

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE
DECISION RECORD**

Decision Record Number: **31/2014**

Title: **Victims Funding**

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this submission is to outline the commissioning intentions, both interim and longer term regarding funding for victims services through the Victim's Grants awarded to the PCC by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). In particular the Commissioner is asked to:

- (i) Determine the level of funding available for victims services for 2013/14 and 2014/15.
- (ii) Agree a process for the allocation of available funding in a fair and transparent manner that delivers value for money for local taxpayers.
- (iii) Provide an initial steer for the commissioning of non-specialist victim services from April 2015.

Decision:

(a) That the fund be set at a maximum £450k (£109k from the Partnership Reserve) with any underspends being transferred back into Partnership Reserve. Of that, £400k is for competed bid grants and £50k is to be set aside for community based victim support volunteers; (b) that the eight commissioning principles outlined at s6 of the report be agreed to guide all competitive grant making and commissioning decisions, and (c) that an approach to funding victims services that combines a competitive grant funding process for the use of 2013/14 and 2014/15 funding (i.e. £450,000) with a full commissioning process from April 2015 be agreed.

Background Report: Open

Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above decision has my approval.

Signature

Matthew Grove

Date 31.07.14

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

SUBMISSION FOR DECISION

OPEN

Title: Victims Funding

Date:

1. Executive Summary

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- (i) Determine the level of funding available for victims services for 2013/14 and 2014/15.
- (ii) Agree a process for the allocation of available funding in a fair and transparent manner that delivers value for money for local taxpayers.
- (iii) Provide an initial steer for the commissioning of non-specialist victim services from April 2015.

2. Recommendation(s)

The Police and Crime Commissioner is recommended to:

- (i) Set the level of Victims Funding at £450,000 for capacity and capability building and the delivery of victims' services. This would mean the transfer of £109,632 from the Commissioners Partnership Reserve. The Commissioner is asked to determine whether this funding should be split to cater for the separate grant conditions set by the MoJ for 2013/14 funding and 2014/15 funding.
- (ii) agree to the eight commissioning principles outlined at s6 below to guide all competitive grant making and commissioning decisions.
- (iii) agree an approach to funding victims services that combines a competitive grant funding process for the use of 2013/14 and

2014/15 funding (i.e. £450,000) with a full commissioning process from April 2015.

3. Background

The Government consultation, 'Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses' concluded that victims should experience high quality support tailored according to need and that this would be best achieved through a mixed economy of local and national commissioning. Within this new landscape for victims' services commissioning, the MoJ will remain responsible for providing some services at a national level, while PCCs will become responsible for commissioning the majority of emotional and practical services for victims of crime in their local areas from October 2014¹.

In December 2013, the MoJ began issuing grants to PCCs under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to support the development of local commissioning of victims services, including Restorative Justice (RJ). The initial tranche of funding received in December 2013 was followed by further funding in 2014.

For the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside the amount of grant was as follows:

2013/14

MoJ Grant Funding	£338,722
Claimed & Protected (Victims Services and RJ)	£149,720
Balance remaining	£189,002

The Grant conditions set by the MoJ stipulate that the purpose of this funding is to:

- a) Build the capacity and capability of potential providers of services for victims (including potential providers of RJ services) from the VCSE sector;
- b) Prepare for local commissioning;
- c) Commission restorative justice services if capacity and capability are sufficient in relation to those services;
- d) Pay for any associated costs that may arise in the process of preparing to commission local victims support services.

¹ The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will continue to commission a witness service, a homicide service, support for victims of human trafficking, support for victims of rape through rape support centres, some national telephone help-lines for victims, and some locally-based services through competitive grant funding arrangements, for example, to support male victims of rape and serious sexual assault.

2014/15

MoJ Grant Funding	£318,366
Less RJ Commissioning	£101,000
Less additional NB ISVA	£ 41,000
Less Hull Rape Crisis	£ 10,000
Less CAADA DV Research	£ 15,000
Balance remaining	£151,366

The Grant conditions set by the MoJ stipulate that the purpose of this funding is for:

- a) Services for victims of crime and particularly victims in the priority categories outlined in the Victims' Code i.e. victims of the most serious crime, persistently targeted victims, and vulnerable or intimidated victims, to help them cope with the immediate impacts of crime and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced;
- b) for victims of sexual and/or domestic violence;
- c) Support services for family members (as defined in Article 2(b) of the Victims' Directive;
- d) Any associated costs that arise in the process of commissioning /provision of victims' services.

Adding the two balances together gives a total of £340,368.

4. Options

The Police and Crime Commissioner can determine the level of Victims' Funding but must balance this against other competing priorities. The allocated grant from the MoJ is outlined above at section 3, together with actual spend and claims already made on this funding. The amount of funding available for building the provider base and delivering specialist victim services is therefore a matter for the Commissioner.

