



AGENDA NO: 6

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL - 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

GRANTS AND COMMISSIONING UPDATE

REPORT BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update members with the position on Central Government Grant applications and commissioning against objectives in the Police and Crime Plan.

1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

1.1 Funding for community safety and crime reduction initiatives, as well as support for victims and witnesses, has historically been made available to PCCs through a number of routes:

- Ring-fenced central grants – victims services, restorative justice, sexual violence and domestic violence;
- Unring-fenced central grants – core police grant;
- Grants based on policing activity – Police Property Act, Proceeds of Crime Act;
- Competed central grants available through direct bidding – Victims Competed Fund, Violence Against Women and Girls Fund, Police Transformation Fund.

1.2 Whilst central police grants available to police forces have decreased in recent years, much of these top-sliced funds have been made available to PCCs and Chief Constables through the provision of competed funds – the primary one being the Police Transformation Fund (PTF). The PTF is intended to transform policing by investing in digitalisation, a diverse and flexible workforce and new capabilities to respond to changing crimes and threats. Typically, bids that provide national capabilities or new functions for all Forces are supported.

2. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

2.1 Dorset Police and the Dorset PCC made four individual bids to the PTF in the 2017/18 funding year cycle, including one bid on behalf of the South West region. The PTF process changed significantly this year, with the Police Reform and Transformation Board (PRTB) managing the process and making recommendations to the Home Secretary. The PRTB is an unincorporated, voluntary association, the purpose of which is to oversee and support change to ensure coherence and service improvement. Its members are drawn from the NPCC, APCC, Home Office, HMIC and the National Crime Agency.

2.2 The Dorset bids included:

- A cyber white-hat (or 'ethical hacking') project designed to educate and divert people away from cyber-related serious and organised crime; in line with the

national cyber security challenge and the wider digital investigation and intelligence programme.

- A project focusing on reducing the vulnerability of the homeless by working with the full range of local partners to implement nationally recognised best practice in supporting vulnerable people to make life changes and become independent once more.
- A victims' lawyer bid, in support of the PCC's commitment 61, to undertake a research project to determine opportunities to provide enhanced support to victims within the court setting, including in giving evidence.
- Finally, a bid was submitted by Dorset on behalf of the South West emergency services (police, fire, ambulance) plus associated partners to promote closer integration and a more efficient approach to managing shared demand.

2.3 The PTF process was delayed due to the 2017 General Election, and final announcements have yet to be made. At the time of reporting, a small number of bids have been announced (n=8), and a number have been recommended for funding by the PRTB, pending final Home Secretary decision (n=29). The majority of bids have not been recommended for funding by the PRTB (n=51), including all bar one of the Dorset bids, the victims' lawyer project to support vulnerable victims in court.

2.4 In respect of previous years, Dorset Police is not currently the lead force for any PTF bid. During the 2016/17 cycle there was a successful Strategic Alliance bid for £543k to explore technological solutions to integrate command, control and public contact systems used within the force control rooms. Devon & Cornwall led this bid. The Dorset Chief Constable also led a successful bid, worth £4.95m, in support of the Transforming Police Forensics and Biometrics project for which she is the national Chief Constable lead. This bid is administered through the national transforming forensics programme.

2.5 The PCC and the Chief Constable both welcome the opportunity to seek funding for transformative work, but, recognise the additional burden producing a series of competed bids places on their organisations.

3. COMMISSIONING AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

3.1 The PCC commissions his Safer Dorset Fund (SDF), comprising of Home Office and Ministry of Justice derived funding streams, via two main methods – the SDF smaller Community Grant and the larger Major Grant schemes.

3.2 The Community Grant scheme enables voluntary and community organisations to apply for grants of between £100 and £3,000 in support of innovative projects that address at least one of the Police and Crime Plan priority pillars. The process was streamlined and re-launched in July and now includes a more user-friendly application process than the previous iteration, together with the introduction of a more streamlined system for assessing proposals prior to the PCC's final decision.

3.3 The Major Grant scheme is the key means by which the PCC commissions and supports appropriate interventions to innovate, address and enhance current delivery. Recognising that previously the process was passive, and the PCC had little opportunity to influence the range of proposals received, a new process is being introduced to allow the PCC to encourage proposals from prospective providers across public, private and third sectors, to address identified theme areas. It is anticipated that this new process will be implemented by the end of September.

3.4 The new process has four key commissioning principles at its heart:

- **Prioritisation:** Initiatives must support one or more of the priorities and themes within the Police & Crime Plan.
- **Innovation:** Projects employing different approaches and proposing innovative solutions to address identified gaps or unmet needs, will take precedence over existing initiatives. Existing commitments will require agreed 'fixed-term' funding periods, involving robust exit strategies as per sustainability below.
- **Working differently:** Priority will be given to proposals, applications and expressions of interest that emanate from consortia of providers or partnerships between public, private and/or VCSE sector partners. Projects involving co-production with other agencies and/or with users of the service, will also be prioritised.
- **Sustainability:** Priority will be given to initiatives that have clear exit plans for sustainability, whether through self-funding or other strategies such as mainstream continuation of delivery, where appropriate.

