics issued by the Home Office on 13 October 2015 report an increase of 18% from 2013/14 to 2014/15 in Hate Crimes recorded by the Police in England and Wales.
9. Provision of specialist support for victims of hate crime aligns with the Police and Crime Commissioner's wider provision of referral, cope, recover and support services for victims of crime and the commissioning of specialist victims' services. It is therefore recommended by A/Supt Paul Timmins (Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership Anti-social behaviour lead) and Inspector Whyment (Hate-crime sub-group lead) that a grant of £10,600 (the proposed annual cost of the above provision in Lincolnshire) be awarded to Stop Hate UK.

Circles of Support and Accountability

10. Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) are a community contribution to reducing sex offending, working in close partnership with criminal justice agencies. Circles UK are the national body supporting the development, quality, coordination and effectiveness of Local Circles. Local volunteers work with sex offenders to minimise alienation, support reintegration and so prevent sexual reoffending. Lincolnshire is 1 of only 4 counties in the country without Circles.
11. Circles overall aim is to support former sexual offenders who are committed to stop offending to lead responsible, productive and accountable lives. Circles strap line is 'No More Victims.' Circles work in partnership with Police, Probation, local Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and other professionals working in the field of child protection. Circles have at its heart the aim to prevent further sexual abuse, working with the objective of no more victims.
12. Circles do this by;
 - Helping a Core Member (sex offender) to reintegrate responsibly into the community.
 - Acting as a support and safety mechanism for both Core Member and the community.
 - Enhancing public safety when there is a perceived element of risk
13. Six key values of Circles have been identified;
 - Safety - work towards the objective of no more victims.
 - Responsibility – Holding individuals and organisations to accountable for their actions.
 - Inclusiveness – Managing risk through inclusion not exclusion.
 - Community involvement – Recognising the importance of community involvement.
 - Growth and learning – Recognising that with necessary support and challenge, people have the ability to grow, learn and change their behaviour.
 - Individuality and respect – Treating people with humanity and respect.
14. The process works when, usually through the MAPPA process, but could be through the Dangerous Persons Management Unit (DPMU), a subject who is a high risk sex offender is referred to Circles. The employed coordinator meets with the police/probation team and is briefed about the subject. The coordinator would then meet and assess the subject for suitability of becoming a core member of a circle of support. There would be approximately 4/6 volunteers that would offer practical and emotional support to the core member.
15. Selection criteria for a Circle are: High or Very High risk of serious harm, they must be socially isolated, take responsibility for their offence(s), & have a commitment to no more victims. Some sex offenders do not engage with the police or probation service and this increases their risk to the community, Circles would be seen as separate and independent from these services and in addition to the DPMU. Volunteers are vetted and trained and have their own support process and working practices for security. The volunteers and coordinator

understand to provide police intelligence where appropriate and what the process is if there are disclosures of offences by the core member.

16. The probation service through Peter Adey, Head of Service, NPS North East, Lincolnshire LDU have agreed to provide a coordinator, probation officer, to Circles for 3 days a week, possibly by the end of the summer. Funding from the Lincolnshire PCC would be used to increase the Coordinator hours (thus the number of Circles available) and would also be used to go toward charity costs such as training and recruiting the volunteers and their expenses. A full time Coordinator runs approximately 8 Circles and has up to 5 in assessment or the planning stage. Other PCCs (NY, WY, SY, Humberside) currently contribute differing amounts to their Circle projects again depending on the service they want/need in their local area.
17. The role of the National Probation Service is that they are direct partners of this project, as would the police be if funding is provided. NPS and Police (along with other interested parties, community groups) would sit on the steering group and advise on the needs of the local area so that the service can be truly responsive to the needs in Lincolnshire. The Coordinator this funding would provide would be fully employed and line managed by Yorkshire and Humberside Circles of Support & Accountability (YHCOSA). The Police would have operational involvement in the steering groups. In other areas YHCOSA currently provides regional reports to MAPPA SMB quarterly and attend annually, Circles also host a strategic steering group each year that is focussed on funding and monitoring quality. YHCOSA run internal audits of each project (which involve stakeholder feedback) every 5 months. Circles UK are funded by the Ministry of Justice to externally audit and validate each Circles project across the country every 18 months. YHCOSA was audited 31/3/15 and received results of 100% compliance in July.
18. Circles of Support and Accountability were first established in Canada in 1994 and are well established in the Netherlands, Belgium, and a number of American jurisdictions. YHCOSA are one of 15 Projects in England and Wales, currently delivering over 100 Circles. - All are members of Circles UK. Circles are also taking root in Scotland, Spain, Latvia and Bulgaria.
19. An initial evaluation of their impact recidivism, in which 60 COSA participants were matched against a control group of high risk sex offenders, found that offenders who participated in COSA had a 70% reduction in sexual recidivism, a 57% reduction in all types of violent recidivism and an overall reduction of 35% in all types of recidivism, compared to the control group.
20. Where Core Members did commit a new sexual offence, a harm reduction effect was observed, whereby the new offences were categorically less severe and invasive than their original offences; this was not seen in those reconvictions within the control group. A further study of COSA across Canada found that a cohort of 47 high risk sex offenders who participated in COSA had an 83% reduction in sexual recidivism in contrast to a matched comparison group, a 73% reduction in all types of violent recidivism and an overall reduction of 72% in all types of recidivism.
21. Of the Yorkshire and Humberside Circles of Support & Accountability 60 Circles

have had no sexual re-offences. On discussion with Tammy Banks, Director Yorkshire and Humberside Circles of Support & Accountability, Lincolnshire would reasonably have approximately 12 core members with 8 active circles. This would require one full time coordinator to manage the process with 4/6 volunteers for each circle. With the probation service committing to 3 days a week the proposed contribution from the Police and Crime Commissioner would cover costs for one year of the remaining 2 days per week for the coordinator and the training and recruiting of the volunteers and their expenses. The Police and Crime Commissioner grant level proposed is £24,000 per year.

