

## SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

### 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

### COMMISSIONING UPDATE

#### Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls and Supporting Children “What Works” Fund and Perpetrators Interventions Fund

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#### 1. Purpose

1.1 This report updates the Panel on how funding secured by the PCC through Home Office competed Funds is being used to commission new projects and services for Surrey residents.

1.2 The two competed funds are:

- Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Supporting Children “What Works” Fund
- Perpetrators Intervention Fund

#### 2. Introduction

##### A) Preventing VAWG and Supporting Children “What Works” Fund

2.1 In July 2021, the Home Office published its Tackling VAWG Strategy and committed to investing in a “What Works” Fund.

2.2 Crimes of violence against women and girls include:

*Femicide, domestic abuse, coercive control, sexual violence, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, online and/or digital abuse (including image based sexual abuse and youth produced sexual imagery), harmful practices (female genital mutilation, forced marriage, so called ‘honour’ based abuse), child abuse, child sexual abuse and exploitation.*

2.3 The intended strategic outcomes of the Fund are:

- Increased awareness and improved attitudes and behaviours toward gender inequality and VAWG
- Reduction in number of first-time offenders
- Reduction of VAWG prevalence

- An increase in the number of victims accessing and using support services.

2.4 In September 2022, the PCC's team secured £980,295 through this Fund to deliver activity spanning across three years (22-25).

## **B) Perpetrators Intervention Fund**

2.5 In March 2022, the Home Office published its Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan, which aligns closely to the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and sets a clear ambition of prioritising the prevention of these crimes. In its Plan, the Home Office committed to invest in a 'Perpetrators Intervention Fund'. This fund followed two previous funding rounds the PCC for Surrey had successfully utilised to commission services directly addressing abusers' behaviour.

2.6 In March 2023, the PCC's team secured £1,989,612 from the Home Office 'Perpetrators Intervention Fund' to deliver activity spanning across two years (23-25).

2.7 The Fund's overall aim is to improve safety of victims by reducing the risk posed by domestic abuse and stalking perpetrators (as well as children and adolescents who use abuse/violence in their relationships) and to prevent reoffending in future.

The fund objectives are:

- Sustained reduction, frequency, and gravity of abuse;
- Reduction in risk posed by the perpetrator of abuse;
- Improved safety, and feelings of safety, for any associated victims and their children.

## **3. Projects in Surrey**

### **A. Preventing VAWG and Supporting Children "What Works" Fund**

3.1 The Home Office is the lead for a 'whole system' approach to prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). A 'whole system' approach means different professionals and agencies (including criminal justice professionals, as well as teachers, health and social care professionals and others), local and national Government, charities, and others all working together to tackle violence against women and girls.

3.2 A programme of local activity in Surrey replicates this strategic approach and is delivering two projects:

#### **Project 1: Surrey Healthy Schools –**

- 3.3 The objective of this work programme is to support and empower school leaders and teachers to become increasingly confident and competent in delivering high quality, needs-led Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum.
- 3.4 The project is delivering:
- i. The first ever fully funded 3-day professional development course to strengthen PSHE teaching skills for 100 teachers and wider participants. These are in-person sessions, delivered across the school year and are led by PSHE experts Sarah Lyles and Joanna Feast. Group discussion and exercises cover inequalities which create imbalances of power and how to support children and young people in developing skills, attitudes and behaviours for healthier and respectful relationships. Day 3 included a thought-provoking input by financial education specialist with a national profile, Polly Barnes, exploring the topic of how to 'use' money.
  - ii. The professional development course involves specialist VAWG support services (Surrey Domestic Abuse Partnership, YMCA What is Sexual Exploitation service and Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre) and wider partners, which helps to contextualise learning for schools and is helping to build a network of PSHE Champions across Surrey.
  - iii. Three 45-minute online training sessions are being recorded and hosted on SHS website to download on demand, complementing the in-person training and expanding the reach across Surrey
  - iv. PSHE experts and independent VAWG service partners are co-producing a training package which can be delivered to teachers in schools upon invitation. This will cover the support on offer from the services, how to make a referral, how the services can support with both targeted and universal provision for a thriving school culture.
  - v. Legacy information and a leaflet for schools will be produced for further signposting.
- 3.5 The outcomes for Surrey Healthy Schools project are:
- i. Increased teacher knowledge of how to reduce stereotyping in teaching and how to promote better emotional intelligence - and awareness of how this improves pupil wellbeing.
  - ii. Teachers report feeling more informed and confident to lead and deliver high-quality PSHE and statutory relationships education, relationships and sex education and health education to meet pupil needs.
  - iii. Teachers report feeling more informed and confident to challenge and reduce stereotyping, misogyny, and sexism.