3.5 To ensure robust evidence based decisions are made, over the summer months, a significant piece of work has been commissioned by the PCC, the essence of which has been to:

- Establish the needs of Dorset's communities across a wide range of Community Safety and Criminal Justice themes, by extrapolating the data and information contained within over 30 different Strategic Needs Assessments, Strategies and Policies and via dialogue with key stakeholders;
- Map current provision of services in Dorset that fully/partially address the needs identified; and
- Consequently establish where there are gaps in current service delivery. Safer Poole Partnership was the successful provider and is due to report the findings by the end of September 2017.

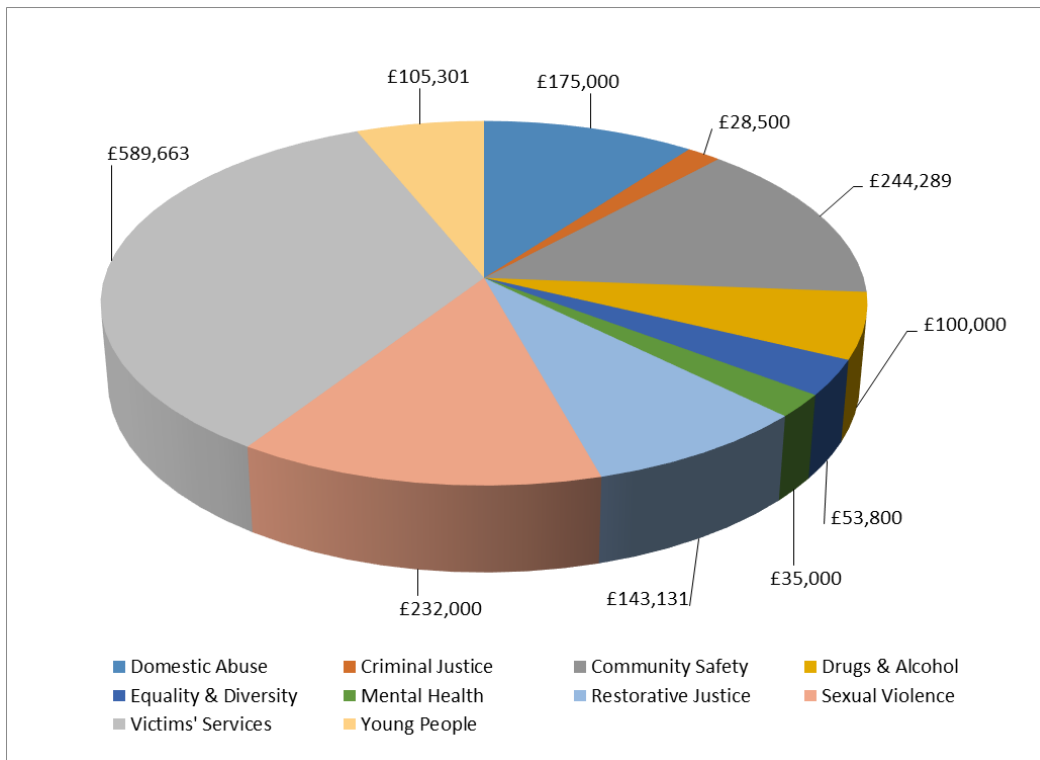
3.6 The next steps will involve the PCC working with key partners to establish the most effective way to address the gaps identified. It is anticipated that there will be a significant number of diverse areas that will require interventions to differing levels and that there will be a need to prioritise in order to achieve successful outcomes accordingly. This will undoubtedly involve consideration of potential future mainstream delivery, as well as exploring commissioning opportunities, whether directly by the PCC or through co-commissioning with other commissioning agencies.

3.7 Whilst new applications to the Major Grant scheme have been temporarily suspended pending the outcome of the analysis and review, the PCC has continued to commission major projects that make a significant positive difference to reducing crime and improving community safety in Dorset, and has provided over £1.7m to date in this current financial year.

3.8 The following table provides a summary of committed spend to date for 2017/18, against the four pillars of the Police & Crime Plan 2017/21:

Police and Crime Plan Pillar	Committed
Protecting People at Risk of Harm	£715,450
Working With Our Communities	£212,800
Supporting Victims, Witnesses and Reducing Reoffending	£742,794
Transforming For The Future	£35,640
TOTAL YTD	£1,706,684

The same information is also provided below by thematic delivery area:



4. GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 The OPCC has tightly controlled processes for the management and administration of grants. The grant process was reviewed in 2016 by CoPaCC, who found that the Community Grant process was disproportionately robust given the typical levels of funding involved. The internal process has been streamlined, and is now at a more appropriate level given the financial controls needed.
- 4.2 In May 2017, the South West Audit Partnership undertook an audit into the OPCC and Force use of grants and funds. The audit explored the victims grant, the police transformation fund and funds generated through the Proceeds of Crime Act. There were no recommendations made as a result of the audit. The final audit position statement is provided at Appendix A.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members are recommended to note this update in relation to grants and commissioning.

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Appendices

Appendix A – OPCC and Force Funding Audit Position Statement