22. 3 monthly operational steering groups will be put in place together with a Strategic annual meeting. Alongside this the PPU officer involved in individual circles receive a monthly update report.
23. There is a set up period, recruiting and inducting a coordinator, raising awareness to statutory services, raising awareness in the community, recruiting volunteers, training volunteers, assessing core members and then matching volunteers. From their experience there is usually about 6 months until the first Circle. Once that first Circle is viewed to be working, things usually speed up and projects reach capacity at approximately 12 months. Bearing in mind that with the exception of inducting the coordinator all the 'set up period' items are actual, usual and continuous elements of setting up a Circle, but once the first Circle happens, become less obvious and more fluid.
24. There are risks, putting volunteers with High Risk sex offenders. However, Circles are following a model developed over 20 years ago with a growing body of empirical evidence. Circles also work in close partnership with police and probation to help mitigate the risk, and thoroughly examine all types of risk assessments before the Coordinator meets an offender to assess them. The Ministry of Justice fund Circles governing body Circles UK, to ensure they are complying with all aspects of the proven model. This includes rigorous selection, training and supervision of volunteers. Circles isn't a new approach and has been active in this country for 13 years now, they have all the processes in place to mitigate the risks.
25. The proposal to provide grant support to YHCOSA is made by Detective Inspector Simon Lovett of the Public Protection Unit and supported by Deputy Chief Constable Heather Roach.

A2. LINKS TO POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND PCC'S STRATEGIES/PRIORITIES

This funding will help to deliver the strategic aims and priorities set out within the Police and Crime Plan (reducing crime, police and services that are there when you need them).

B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Provision for Crime and Disorder Reduction Grants was made in the Revenue budget for 2015/16 approved on 24 February 2015 (report ref 008/2015).

C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

[This should include the legal powers the PCC has for making the decision]

Section 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides Police and Crime Commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any organisations and projects which, in the opinion of the PCC, will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the police area.

In addition, Section 143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides Police and Crime Commissioners with powers to provide or commission services. Within the meaning of this section, a PCC may provide or arrange for the provision of:

- (a) services that in the opinion of the PCC will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the PCC's area
- (b) services that are intended by the PCC to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour
- (c) services of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.

A PCC arranging for the provision of services under this section may make grants in connection with the arrangements. A grant may be subject to any conditions (including conditions as to repayment) that the PCC thinks appropriate. For the purposes of the legislative provision "anti-social behaviour" means behaviour by a person that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more other persons not of the same household as that person; "crime and disorder reduction" means reduction in levels of:

- (a) crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment),
- (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and
- (c) re-offending.

D. PERSONNEL AND EQUALITIES ISSUES

In awarding these grants, the Police and Crime Commissioner places an expectation on the grant recipient that they meet all applicable legislative requirements in relation to these issues.

E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

Review and evaluation arrangements will be put in place to assess whether intended outcomes have been achieved. Both grant proposals cover activity for a period of 12 months. The Police and Crime Commissioner may consider whether to make future grants in future years, but in making this decision commits only to making those grants detailed at appendix A.

F. RISK MANAGEMENT

Through the review and evaluation arrangements as necessary and as detailed in the body of this report.

H. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form along with any supporting material is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC's website within one working day of approval. However, if release by that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved, publication may be deferred. An explanation for any deferment must be provided below, together with a date for publication.

Is the publication of this form to be deferred? No

If Yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate part 2 form.

Is there a part 2 form? No

If Yes, for what reason:

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION

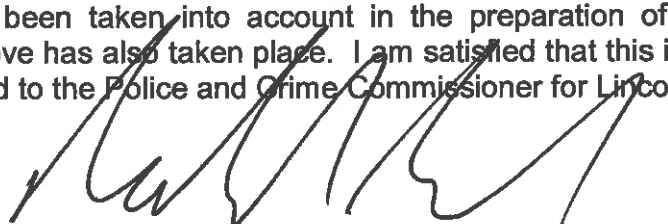
	Initial to confirm
Originating Officer: The Deputy Chief Executive recommends this proposal for the reasons outlined above.	UH .
Financial advice: The PCC's D/Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	Adh .
Monitoring Officer: The PCC's Monitoring Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	WJ
Chief Constable: The Chief Constable has been consulted on this proposal.	NR

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. Consultation outlined above has also taken place. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire.

Signature:



Date: 29/10/2015

COMMISSIONER'S CRIME AND DISORDER GRANTS FOR 2015/16

Grant recipient	Purpose	Amount
Stop Hate UK	Support for the provision and further development of Hate Crime support services within Lincolnshire	£10,600
Yorkshire and Humberside Circles of Support & Accountability	Contribution to costs of developing Circles of Support in Lincolnshire to contribute to reducing sex offending	£24,000
	Total	£34,600

