

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST:

Title: To fund Social Enterprise Acumen CiC to help three local organisations develop sustainable business models, and to research the role of the voluntary sector in supporting domestic abuse victims (£15,750).

Executive Summary:

Following the successful business development support given to the Just for Women Centre (J4WC) by Social Enterprise Acumen, which has considerably enhanced the sustainability prospects of the J4WC through enabling strategic business focus, a successful Fresh Ideas funding bid and targeted business guidance; the OPCVC is going to offer similar support from Social Enterprise Acumen to the following voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations:

- Dene Valley Community Partnership (£2,450);
- Brockwell Centre (£3,500); and
- South Durham Counselling Service (£2,800).

The OPCVC is also going to ask Social Enterprise Acumen to undertake a research activity into what part the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector is currently playing in working with both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse in County Durham and Darlington and to develop a directory to inform future commissioning (£7,000).

Social Enterprise Acumen

Social Enterprise Acumen is itself a social enterprise which works from its base in Durham to show the strength of using business models to address social issues. It supports social entrepreneurs and organisations that want to become social enterprises to start up, develop and grow. It works closely with partners to create a stronger ecosystem to enable social enterprises to flourish.

Dene Valley Centre Partnership

The support is needed to help the organisation become more financially sustainable and capable of bringing in additional sources of income to support and develop the ongoing, valuable work that they carry out. Dene Valley Community Partnership is based in Eldon Lane and was founded in 2003 as a community centre with a range of community services. It now owns the One Stop Shop building in Eldon Lane through an asset transfer, valued at £199,000. It provides a range of services at present that include mental health support for both men and women, a laundry, gym and a café space. They are situated in an area of deprivation with high levels of need and, with support, have the capability to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence from the catchment area around the village as far as Shildon, Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe. Support is needed to re-energise the Trustees, staff and volunteers, develop a business plan for the next 2 years, increase income generation and develop appropriate bid applications to support the new plans.

Brockwell Centre

The support is needed to help the organisation become more financially sustainable and capable of bringing in additional sources of income to support the ongoing, valuable work that they carry out. The Brockwell Centre is based in Pelton Fell and was founded in 2009 as a community centre with youth and community services. In

recent years, the staffing levels at the Brockwell Centre have diminished considerably with the Youth Worker Leader now also managing the entire centre and community activities. There is also a cafe and a shop area in the building but neither is operational at present, and need support to become economically viable. Brockwell does not have a current business plan. The support needed is as follows: vision development with Trustees; business planning; financial planning; funding strategy development; income generation and bid writing training. This support is focussed on maintaining an effective, sustainable, diversionary service for the young people and children in the area.

South Durham Counselling Service

The support is needed to help the organisation become more financially sustainable and capable of bringing in additional sources of income to support the ongoing, valuable work that they carry out. South Durham Counselling Service is based in Shildon, currently in the Foundations Centre, but looking to find a more suitable venue via an asset transfer from Durham County Council. The service takes referrals for victims of domestic and sexual violence, supporting over well over 100 persons in recent years. Over the last few years, various income sources have diminished with fewer grants available, however the demand for the services are increasing and there is scope to widen the focus and remit of the organisation to engage in contract opportunities with new providers. There is also the opportunity to earn unrestricted income from trading and enterprise activity especially if the organisation secures an asset transfer from Durham County Council.

Research into VCS Enterprise involvement in Domestic Violence and Abuse Support £7,000

The OPCVC has asked Social Enterprise Acumen CIC to research the role that the VCSE sector is currently playing in working with both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse in County Durham and Darlington and to develop a directory to inform future commissioning.

The approach taken will be:

- Scoping exercise to identify all links to the sector;
- Development of questionnaires and focus events;
- Interviews (estimate of 60 organisations);
- Focus groups;
- Needs and gap analysis;
- Production of Directory/Map;
- Writing report.

Decision:

To fund Social Enterprise Acumen CiC to help three local organisations develop sustainable business models, and to research the role of the voluntary sector in supporting domestic abuse victims (£15,750). The projects are Dene Valley Community Partnership (£2,450); Brockwell Centre (£3,500); and South Durham Counselling Service (£2,800); and to undertake a research activity into what part the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector is currently playing in working with both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse in County Durham and Darlington to inform future commissioning (£7,000).

OPCC Lead Officer: Charles Oakley

Contractor Details (if applicable): n/a

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(If yes please provide further details below)

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

Investing in capacity to develop social enterprises will help deliver better value for PCVC's money in the future, building more sustainable and effective services and potentially reduce demand on police and public services in the case of the youth diversionary service.

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

No specific legal implications

Equality and Diversity Implications

No specific equality and diversity implications

Human Rights Implications

No specific human rights implications

Sustainability Implications

This funding is about building sustainability in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

Risk Management Implications

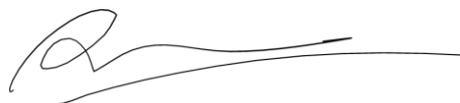
No specific risk management implications.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

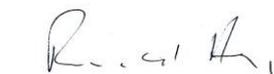
Signed:



Date: 23/01/2017

Police Crime and Victims' Commissioner:

Signed:



Date: 23/01/2017