5. Recommendation 1

It is recommended that £109,632 from the 2013/14 'Claimed and Protected' amount of £149,720 is allocated to the Victims' Funding (and therefore transferred from the Partnership Reserve) making a grand total of £450,000 for victims services. This is prior to the commissioning of non-specialist victim support services, including a suitable referral service from April 2015.

6. Commissioning Principles

In order to take account of the requirements of the EU Victim's Directive, the Victim's Code of Practice, the different grant conditions attached to each grant, the Victims Commissioning Framework, and the timescales for commissioning services it is recommended that the Commissioner agrees to the following commissioning principles:

- 1) The PCC will understand victims' needs and engage with the VCSE sector to access specialist knowledge.
- 2) The PCC will consult provider organisations and work with them to set priority outcomes.
- 3) The PCC will put outcomes for service users at the heart of the planning process.
- 4) The PCC will map the fullest practical range of providers and understand the contribution they could make to deliver the outcomes
- 5) The PCC will invest in the provider base
- 6) The PCC will ensure the contracting processes are fair and transparent
- 7) The PCC will, whenever possible, ensure long term contracts and risk sharing as ways of achieving efficiency and effectiveness.
- 8) The PCC will seek feedback from service users, communities and providers in order to review the effectiveness of the commissioning process in meeting local needs.

6. Recommendation 2

In order to commission victim services in a robust and transparent manner the Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to adopt the principles above to underpin the approach to how he will seek to provide services, both now and in the future.

7. Commissioner's Approach

The PCC will work towards introducing fully commissioned services by April 2015, informed through the 'cycle of commissioning' advocated by the MoJ Commissioning Framework which includes the four-stage process of (i) Understand (ii) Plan (iii) Do, and (iv) Review.

In the interim stage, using 2013/14 and 2014/15 funding (of £450,000, if recommendation 1 is agreed) the Commissioner will develop a competitive grant funding approach to support the development and alignment of local service delivery. The criteria will include the MoJ outcomes of 'cope' and 'recover' and others outlined in the PCCs Victim Care Strategy. The Commissioner will however be consultative to ensure the views of potential

provider organisations, particularly those from the voluntary sector, help to inform the PCCs priorities in advance of the commissioning process. The PCC has already held two Victims' Commissioning workshops to consult with potential providers and stakeholders.

This approach will allow the Commissioner to invest in the capacity and capability of the provider base and invest in those most in need, defined as victims of the most serious crime, the most persistently targeted and the most vulnerable and intimidated.

8. Options

The Commissioner could decide to simply grant fund those providers of victim's services he considers most appropriate without the need for a competitive bidding process. Alternatively he could simply passport funding to the VCSE umbrella organisations such as VANEL, VANL, ERVAS, Hull CVS and the North Bank Forum and ask them to allocate funding on his behalf.

9. Risks

The risks attached to these options is that in the first case, while completely legitimate, it could be argued it is not in line with the Commissioner's principles (see above), in particular the need for the process to be fair and transparent. In the second case handing over funding to umbrella VCSE organisations would mean a loss of control with the responsibility simply transferred to someone else, albeit the PCC could stipulate certain conditions attached to the transfer of funding.

10. Recommendation 3

It is recommended that the Commissioner adopts a competitive grant funding approach as outlined above at section 7. An application form and assessment criteria will be developed and the fund will be promoted in the same way as the Commissioner's Crime Reduction Fund. It is anticipated that the fund will open sometime during August and close at the end of September 2014.

11 Financial Implications

The financial implications are set out at section 3 above.

The victims services funded through the competitive bidding process will be expected to develop and align delivery in preparation for bidding and delivering commissioned services from April 2015.

All grant funding must be regarded as one-off funding without any guarantee that further funding will be available or that services awarded funding will be formally commissioned by the PCC in 2015. Applicants will therefore be

expected to consider the sustainability of services beyond the grant funding stage.

A small number of service funding decisions have already been made in 2014 in advance of the competitive grant process, but only in extenuating circumstances to sustain a critical service that might otherwise have come to an end, or to bridge a gap in commissioning.

The funding available for 2015/16 is £782,000 which already takes account of the £208,000 the Commissioner has agreed to commission Restorative Justice services. This funding however must also be used to fund a regional or local referral mechanism as well as local 'generic' and 'specialist' victim support services.

12. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

13. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

14. Consultation

The OPCC has consulted with the VCSE sector through two workshops and participated in the Pulse Regeneration workshop. These workshops were used to outline the Commissioner's intentions with respect to Victims Services. In addition the OPCC has engaged with various umbrella organisations representing and supporting the voluntary sector. .

15. Media information

There will be an opportunity when the fund is officially launched to attract media attention. This will help to publicise the fund and encourage applications.

16. Background documents

None.