- iv. Young people report feeling more informed about unhealthy/healthy relationships and where to go for help and support.

3.6 The first cohort of teachers have recently completed the 3-day course. Feedback has been extremely positive, with an overall score of 'excellent' by 17 participants and 5 'good'. Teachers have said they will be leading sessions with other staff and their management teams back in school to spread the best practice and using the resources, in particular the financial education expertise, to improve the curriculum. Highlights from what they said, includes:

- "I have loved this training and found every session really useful".
- "Lots of resources to take home and ones that I have used already!"
- Huge eye-opener and respect for education colleagues. Content really useful personally and professionally.
- "Excellent content, well delivered and time given to discuss ideas".

## **Project 2 : Anti-VAWG Public Campaign**

- 3.7 The objective of this public campaign is to support and empower children to stay healthy, safe and prepared for life.
- 3.8 To develop a campaign strategy, Surrey Police contracted 'Hitch', a specialist marketing agency to undertake a programme of research and stakeholder engagement.
- 3.9 Over the summer, work has included an exploratory focus group with parents/carers to test knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning gender inequality and its impact, which helped to inform survey questions for parent/carers to gain greater insight. Hitch launched the survey in June, which was completed by 650 Surrey parents/carers. To hear the voice of young people, 'draw and write' activity was also conducted with children in Surrey primary schools, which was facilitated by their teachers. All research conducted was strengths-based and distanced (i.e., no self-referencing behaviours). Another stakeholder workshop was held on 21<sup>st</sup> July to feedback results and to further refine campaign objectives. An area of focus for the campaign development is now the sharing of youth produced sexual imagery, with research continuing and campaign delivery anticipated beginning early 2024.

## **B. Perpetrator Interventions Fund**

4. Surrey partners are using learning from the delivery of perpetrator interventions over the past two years to develop 'Steps to Change'. This is a new central virtual hub which brings together independent and expert services in this field to work alongside each other. These are:
  - Interventions Alliance (interventions for perpetrators)

- Surrey Domestic Abuse Partnership and Victim and Witness Care Unit (integrated support for survivors)
- Richmond Fellowship (services for children and adolescents who use abuse/violence in their relationships - YUVA).

- 4.1 Steps to Change is a gateway to interventions for anyone demonstrating abusive behaviours which are of concern. This includes adults perpetrating domestic abuse/stalking who are arrested by police but not charged, those subject to a police investigation, or those who may have committed an offence which is appropriate for a formal out of court disposal.
- 4.2 In addition, police and partners will work together to proactively identify harmful and serial offenders through data analysis and multi-agency work, with the interventions on offer used as one mechanism to try to adjust their behaviour to stop reoffending.
- 4.3 After a referral is received into the Steps to Change team, engagement work is undertaken to motivate those offending to address their behaviour and make a change. Services will not be available to offenders managed by the National Probation Service, unless there are exceptional circumstances, with the referral being police-led.
- 4.4 Services throughout Surrey, such as GPs, housing, counsellors, mental health services and the local authority will be able to contact the Steps to Change team to access advice and support for their service users who they believe could benefit from interventions on offer. The public will also be able to contact the team for advice and self-referrals to programmes on offer will be actively encouraged and supported.

