



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) approval

Title: Community Voice Small Funding Allocation

Executive Summary:

In April 2022 Cleveland was informed that it was to receive home Office funding over 3 years for a Violence Reduction Unit. Titled the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV), the funding enabled a partnership to be developed that sought to reduce serious violence across the whole of Cleveland through a collaborative approach and in accordance with set objectives as outlined in its published Response Strategy¹.

CURV commissioned a [Strategic Needs Assessment](#) (SNA) that provided an in-depth analysis of the causes and drivers of crime across Cleveland, which allowed CURV's partners to refine the cohorts and localities it wished to prioritise. With weapons enabled violence in Cleveland above the national average, funding to support activities that directly contributed to the following were approved as a priority, these are the performance indicators defined by the Home Office:

- Reductions in Serious Violence Offences
- Reductions in hospital admissions for assaults with a sharp object
- Reductions in Homicides

The SNA also identified that the most common qualifiers recorded in Police data for serious violence offences were domestic abuse, weapons and drugs and/or alcohol. It also stated that just under a quarter of suspects have also been either victims, witnesses, or both.

The SNA also highlights the key points as below:

- Identified Wards (Central, Newport, Parkfield & Oxbridge, and Stockton Town Centre) with the highest proportion of serious violence taking place in public outdoor locations, tended to have high overall volumes of serious violence.
- Young people surveyed most frequently identified outdoor spaces as being places they do not feel safe.

The Home Office Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funding grant agreement identifies that the 'community voice' should be included in delivery, stating:

"VRUs will support a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, which is; focused on a defined population, with and for Communities, not constrained by organisational or professional boundaries, focussed on generating long term as well as short term solutions, based on data and intelligence to identify the burden on the population,

including any inequalities, and rooted in evidence of effectiveness to tackle the problem”.

The Home Office grant agreement also stated that a delivery expectation and an area of ministerial focus as being ‘co-production and the integration of youth and community voices into delivery’.

CURV’s community engagement team are adopting a multi-layered approach to expand their understanding of community concerns in the identified wards, including fieldwork, surveys, and community events to gather the feedback from as many residents, business owners and stakeholders as possible.

As a result of initial discussions with Stockton and Middlesbrough based Voluntary Development Agencies (VDA’s) who have established community links in the target wards areas, CURV will provide Catalyst and Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA) with £15,000 each to establish a small grants fund for the purpose of empowering the community’s voice, the details of which will be confirmed at the end of the community engagement in the two identified wards (as detailed above).

Funding will be distributed to community groups with the purpose of building community resilience and cohesion, and improving the perception, and fear of violent crime. Catalyst and MVDA will both manage the allocated funding on behalf of CURV programme, for which they will each be allocated a management fee of 15% of the value of the total grant, which adds a further £4,500 to the funding.

Decision: To agree funding of £34,500 for Financial Year 2024/25 divided equally between Catalyst and MVDA.

OPCC Lead Officer: Simon Smart

Contractor Details (if applicable):

- Catalyst, 27 Yarm Road, Stockton-on-Tees
- Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency (MVDA), Corporation Road, Middlesbrough

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input type="checkbox"/> Error! Bookmark not defined.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/> Error! Bookmark not defined.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Error! Bookmark not defined.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> Error! Bookmark not defined.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/> Error! Bookmark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	not defined.		
Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes please provide further details below)			

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC’s Chief Finance Officer where the decision has financial implications)

Funding is available within the CURV budget for the financial years which is underpinned by agreed Grant Funding from the Home Office until the end of 2024/25. This proposal is therefore affordable to the PCC.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

There are no legal implications arising.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

This service is available to clients from all backgrounds, including, gender, race, sexuality, disability status and age groups in the targeted wards. They all will receive equal access to the process.

Human Rights Implications:

None

Sustainability Implications:

Future sustainability will be investigated as this process progresses.

Risk Management Implications:

Managed through performance frameworks and reporting mechanisms Any risk minimised and mitigated by requirements in agreements

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer:

Signed



Date 12.09.24

Police and Crime Commissioner:



Signed

Date 27.09.2024