

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – Decision Making Record

Victims Fund – July 2016 applications

Decision number: 140/2016

Author and Job Role: Damian Markland, Victims Policy Officer

Protective Marking: Part One

1.0 Executive Summary

In October 2014, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) took responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime to help them cope and recover.

For the financial year of 2016/17 the PCC was allocated £1,372,554 by the Ministry of Justice for the commissioning and/or provision of emotional and practical support services for victims' of crime.

In July 2016, 12 applications for grant funding to provide specialist services to victims of crime were received. Of these applications, 6 were recommended for approval, 1 was recommended for partial approval, 3 were recommended for deferment and 2 were recommended for rejection.

2.0 Applications

The following provides an overview of the grant applications received and the Panel's recommendation to the Police and Crime Commissioner:

Recommended for funding:

a) YourSanctuary (refuge provider)

To award **£10,000** to extend the hours that support workers are in refuge in order to enable them to spend more time assisting clients to access benefits, move-on accommodation, employment skills, training and other support to meet their individual needs.

b) Chapter1 (refuge provider)

To award **£9,764.40** to provide an uplift in staffing hours to ensure that clients are able to access staff during office hours, and in emergencies through an on-call service.

c) Reigate & Banstead Women's Aid

To award **£10,000** to increase staff hours to enable the refuge to seek further funding to enhance and expand the service. In the previous financial year a similar uplift in hours allowed the refuge to secure an additional £100,000 of funding from grants and donations.

d) YMCA Downlink Group (WISE Worker Project)

To award **£9,500** to meet travel cost budget deficit and increase project management capability. Surrey PCC currently funds two WiSE Project Workers to deliver targeted interventions to children & young people who are victims of sexual exploitation and this additional funding will ensure continued delivery of the service.

e) SignHealth (DeafHope Project)

To award **£24,511** in order to provide a specialist service in British Sign Language for deaf victims of domestic abuse. The DeafHope outreach worker will work with clients and children to ensure they can better access appropriate services, have reduced levels of victimisation and make safe choices to rebuild their lives and move to independence. Activity also focuses on awareness raising and working with statutory services to improve delivery to Deaf victims of abuse.

f) Rape and Sexual Assault Support Centre (multiple services)

To award **£13,774.32** to support the delivery of Self-esteem & Confidence Classes, Helpline training course and Helpline Supervisors and Induction books for counsellors. This is an uplift in funding already committed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner during 2016/17.

Recommended for partial funding:

g) Brake (Donation request)

To award **£1,000** to help Brake deliver specialist support for bereaved and seriously injured road crime victims in partnership with the police.

Recommended for deferment:

h) Ugly Mugs (Donation request)

The Panel considered a donation request from this organisation which provides support to sex workers that have been victims of sexual assault. Whilst supportive of the organisation's work, the Panel did not feel it had enough information concerning local work or intelligence to support the request. The OPCC will therefore make contact with Ugly Mugs to better understand the local context, with the intention that the request will be reconsidered at the next funding panel.

i) Surrey Police (CSE Awareness DVD)

The Panel considered a request for £2,300 to create a short DVD to educate young people and individuals working for youth organisations - such as Youth Centres, Guides, Scouts and Children's homes - about Child Sex Exploitation (CSE) Grooming and Social Media related issues. The Panel were supportive of the concept, but raised concern that being a local project it was unclear how it complemented Surrey Police's wider CSE strategy. It was agreed that further work would be undertaken to explore how best to take the project forward.

j) Surrey Police (Witness Care Officer)

The Panel considered a request for £27,039 to fund a 1FTE Witness Care Officer to support domestic abuse cases. It was noted that funding had previously been agreed in 2015/16, but had been withdrawn after failure to recruit to the post. The Panel were supportive of the post, but questioned whether it was appropriate for the OPCC to fund the post in its entirety. It was agreed that further work would be undertaken to assess whether Surrey Police would be able to share the cost.

Recommended for rejection:

k) Surrey Police (Hate Crime Coordinator)

The Panel considered a request for £42,285 to fund a 1FTE Hate Crime Coordinator to improve victim reporting mechanisms, provide dedicated support to victims of hate crime, drive up standards of investigation and improve Surrey officers' ability to better serve the diverse needs of the Surrey public. The Panel considered the application but decided not to recommend it to the Police and Crime Commissioner for agreement due to the following reasons:

- The cost of the post was prohibitive if funded solely by the OPCC and would put an ongoing and substantial revenue demand on the Victim Fund if it were to be agreed.
- Whilst the application was well evidenced, the Panel felt that the proposals detailed in the attached research document required consideration by Chief Officers to determine a force level response. Whilst the Victim Fund could potentially be used to fund some of the specific services and activities detailed in report, it was not felt appropriate to fund the post itself.

l) Counselling Services

The Panel considered a request for £17,700 to provide fully funded counselling sessions for victims of crime and their family members. The OPCC had previously funded this service in 2015/16 as a pilot operating in the areas of Elmbridge, Runnymede and Woking to test the concept. The Panel considered the application but decided not to recommend it to the Police and Crime Commissioner for further funding due to the following reasons:

- An increasing number of specialist services, such as those providing support to victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse, provided bespoke counselling services to clients.
- There was a tension between the provision of general counselling services and Ministry of Justice funding requirements for PCCs to provide specialist services.
- Whilst acknowledging the good work achieved by the service since inception of the pilot, the Panel did not feel that that continued funding represented appropriate use of MoJ funding.

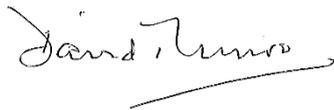
3.0 Police and Crime Commissioner's decision:

The Commissioner supported the recommendations of the Victim Fund Panel as detailed in section 2.0 of this report, subject to one modification

- Application i (CSE Awareness DVD) to be agreed for funding.

Reason: Following discussion with the Force, the Police and Crime Commissioner acknowledged that delaying the project would likely result in it having to be cancelled. On the basis that the Panel were broadly supportive of the proposal, he agreed that funding should be released and that the OPCC should work with the Force to ensure that the final product was used to complement the wider CSE strategy.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Tunno", with a horizontal line underneath.

Date: 22 July 2016

(All decisions must be added to the decision register.)

4.0 Areas of consideration

4.1 Consultation

Consultation has taken place with appropriate lead officers depending on the application. All applications have been asked to supply evidence of any consultation and community engagement.

4.2 Financial implications

All applications have been asked to supply accurate financial information including the total costs of the project with breakdown where the money will be spent; any additional funding secured or applied for and plans for on-going funding. The Victims Fund Decision Panel considers the financial risks and opportunities when looking at each application.

4.3 Legal

Legal advice is taken on an application by application basis.

4.4 Risks

The Victims Fund Decision Panel considers any risks in the allocation of funding. It is also part of the process to consider when refusing an application the service delivery risks if appropriate.

4.5 Equality and diversity

Each application will be requested to supply appropriate equality and diversity information as part of the monitoring requirements. All applicants are expected to adhere to the Equality Act 2010

4.6 Risks to human rights

Each application will be requested to supply appropriate human rights information as part of the monitoring requirements. All applicants are expected to adhere to the Human Rights Act.

4.7 Data protection and safeguarding

Applicants must comply with the current national and local legal framework with regard adult and child safeguarding, information sharing, and data protection including compliance with Local Safeguarding Children Board's policies and procedures and any obligations that may ensue as a result of a child being made subject to a Child Protection Plan.