

| MEETING | Decision Making Meeting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|--|--|----------------|---------|--|-----------------------------|--|---------|--------------------|--|---------|-----------------|---------|--|
| DATE | 27 May 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TITLE OF REPORT | Commissioning Approach 2021/22 Proposal | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUBMITTED BY | Karl STONEBANK - Grants & Funds Officer (GFO) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PURPOSE OF REPORT | To consider a proposal submitted by all 10 Districts/Boroughs to deliver a project against the Commissioner's 2021/22 priorities within the strategic plan theme of 'Tackling Serious Violence & Safeguarding Vulnerable People' | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DECISION(S) REQUIRED | To consider allocation of £80,000 from the 2021/22 Community Safety & Criminal Justice budget (with the potential for a further £80,000 in both 2022/23 and 2023/24 subject to satisfactory project monitoring) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | <p><u>Community Safety & Criminal Justice Budget</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Balance</th> <th>Committed Funds</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2021/22</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>£0.073m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Funds remaining</td> <td>£2.125m</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>please see Appendix A for further details</i></p> | | Balance | Committed Funds | 2021/22 | | | Opening budget | £2.329m | | Previous years' commitments | | £0.131m | This years' awards | | £0.073m | Funds remaining | £2.125m | |
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| Funds remaining | £2.125m | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | None identified | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EQUALITIES IMPACTS | The project is directly targeting young people but should have a positive impact on all protected characteristic groups | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FREEDOM OF INFORMATION EXEMPTION SECTION IF APPLICABLE | The GFO requests that none of the Appendices are published because it may prejudice the applicant and/or their project. Details of ratified proposals will be published. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

INTRODUCTION

1. As part of the Commissioner's move towards a commissioned approach to grant allocation the Commissioner requested proposals against the following 2021/22 priorities:

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| Priority 1A: Implementation of a cost effective/sustainable Hertfordshire model for delivering 1:1 support to young people/young adults identified as at high risk of gang involvement/serious violence. |
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| Priority 1B: Widening the scope of existing multidistrict Youth Crime Panels to enable them to cover more crime types. |
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2. The only proposal submitted by the deadline was one that is led by Three Rivers District Council on behalf of all 10 districts/boroughs in Hertfordshire.

BACKGROUND

3. To encourage statutory/non-statutory partners to take a whole systems approach to tackling serious youth violence the PCC previously funded delivery of a county-wide identification, assessment & intervention project using St Giles Trust outreach workers.
4. Since April 2019, over 200 vulnerable young people from all across Hertfordshire, identified as at risk, have been referred into the SOS+ project for risk assessment. 150 of these referrals have received to intensive 1:1 support by St Giles Trust Outreach Workers funded by the Commissioner.
5. Fundamental to the success of the SOS+ project has been the formation of the 4 multidistrict Youth Crime Panels who receive referrals and then decide, using a matrix risk assessment tool, who needs intensive 1:1 support.
6. The 2019/20 and 2020/21 SOS+ project performance against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) can be seen within Appendix B.
7. In 2019/20 there were delays in setting up some of the panels and in particular ensuring robust Information Sharing Agreements were in place.
8. In 2020/21 the project had to move to an alternative delivery model for a period of time due to Covid-19 lockdowns.
9. Despite these delays, referral numbers have remained consistent which has led to all districts/boroughs providing funding for 2021/22 to continue some kind of service delivery.
10. The SOS+ project partners decided however that it was beneficial to explore a Hertfordshire delivery model from 2021/22 onwards and therefore notice was served on St Giles Trust to end their involvement as of 31st March 2021.
11. Since 1st April cases referred for 1:1 support have been offered this by local service providers in some district/borough areas but there are growing waiting lists in other areas.

2021/22 Proposal Summary/Assessment

12. The proposal involves expanding the existing 'No More' service provided through Stevenage Borough Council leading to a resource for all 10 district/boroughs with existing Youth Crime Panels continuing to assess/refer in much the same way as before within the SOS+ project.
13. The new service will be using a holistic and client-led approach to put in place practical solutions to address the issues clients are experiencing.
14. Complex needs support will be offered to clients on issues including, drug/alcohol misuse support, mental health, housing, county lines and offending.
15. The service will employ 1 Complex Needs Advocate to hold a local caseload as well as supporting the complex cases throughout the County and 3 Support Workers, who will also hold local caseloads.
16. A locally led assessment will ensure local risks are factored in and the appropriate safeguards are in place for the client. This will allow for contextual safeguarding to be considered in the assessment of a young person and development of a plan to support them.
17. The GFO has assessed the proposal against set criteria and scores highly at 95 out of 120.
18. Summary details of the proposal assessment and project outputs, outcomes and proposed KPIs can be seen within Appendices C & D.
19. Whilst the proposal builds upon a successful delivery model as well as achieving approximately 40% cost savings on previous year, it is recommended that the following areas be developed further:
 - *Project Evaluation Plan* – referred to but no plan provided
 - *Long-term Sustainability Plan* – heavily reliant on statutory organisations
20. Whilst a long-term sustainability plan can be developed during 2021/22 it is critical that the right information is being monitored, analysed and acted upon from the outset within an evaluation plan.
21. Any project proposal awarded funding would be required to submit quarterly monitoring reports evidencing performance against key performance indicators and wider monitoring/evaluation plans.
22. There would also be a requirement to provide quarterly risk register updates including an analysis of the impact of specific risks and what is being done to mitigate against them.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

23. That the Commissioner awards £80,000 in 2021/22 (with the potential for a further £80,000 in both 2022/21 and 2023/24) subject to an evaluation plan being developed, due to the following reasons:

- It enables delivery against the following strategic priority for 2021/22:

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| Priority 1A: Implementation of a cost effective/sustainable Hertfordshire model for delivering 1:1 support to young people/young adults identified as at high risk of gang involvement/serious violence. |
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- It also has the potential to meet the following additional 2021/22 priority:

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| Priority 1B: Widening the scope of existing multidistrict Youth Crime Panels to enable them to cover more crime types. |
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- It has been assessed using an agreed scoring matrix and scores highly.
- The project will continue to protect vulnerable young people/communities via intensive intervention and education in relation to crimes associated with serious violence, gangs, knife crime, grooming and exploitation.
- The project achieves significant costs savings when compared with 2020/21.
- The project helps to achieve the aims of the Community Safety & Criminal Justice Plan 2019-24 as well as being aligned to the aims/objectives of the Safeguarding Adults and Children' Boards.
- The project also works alongside Police Schools & Gangs, Child Sexual Exploitation and Safer Neighbourhood Teams.