

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

Decision Record Number: **22/2014**

Title: **Circles of Support – Request for Funding**

**Executive Summary:**

Report submitted that outlined a request for funding to support Circles of Support that had previously been funded by the four Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

**Decision:**

That funding at the level provided in 2013/14 be approved and discussions take place with Hull CSP regarding how the funding will be allocated.

**Background Report:** Open

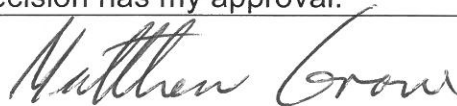
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside**

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



Date 23.05.14

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

**SUBMISSION FOR DECISION**

**OPEN**

**Title:** **Circles of Support**

**Date:** **23 May 2014**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 To consider a request for funding to support Circles of Support which has been financed by the four Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in previous years.

**2. Issue:**

2.1 You have received a request to provide 50% of the cost of a coordinator post for Circles of Support. This is a Humberside wide project that has been funded by Probation, the Hull CSP and by the Force. In view of the protracted discussions regarding the provision of support for CSPs, you have been approached direct to provide support for the scheme in 2014/15. The approach pre-dated your decision on 14 May 2014 when you agreed to continue to provide funding on a conditional basis at the same level this year as in 2013/14. This decision was communicated to CSP Managers on 19 May 2014. This timing issue raises the question of whether you support the project and if so how to manage the financial arrangements with the CSPs.

**3. Recommendations:**

3.1 That consideration is given to whether or not you support the project in 2014/15 and if so how you wish to proceed with regard to the CSPs.

**4. Background:**

4.1 In 2013/14 the Home Office provided you with a new grant called the Community Safety Fund Grant (CSFG). This grant of £2.316m was fully utilised in the last financial year together with £276k from your Partnership Reserve to enable you to continue to provide grants to community safety partners at the same level as in 2012/13 when they received funding directly from the Home Office. This decision enabled you to provide monies for Drug Intervention Programmes, Drug Testing on Arrest, Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) and Positive Futures (delivered by Catch 22) as well as the CSPs.

4.2 For 2014/15 the CSFG has been absorbed into the main grant that you receive from the Home Office and so you are at liberty to determine how funding to support partnership activity is allocated.

4.3 Earlier this year you agreed to reduce support for the Force's activities in relation to Drug Testing but at the same time you agreed to provide slightly increased support for Drug Intervention Programmes.

4.4 On 14 May 2014, following a series of meetings with partners where you were seeking to secure arrangements for the strategic overview of support for community safety across the whole of the Force area you agreed to provide funding to the CSPs at the same level as in 2014/15. However, this decision was conditional on:-

- CSPs providing current cross authority sharing mechanisms and systems, which demonstrate effective and efficient use of resources and where appropriate working together to maximise the return on the investment that you make, including by sharing resources, considering and implementing pan-Humber solutions to crime and community safety problems and developing projects and initiatives that work across local authority boundaries and
- CSP Managers and Chairs committing to support the development of a Humber-wide strategic group to consider wider community safety funding and investments, linking with a Strategic Co-ordination Group of Corporate Directors.

4.5 The decision was communicated to CSP Managers on 19 May 2014 and their response is awaited.

4.6 Given the protracted nature of the meetings with partners, there significant concerns, recognised in the report informing your decision on continuing to fund CSPs in 2014/15, that the delays created uncertainty and potentially jeopardised the future of effective ongoing projects. Circles of Support is one of those projects.

4.7 As a result of this uncertainty, you have been approached by the Humberside Probation Trust to consider maintaining support for the scheme in 2014/15. The proposal is supported by the Business Manager for the Humberside Criminal Justice Board (HCJB). The Hull CSP supports the scheme.

## **5 Circles of Support**

5.1 Circles of Support operates a volunteering scheme on a pan-Humber basis although the funding support has come from the Hull CSP. There are two coordinators for Humberside who have been trained in the use of Probation IT and have access to Probation buildings. They are seeking a 25% contribution towards the cost of a coordinator, £45,000 to match fund a contribution from the Force of 25% with the Humberside Probation Trust having already committed to meet 50% of the cost.

5.2 Four circles are currently operating across the Humberside Force area dealing with referrals and they work closely with a range of organisations

involved in offender management, MAPPA, Hull Prison and with Safeguarding Boards in the Humberside area.

- 5.3 They have 17 trained volunteers, 15 of whom are engaged with these circles. A similar number of volunteers are currently being trained including from the South bank of the Humber where there have been difficulties in getting people engaged. Recruitment has involved Lincoln University and the University of Hull, all of the Councils for Voluntary Services, the Womens' Institute, Humbercare Services, existing volunteers and the Hull and East Riding Inter Faith Group.
- 5.4 The project received £10,520 in 2013/14 from the Hull CSP.
- 5.5 Discussions have taken place with officers from the City Council who have confirmed that they have received a bid from Circles of Support for 2014/15. These discussions took place prior to your decision to continue to provide support for the CSP, subject to the conditions referred to above. It has been identified that Circles of Support is a high priority for the Hull CSP. It was also established that there was unlikely to be any issues with the CSP if you decided to provide support direct.

