

Dear Community Forum Member,

27 November 2019

I wish to brief you on the proposed spend of Home Office funding, to tackle Serious Violence in the Chiltern & South Bucks area. Part of the requirements of this financial support, and validating the direction of this spend, is that the police should consult with our communities; to ensure the proposals align with public opinion. The Community Forums are a well-established and recognised means of interface between the police and public, and hence my approach. However, I am also aware that attendees of these forums, are often representatives of other community groups, or public bodies, and I encourage the dissemination of this information, so that a wider awareness can be offered.

This provision from the Home Office will augment work which has already been procured by the Police & Crime Commissioner's Early Intervention Youth Fund, so I will also mention these existing projects; to provide you with a fuller picture as to what is happening, locally. But firstly, I would like to offer some local context: national news outlets frequently feature stories of gang-related knife crime and other cases of serious violence. Thankfully, there has not yet to been any local incidents of such note, but we are not so removed from this issue as to be wholly unaffected. As has been seen across the country, there is an increasing willingness to carry and use weapons in the commission of criminal offences, and this funding allows Chiltern & South Bucks to take steps to tackle this alarming trend.

In determining the strategy by which to invest this funding, the Area Commander, Superintendent Amy Clements, has resolved to focus on protective and preventative measures; diverting the target demographic, from such risky behaviour. Through the profiling of such individuals, a number of other Force priorities become relevant; such as County Drug Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation. It is with these broader concerns in mind, that an overarching plan was drafted, a summary of which follows.

Youth Engagement & Diversion: This is the primary expenditure of the proposed Home Office spend. Targeting our investment in those areas which hold greatest potential for gains, a three-tiered approach is envisioned:

- 1) Outreach/Detached Youth Work: Identify and divert those at risk of serious violence through their exposure to knife crime/county drug lines. Commissioning of sessional outreach workers to conduct intelligence-led, public space interventions; signposting individuals to diversionary projects, as mentioned within this plan. The identified provider, Community Youth Ventures, will consult with local youth clubs/County Council Outreach Services; to exploit local knowledge and existing relationships. The intention is to identify and increase partnership understanding of at-risk individuals; allowing for targeted

provision of supportive measures.

This somewhat mirrors activity already commissioned within Tier 3 of the PCC's Early Intervention Youth Fund for other areas in Bucks (YOS), and Chiltern & South Bucks seeks to gain access to similar services by the assignment of monies from this additional funding stream.

- 2) Intensive Support Work: Working with young people identified at risk of, or involved in, gangs or knife crime. Provided by Community Youth Ventures, it will include one-to-one mentoring and education/mediation with parents.

This activity is provided elsewhere within Tier 3 & 4 of the PCC's Early Intervention Youth Fund. This local policing area seeks to increase their access to these services by the assignment of monies from this additional funding stream.

- 3) Diversionsary Activities: Devising a schedule of sport-based/vocational activities organised for those young people identified as at risk from Serious Violence; in consultation with the identified cohort from the stages above. Potential to utilise existing local projects and other local sporting clubs (via established provider GLL). The intention is to divert young people away from associating in public spaces and engage in active, healthier lifestyles, by increasing their exposure to a variety of alternative opportunities.

Other projects which will receive financial support from this fund are:

Diversionsary Youth Project: "Prevention Better than Cure" An identified cohort of at-risk youths, have been guided in the production of a combined music and video creative process; exposing them to new experiences, widening their horizons, and enthusing them to further engagement.

The collaborative work will result in a multi-media product, which delivers a positive message and seeks to serve as peer guidance, on pertinent safeguarding themes (knife & gun crime, drugs, CDL, CCE, etc.).

This diversionsary work provides Police and partners, with the additional benefit of a multi-media product with a credible and precautionary message on issues aligned to Force priorities.

Local Support Group: Chesham Asian Women's Group is an education and support network for families at increased risk of Child Criminal Exploitation. Revitalisation of a dormant community group, by funding hall hire, for an otherwise socially-isolated section of the community. The group seeks to inform and support Asian mothers with teenage children, on signs and symptoms of CCE. Local intelligence indicates such people to be at heightened risk and for mothers to hold a unique position of influence. The funding will cover hall hire costs and allow a budget for guest speakers on pertinent themes.

Mobile CCTV: This expenditure seeks to restore local policing capability for the spontaneous deployment of CCTV. Acquisition of easy-to-deploy, wireless CCTV units, which are remotely controlled via tablet. These will provide greater evidence capture at identified hotspots and adaptive to crime trends. Exploratory work as to a supplier has been conducted by the CSP and further financial benefits are anticipated, in negotiating the supply of additional units, on behalf of other policing areas in the Force.

Operational Equipment: Enhancing the local capability for knife sweeps of public spaces, and other proactive operations regarding Knife Crime. Enforcement tools (knife arches, metal detectors) are anticipated through those Home Office funds, retained centrally by Thames Valley Police.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR): Drugs markets are linked to the carriage of knives and other forms of serious violence. Investment in additional ANPR technology to improve LPA coverage and inform targeted vehicle stops against vehicles involved in drugs supply and associated violence. Fixed location cameras are to be procured to complement existing sites; seeking to reduce permeability, particularly to our northern borders.

These proposals seek to expand the existing interventions from PCC funding, to which I have previously alluded:

Professionals Training: Training packages for stakeholders (teachers, carers, local agency workers, and police) delivered by Fearless and/or Reach Every Generation via presentations and workshops, to educate on means to identify those exposed to gang harm, means to engage & methods to mitigate risk.

This activity is already commissioned within Tier 1c of the PCC's Early Intervention Youth Fund. Whilst it holds the potential for expansion, current funding appears to meet demand. No further investment appears needed from Home Office monies.

School Theatre Tour: Delivered by Alter Ego this production holds a schedule which spans the TVP area; performing at Secondary schools on relevant crime themes.

Currently funded through Tier 1a of the PCC's Early Intervention Youth Fund, whilst it holds the potential for expansion, current provision appears to have met demand. No further investment appears needed from Home Office monies.

Peer Referral: Seeks to publicise and encourage the use of referral process for young people deemed at risk from County Drug Lines. Founded on their existing Summer Harm campaign, presentations by Fearless in local schools, to encourage anonymous referrals.

This activity is already commissioned within Tier 1b of the PCC's Early Intervention Youth Fund, whilst it holds the potential for expansion, current funding appears to meet

the identified need. No further investment appears needed from Home Office monies.

The above plan has received the approval of senior management within the Thames Valley Police structure. However, these measures are ultimately intended to benefit the residents of Chiltern & South Bucks, and so it is only right and proper that these same communities are involved in the validation process. Any opinions on the appropriateness of this proposed spend, or alternative suggestions, can be directed to me via email: james.ellis@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

My thanks for your consideration of this information.

Yours Sincerely,

Inspector James Ellis
Safeguarding & Problem-Solving
Chiltern & South Bucks