OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE
DECISION RECORD

Decision Record Number **03/2024**

Title (This will be published): **Cyber Security for Schools – Grant Scheme Pilot**

Executive Summary (This will be published):

This report sets out the proposal to pilot a new Cyber Security for Schools – Grant Scheme which will support local schools / educational institutions to improve their cyber security and improve resilience. The pilot will make up to £25,000 of funding available to 50% match fund cyber security advice delivered by the NEBRC.

This proposal contributes to the Police and Crime Plan commitment to develop a Delivery Fund "to support innovation, community resilience and reduce local crime".

Decision of the PCC
Approved

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 24/01/2024**

Title: Cyber Security for Schools – Grant Scheme Pilot

Date: 09 January 2024

---

1. **Executive Summary**

   This report sets out the proposal to pilot a new Cyber Security for Schools – Grant Scheme which will support local schools / educational institutions to improve their cyber security and improve resilience. The pilot will make up to £25,000 of funding available to 50% match fund cyber security advice delivered by the NEBRC.

   This proposal contributes to the Police and Crime Plan commitment to develop a Delivery Fund "to support innovation, community resilience and reduce local crime".

2. **Recommendation(s)**

   To deliver a Cyber Security for Schools – Grant Scheme Pilot, offering grants to schools / educational institutions to address specific cyber security issues identified by the North East Business Resilience Centre, as outlined in Option 3.

3. **Background**

   The North East Business Resilience Centre (NEBRC) is a police-led, not-for-profit organisation that provides 24/7 cyber security support to SMEs. They offer a free membership, as well as many other cyber security services.

   NEBRC have recently delivered a pilot cyber security programme for educational institutions / schools in another PCC's area which has highlighted common vulnerabilities across the sector. Local educational establishments are often cash poor, unable to meet Cyber Essentials certification and yet have to satisfy OFSTED that they are secure.

   This pilot approach has proved to be successful and it is recommended that a similar approach is piloted in Humberside, building the resilience of

educational institutions / schools in our area and enabling them to adapt to the rapid pace of digital transformation. This will identify the level of demand for a wider scheme.

A pilot, delivered in Humberside by the NEBRC, would enable organisations to access the following:

Free core membership for life – providing access to the website and free newsletters containing tips and guides containing the latest threats and evasive action advice.

Regional Police Intelligence Updates and Cyber Security Guidance - Working with regional forces and cyber teams, the NEBRC will provide businesses/trusts with access to regular cybercrime intelligence reports and alerts to build upon the awareness training and include the latest guidance to defend against current and emerging threats.

PLUS a choice of some or all of the below:

Cyber Awareness Training - 4 easy to follow modules delivered to improve resilience. Suitable for any member of staff, whether they have a basic understanding of online security or none at all. Previous attendees have provided hugely positive feedback on the training which has been developed and refined over the last four years. Following the training attendees have access to further materials online to help embed the knowledge.

The online training covers a range of cyber threats with the latest guidance on how to build resilience against them.

- Introduction to Cyber Security – threats
- How to get good digital hygiene
- Cyber essentials standards and 10 steps to cyber security
- Business resilience and continuity planning

Cyber Security Policy and Procedure Templates - designed by Cyber Security Consultants to help staff put the right measures in place to ensure their business can respond effectively to a cyber-attack. One of the most popular is a template Cyber Incident Plan, due to increasing requirements on businesses to put these in place for cyber insurance policies.

One-to-one Cyber Risk check - A private 1-2-1 session to discuss their specific circumstances and give initial advice on cyber security, following which businesses will receive signposting (if ready) to their Trusted Partner network who are accredited to deliver the nationally recognised 'Cyber Essentials' assessments.

Vulnerability testing - Recipients will be offered a scoping call to ascertain what needs their school/trust has and what of the following services would be suitable:

- Internal/external vulnerability testing
- Configuration review
- Web app testing
- Open-source individual and business

4. Options

Option 1: Do Nothing

For business, ransomware and phishing continues to be the biggest threat and is a priority threat for the UK. There have been several recent cases in Humberside in the education sector of businesses / organisations being attacked: https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/hackers-demand-15-million-ransom-8008833.

In order to stem the rising rates of cyber-crime and protect businesses and organisations, support is required to deliver cyber protection training and to deliver 1-2-1 security consultations to schools and educational institutions. A do-nothing approach is therefore, not recommended.

Option 2: Launch a full Cyber Security for Schools Grant Scheme

This option would provide a larger scale grant scheme to local schools and educational institutions and would require a higher level of financial commitment from the OPCC. Given that the demand for this activity is currently un-tested, this option would be higher risk in terms of deliverability, compared to a smaller pilot activity that could be rolled out further should the demand be demonstrated.

Option 3: Deliver a Cyber Security for Schools Grant Scheme Pilot **(Preferred Option)**

The pilot would provide up to £25,000 of funding to deliver bespoke services with core free membership to a finite amount of educational trusts / schools on a match funded basis. This would enable up to 120 match funded days of support, providing organisations with access to a choice of the benefits outlined in Section 3.

The client will apply to the NEBRC for funding, their staff will scope the cyber security needs of the business / organisation and then the NEBRC will apply to the OPCC for 50% match funding to enable the support to proceed. The OPCC will undertake an appraisal of the applications received to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria of the programme.

A list of all organisations and projects funded will be published on the OPCC website.

5.   Financial Implications (Seek financial advice from Chief or Deputy Chief or Deputy Chief Finance Officer)

The costs of the Cyber Security for Schools Grant Scheme will be funded through the redistribution of existing un-committed resources from the partnership reserve.

6.   Legal Implications (Seek advice from Legal Services)

The PCC has the power to issue grants under Section 143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

A Grant Agreement will be put in place with the North East Business Resilience Centre. This will use the template from the Community Safety Fund which was developed in conjunction with Legal Services.

7.   Driver for Change/Contribution to Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the PCC's commitment to develop a Delivery Fund "to support innovation, community resilience and reduce local crime". The creation of the Cyber Security for Schools Grant Scheme, to be managed by the OPCC, will form part of the Delivery Fund.

It will support the delivery of the following outcome of the Police and Crime Plan:
- Organisations equipped to respond to evolving crime issues

It will also support the following Police and Crime Plan objective, by working with others to:

- Raise awareness of emerging and growing crime threats

8. Equalities Implications (Have due regard to the Public Section Equality Duty)

No implications, the grant scheme will not have any adverse impact on people with protected characteristics.

9. Consultation

The following have been consulted during the development of the approach and are supportive of the preferred option:

- Chief Executive
- Data Protection Officer (who has confirmed the approach to the DPIA)
- Other OPCC officers with past involvement in grant-making
- NEBRC

10. Media information (Seek advice from Head of Communications)

The opportunity available through the Cyber Security for Schools – Grant Programme will be jointly promoted by the NEBRC and OPCC through a range of channels including through the Education Partnership.

There will be opportunities to promote the successful projects and publicise their impact.

11. Background documents (This will be published if open)

None

12. Publication

Open

13. DPIA considered (Data Protection Officer will complete full checklist – see attached)

Given the similarities with the grant funded Community Safety Fund and Community Response Fund, the DPIA undertaken for that will be updated to include the Cyber Security for Schools Grant Scheme. This approach has been discussed and agreed with the Data Protection Officer.