## **6 Options / Risks / Implications:**

- Option 1 – not to provide support***

6.1 You could decide not to support the project but this could jeopardise a project which is growing with potential and has the support of key organisations and one that is proving successful and can make a contribution to delivering outcomes set out in your Police and Crime Plan as well as supporting your aim of engaging local people.
- Option 2 – endorse support at the requested level***

6.2 This option would provide the opportunity to continue to support at the existing level to enable the project to continue and develop as it is but would not allow the scheme to be expanded.

6.3 Option 2 would require consideration to be given to the mechanics of how the arrangements would work and the implications following your decision to continue to provide support to the CSPs at the same level in 2014/15 as you did in 2013/14.
- 6.4 An agreement to fund at the same level as in 2013/14 could be progressed either directly or by way of imposing an additional condition on the CSPs that this would have a first call on the funding. The same outcome could be achieved by reducing the amount being made available to them this year. Initial discussions with officers from the City Council suggest that they would be amenable to either of these approaches.

## **7 Financial Comments:**

- 7.1 The information in the report sets out details of the financial implications. It must be recognised that your decision to continue to provide support to the CSPs at the same level as last year means that there are likely to be further calls on your Partnership Reserve this year and, as previously indicated, these resources can only be used once.
- 7.2 In the case of the option to endorse support to Circles of Support, we would need to determine whether you would wish to provide support by direct payments or via the CSP. If the former, the you would need to confirm whether you want to net the amount off from the sums that you have already agreed or make additional monies available.

## **8 Legal Comments:**

- 8.1 There are no legal issues to consider other than the need to have regard to the contractual arrangements with the CSPs if you choose to add additional conditions on directing them how to spend the resources that are made available.

## **9 Equality Comments:**

- 9.1 There are no equality issues in the context of this report.

## **10 Summary**

- 10.1 Circles of Support is a well regarded scheme that is growing and is attracting more volunteers to become engaged in the process of supporting and managing offenders. It has the support of the Force and Probation who are committing funding to pay for the cost of a coordinator post costing £45k.
- 10.2 If you agree to endorse the request for a 25% contribution then the total cost there will be 50:50 split in funding between Probation and the Police Service. As you indicated previously, to avoid confusion, you may want to consolidate this into a single contribution made from the Commissioner, making the necessary adjustment between your budget and the Force or vire the budget provision for the Force contribution to the budget for Community Safety.
- 10.3 The project has been funded by the Hull CSP previously although it has operated across the whole of the Force area. This is in line with the arrangements that you are seeking to encourage and set out in the conditions that you have attached to continued support for the CSPs in 2014/15.
- 10.4 Volunteers are being engaged and numbers are growing which is again in keeping with your ambition of engaging members of the community in helping to deliver the outcomes set out in your Police and Crime Plan.

- 10.5 Officers do not want to see this momentum lost and have identified the need for additional requirements to manage risk individuals within the community and to help to reduce crime.
- 10.6 Funding for the scheme has come from CSPs previously and the late determination of how you intend to allocate resources to them has led to this request coming to you direct.
- 10.7 If you consider that there should be continued support for the scheme then there is a need to determine how this decision will be implemented either directly or in conjunction with the CSPs. Discussions at officer level suggest that this will not be a problem as the project is one that has a high priority and something that they would want to support and want to see continued.

**11 Background/Supporting Papers:**  
JB/ File: Circles of Support 2014/15

John Bates  
Deputy Chief Executive and Treasurer  
Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

## **Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Funding 2014/15 – Conditions**

The Commissioner has no desire to introduce the concept of a pan-Humber CSP and fully supports the continuation of local CSPs. However, there are efficiencies and opportunities to spread good practice that he would like to see exploited across Authority boundaries. Therefore, the following conditions of community safety funding for 2014/15 are to be agreed from members of the CSPs:

### **Condition 1**

Funding should be used/invested in initiatives/projects/existing work streams that contribute to the overall outcomes set out by the Police and Crime Commissioner in his Police and Crime Plan for 2013 – 2017, these being:

#### **1. Reduce Crime**

- Reduce violent crime
- Target resources at drugs, alcohol and mental health
- Target offenders and places (such as crime and ASB hotspots)
- Increase visibility, availability and accessibility of police and other services

#### **2. Protect the Public and Improve Safety**

- Manage dangerous offenders
- Meet obligations to national threats
- Protect children, youth and vulnerable adults
- Empower and enable local communities to work together with the police and other agencies to solve problems locally

#### **3. Improve the Quality of Services for Victims**

- Reduce repeat victimisation
- Support victim recovery
- Expand restorative justice and community payback so that offender are seen to pay for their crimes in local communities
- Ensure a prompt and effective response from the police and others to calls for service

### **Condition 2**

CSPs are to provide current cross authority sharing mechanisms and systems, which demonstrate effective and efficient use of resources. Where appropriate, CSPs should work together to maximise the return on the investment made by the Police and Crime Commissioner. This may include (although is not limited to) the sharing of resources, considering and implementing pan-Humber solutions to crime and

community safety, developing projects and initiatives that work across local authority boundaries.

**Condition 3**

CSP Managers and Chairs are to commit to supporting the development of a Humber-wide strategic group to consider wider CS Funding and investments, linking with the Strategic Co-ordination Group of Corporate Directors.

**Condition 4**

CSPs to provide quarterly returns on investment to the Chief Financial Officer (OPCC) evidencing spend against the Police and Crime Plan priorities. The returns are to include both financial detail and progress against the shared/collaborative services across Authority boundaries