

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

30 June 2022

PCC Commissioning Strategy 2022 - 2025

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1 SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to introduce the Police and Crime Plan to the PCC's Commissioning Strategy 2022 – 25. This details her approach to commissioning of services/projects which improve community safety, reduce offending behaviour and support victims of crime to cope and recover.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Police and Crime Commissioner is afforded the ability to award grants through primary legislation as the below extract details:

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Chapter 3, Crime and disorder reduction grants.

(1) The elected local policing body for a police area may make a crime and disorder reduction grant to any person.

(2) A crime and disorder reduction grant is a grant which, in the opinion of the elected local policing body, will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the body's area.

(3) The elected local policing body may make a crime and disorder reduction grant subject to any conditions (including conditions as to repayment) which the body thinks appropriate.

In addition, since 1 October 2014, the majority of support services for victims of crime have been provided at a local level by Police and Crime Commissioners. The PCC holds a statutory responsibility to commission these services to support all victims of crime to 'cope and recover', as far possible, from the harm caused and annually receives an allocation of grant funding from the Ministry of Justice with set criteria to do so.

The direction of travel is the continued devolvement of responsibility and funding by the MoJ and Home Office to PCCs to commission projects and services, such as the Safer Streets initiatives and interventions for domestic abuse perpetrators.

The PCC is seen as ideally placed to lead partnership work towards a common goal and working collaboratively, sharing commissioning resources and expertise amongst partners is very much part of our Surrey approach.

3. COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

The PCC has recently published her commissioning strategy (see attached), which details how commissioning delivers against the PCC's Police and Crime Plan priorities. It should be noted not all OPCCs produce a commissioning strategy and those that do vary in style as there is no right or wrong 'template'. We aim to produce a document which explains meaningfully what we are working to achieve for the public. Whilst the PCC can often be the sole funder of projects and services, this does not preclude us from working collaboratively with partners to do so and the Office utilises a mixed model, which includes co-commissioning through grants and formal procurement.

a) Commissioned, OPCC sole grant funder: Children and young people at risk of or being criminally exploited are trapped by fear as they become drawn into violence, drugs and using weapons. They need a trusted person to move them away from the risk and help them to become more resilient, safe and open to new opportunities. Surrey OPCC and partners recognised an urgent need for specialists to do this work and address the root causes of a child/young person's vulnerability. OPCC chaired a multi-agency group and commissioned engagement with young people with lived experience to identify support needed. A thorough competitive grant application process followed, including multi-agency assessment of applications and an interview process, with a panel comprising multi-agency subject matter experts and young person with cultural competence through lived experience. This secured applications from both national and local providers. The successful bid was made by Catch 22, a provider with over 200 years of experience, which has been embedded in our local community for ten years and nationwide supported over 160,000 service users last year.

b) Co-commissioning, with pooled funding and procurement process: Victims of domestic abuse have their sense of self destroyed by abuse, they are exhausted and living in fear and when they are ready to disclose, they need a safe environment where they can talk, be listened to and receive the right practical and emotional help. Specialist domestic abuse (DA) services in Surrey were grant-funded until 2019, when the OPCC, Surrey Police and Surrey County Council pooled funding to co-commission services according to jointly agreed outcomes through a procurement process. This formal contract did not prevent a collaborative approach throughout the pandemic between commissioners and service providers, to identify emerging needs. Additional grants were awarded to sustain and increase services and the PCC utilised significant grant funding opportunities from central government to do so, as well as local emergency funds. The approach is recognised as best practice in the recently updated Government VAWG Commissioning Toolkit:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1064572/VAWG_Commissioning_Toolkit_2022_Final.pdf

c) Co-commissioning with pooled funding and grant process: For people leaving prison a range of social factors can contribute to re-offending behaviour. The Forward Trust's housing and resettlement services provides support to vulnerable individuals, with a history of drug, alcohol or other mental health issues, who are newly released from prison and who have nowhere to live. They provide a stable and permanent home for these individuals, together with support to maintain tenancies, sustain recovery from addiction, access benefit claims and food banks, improve life skills, renew relationships with families, and engage with mental health and employment training. They also support vulnerable individuals in the community who are homeless, have a history of substance misuse or other mental health issues, and who would benefit from additional support to help them maintain their tenancy. The provider Forward Trust and has been co-commissioned by the OPCC and Probation Service.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Police and Crime Panel is asked to:

1. Note the content of the report

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