#### **The support on offer**

- 4.5 We anticipate Steps to Change will work with up to 100 family referrals a year and will be focussed on increasing safety, preventing an escalation of harmful behaviours and enabling adult and child survivors to receive the right support for healing. Not all referrals will be a family and the service can be accessed by adults without children.
- 4.6 The team will utilise expert interventions, including:

#### **Compulsive and Obsessive Behaviour Intervention (COBI) – by Interventions Alliance**

- 4.7 COBI is a treatment for people whose thoughts and behaviours could be described as obsessive. It is a challenging and intensive talking therapy which uses a treatment model called Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT). The aim of the therapy is to help people to acknowledge, accept and recognise their difficult emotions and thoughts that trigger

harmful behaviour towards others. The programme helps people to learn new ways to manage these feelings without this causing harm to others.

## **Healthy Relationships – by Interventions Alliance**

- 4.8 This programme helps people using abusive behaviours to understand the choices needed to make a change. Working with a professional, they are supported to understand their thoughts, feelings and behaviours, so they can develop skills to manage these better in the future. By attending sessions in a non-judgemental, supportive and safe space, they benefit from:
- Learning what a healthy relationship looks like and how best to work to achieve that;
  - Knowing how to communicate effectively whilst respecting another's emotional and physical boundaries;
  - Responding to emotional responses with awareness, to create positive behavioural change and without causing harm or distress to others; and
  - Understanding the impact of harmful relationships on children.
- 4.9 A full procurement exercise was undertaken to appoint the provider of these behaviour change programmes - Interventions Alliance - with the contract starting on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023. So far there have been 13 referrals for COBI (2) and Healthy Relationships (12), which as an early indicator is positive to fulfil anticipated numbers.
- 4.10 As part of a fully integrated service offer, the needs of those perpetrating abuse will be assessed, with onward referrals made as required and appropriate. This could be to address a lack of accommodation if subject to a protective order preventing a return to home or help accessing support for mental health or substance misuse needs. In addition, the needs of adults and children impacted by the abuse will be considered and met through holistic care provided Surrey Domestic Abuse Partnership and Victim and Witness Care Unit. Any young person using violence and abuse due to what they have experienced will be supported by Richmond Fellowship's Young People Using Violence and Abuse (YUVA) programme. This is specifically tailored intervention for young people aged 11-18 years old age, to support them to identify their abusive behaviours and help them learn new non-abusive alternatives to abusive behaviour.

## **Steps to Change activity**

4.11 The daily activity performed by the Steps to Change team will include:

- They will provide a single point of access for anyone seeking support or advice
- Expert hub co-ordinators for each agency will jointly review and co-ordinate daily referrals together, with a whole family approach

- Through case discussion there will be ongoing joint risk management, considering who in the family unit or outside this unit may be at risk of harm/impacted by the abuse and needing support
  - A consistent, expert, partnership allocation to commissioned interventions will be made, which hold those perpetrating abuse to account, whilst treating with respect, and offering opportunities to choose to change.
  - There will be onward referral to services able to support with needs identified in the daily joint case review and ongoing risk management
  - The Steps to Change team will be available to professionals and the public for a consultation about what support is available.
  - There will also be activity undertaken to upskill local practitioners and agencies in recognising, approaching, and referring prospective service users to Steps to Change.
- 4.12 Steps to Change will follow up during and after programmes are completed by clients to assess the impact in the moment and longer-term. Outcomes evidenced will be:
- Increased safety for survivors and their children via improved and expanded space for action
  - Increased access and support for survivors (and whole family) who otherwise would not access a specialist service
  - Reduced opportunities for perpetrating abuse without consequences
    - Increased accountability of perpetrators of domestic abuse
    - Changed behaviour
- 4.13 Joint outcomes across all services will be monitored and the Home Office is also working with a national evaluator, which may involve work undertaken in Surrey as part of the study.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The Panel are asked to note the contents of this paper. There is no action required.

## EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

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