

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Decision Making Meeting</b>																			
<b>DATE</b>	8 June 2021																			
<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	Recommended Priorities for 2021/22 Grant Allocation																			
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b>	Karl Stonebank, Grant & Funds Officer, OPCC																			
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	To consider research carried out by the Grants & Funds Officer leading to potential priority outcomes																			
<b>DECISION(S) REQUIRED</b>	To agree to the proposed priority outcomes and invite multiagency proposals for 2021/22 funding																			
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<u>Community Safety Grant Budget</u> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>Balance</b></th> <th><b>Committed Funds</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>2021/22</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Opening budget</td> <td>£2.329m</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Previous years' commitments</td> <td></td> <td>£0.131m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>This years' awards</td> <td></td> <td>£0.153m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Funds remaining</td> <td>£2.045m</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>please see Appendix A for detailed breakdown</i></p>			<b>Balance</b>	<b>Committed Funds</b>	<b>2021/22</b>			Opening budget	£2.329m		Previous years' commitments		£0.131m	This years' awards		£0.153m	Funds remaining	£2.045m	
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Committed Funds</b>																		
<b>2021/22</b>																				
Opening budget	£2.329m																			
Previous years' commitments		£0.131m																		
This years' awards		£0.153m																		
Funds remaining	£2.045m																			
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	n/a																			
<b>EQUALITIES IMPACTS</b>	n/a																			
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION EXEMPTION SECTION IF APPLICABLE</b>	This information within Appendix A & B are exempt within Section 22(1) of the Freedom of Information Act																			

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The PCC has moved to commissioning-based approach for 2021/22 that is targeted and specific in delivery the community safety and criminal justice activity outlined within the PCC's 2019 – 2024 Plan.

## **BACKGROUND**

2. The Community Safety & Criminal Justice plan 2019-24 refers to the PCC working with criminal justice partners to identify/understand the demand for Perpetrator Programmes leading to the rollout of good practice in Hertfordshire.

3. The PCC's election manifesto highlighted the following as priorities:

“Early intervention has got to be a priority of any Prevention First approach. Discouraging people from engaging in criminality or providing a robust and effective intervention when the line into criminality is crossed can stop people drifting into a life of crime and protect many victims. Sadly, the criminal justice system has not always shown itself to be as effective as we would like on delivering these goals. I believe the reforms to the out of court disposal system in recent years provide an opportunity for early intervention that we have yet to exploit to the full. They allow the police to take a more imaginative approach in dealing with some less serious offences focusing on reparation for victims and rehabilitative interventions for offenders. Such interventions may be seen as time consuming and costly but they are a long-term investment which will pay dividends in reducing crime, reducing demand and thereby reducing costs. I believe this is something in which we should now invest more resources.”

“I will ask the Chief Constable to review the constabulary's approach to out of court disposals with a view to developing a fully resourced and comprehensive approach. I expect to see a significant increase in our use of this tactic and will ask for the impact to be measured. I will support the approach by working with partners and using my commissioning budget to ensure that effective rehabilitative and reparative interventions are available for the police to call upon.”

4. Perpetrators come into the criminal justice system through different entry points and ideally, we want them to be able to access interventions in a timely manner without having to wait until a court process is completed.
5. From discussions with partners it is clear that we need to identify innovative perpetrator solutions/programmes to reduce demand and change behaviour.
6. The Commissioner instigated a review of Hertfordshire's Perpetrator Programmes including mapping, data gathering and consultation with key stakeholders including BeNCH CRC, NPS and district councils. The results of the full review can be seen within Appendix B.
7. The review highlighted the following observations/issues relating to perpetrator provision in Hertfordshire:

- Programme provision across the county is currently sporadic with no apparent links between the services in terms of referrals/information sharing. Where there is provision, professionals are often unaware of it.
  - The term 'perpetrator programme' is broad; ranging from early intervention through out of court disposals/deferred prosecution schemes to interventions to tackle the most prolific offenders (Integrated Offender Management, IOM).
  - Evaluations of existing programmes are not strong enough with many programmes operating without any formal evaluation framework and therefore evidence of 'success' is based on case studies and anecdotal information.
  - There are many complexities in terms of needs of individuals who may access a programme and flexibility is needed to meet these varying needs. These needs may include (but not limited to) cultural/language differences, drug and/or alcohol issues and gender/sexuality (with regards to DA services).
  - Where there is provision for perpetrators it isn't always known about by professionals or those who may need the support service. Printed information quickly becomes out of date and it is not made easy for individuals to access support when they need it or are ready to engage.
  - There is currently no countywide, joint agency reducing reoffending strategy.
  - The 2019 joint strategic needs assessment noted that there is currently no formally commissioned county domestic abuse perpetrator programme.
  - There is a need to create an evidence base to inform future commissioning of services leading to a county commissioning framework and funding plan.
8. The challenge, when considering how to address the issues highlighted in 7, is that we will soon have a single national probation service for all offenders and it will take time to know what the provision will look like, including details of funding available.
9. There is also a need to see what Hertfordshire County Council, as lead on Domestic Abuse Services, may offer within the DA Perpetrator arena.
10. The Commissioner also instigated a review of Integrated Offender Management. All recommendations were endorsed/accepted by the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice Board and the IOM Executive Board. The review found that:
- There are limited pathways for reducing reoffending and addressing the needs of the IOM cohort. It stated that these need to be strengthened for drugs and alcohol, housing and ETE (employment, training and education).
  - The IOM cohort are some of the most complex offenders who continue through a cycle of offending, prison and probation. They may already have experience of multiple different services and interventions and therefore IOM pathways and interventions need to reflect this as do measures of success.
11. In order to address the above IOM issues and inform future commissioning Hertfordshire County Council secured 1 year of Government funding to employ

two drug and alcohol workers. Evaluation of this work can inform potential commissioning from 2022/23.

#### Proposed 2021/22 Focus

12. It is clear that as a county we need to design fit for purpose programmes that have a good evidence base and seek to change behaviour.
13. Furthermore, there is a danger that new ad-hoc programmes led/funded by individual organisations may not use a county-wide approach or consider information sharing and robust monitoring/evaluation.
14. It is recommended, at this stage, that the PCC invites proposals to:

Pilot adult early intervention diversionary activities through either out of court disposals, deferred prosecutions schemes and court orders (this could include consideration of the needs of specific cohorts including women or those from BAME backgrounds)

#### **a. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE**

15. That the PCC invites proposals to deliver on priority above for 2021/22 because:
  - It is aligned to the current Community Safety & Criminal Justice Plan (2019 to 2024) and PCC's election manifesto.
  - OPCC staff have consulted with partner organisations/stakeholders and obtained recent data to develop the priorities.
  - The priority aligns to a Prevention First Approach by intervening early to reduce reoffending.
  - In addition to starting to reduce offending/reoffending rates, evidence gathered from funded projects will inform the evidence base and county commissioning framework required for Hertfordshire.
  - It is different from the recent Home Office Perpetrator funding programme 2021/22 because that is just DA focussed whereas the priority for consideration covers all crime types.
  - There is a need to wait until we know what the service/funding landscape will look like before the PCC initiates or enters into discussions with other partner organisations potential joint commissioning from 2022/23 onwards.