

Reference No: 034 - 2016

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST:			
Title: Extending Community Peer Mentors Project into Bishop Auckland			
Executive Summary: The project in Darlington has achieved successful outcomes for the community members it has helped. We have identified that the next geographical area that would benefit from this project is Bishop Auckland. The resources delivering the Darlington project are at capacity and to extend the project into Bishop Auckland extra capacity is required.			
Please see attached document for more detail. The attached paper seeks approval for an allocation of £9,400 to extend the project into Bishop Auckland.			
Decision: Agree the allocation of £9,400 to extend the project.			
OPCC Lead Officer: Charles Oakley			
Contractor Details (if applicable):			
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)

The allocation of £9,400 is within the 2016/17 budget limits.

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

No specific sustainability implications

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: 10th August 2016

Police and Crime Commissioner:

Signed: 

Date: 10th August 2016

Community Peer Mentors Project: Request to Extend Project

We believe that the continued success of the project can be maintained in Darlington and extended into areas across County Durham in three ways:

1. Reducing the demand on Durham Constabulary from high impact users (HIU) which creates the opportunity to allocate resources to other business activities or realise cash savings for the Force.
2. Supporting vulnerable and isolated people affected by anti-social behaviour and/or neighbour disputes who have become vulnerable and isolated, reliant on the emergency services and local councils leading to frustration and an extremely negative impact on their wellbeing and an increased fear of crime.
3. Continued engagement with other frontline service providers at a strategic level (Council, Fire Service, A&E, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) , GP Surgeries) to demonstrate the impact of the project and identify the residual drop in the same client group in relation to demand for their services.

Four areas of HIU have been identified by Durham Constabulary for the Peer Mentors to focus on. The engagement with high impact users is likely to be mutually beneficial to other agencies. The four areas of engagement with HIU are:

1. Those who constantly use/abuse the 999 system.
2. Those who constantly call the police via the 101 system
3. Those who are identified by local police as persistently coming to the notice of the police for non-criminal offences.
4. Individuals who are the subject of a (Police Orientated Policing) POP Plan.

The project is currently being delivered by a single Project Coordinator (in Darlington) and is now in a position to extend into County Durham. The plan is to extend the project into Bishop Auckland and the surrounding area because our analysis has identified this offers our best opportunity to achieve maximum impact. The project has been based in Darlington where it has contributed directly to a reduction in demand on police resources and improved the lives of the vulnerable and isolated clients.

Unfortunately the project is unable to expand at the pace that could be achieved because the Project Coordinator is operating beyond full capacity due to the ever increasing engagement with clients and mentors. The project coordination role started as a part time position but has increased to full time as a result of demand for this service. The Project Coordinator has always worked in excess of these hours of his own volition to make the project a success. The demand on his time has increased significantly since the introduction of the first eight clients and deployment of the 16 Community Peer Mentors.

The project has now reached a stage without which some additional resources the Coordinator is unable to expand the project at the current pace. The Coordinator will not be able to sustain this high level of time commitment in the long term. The pace of the project has increased significantly in the last six weeks which is reflected in the positive impact the Community Peer Mentors have had on demand reduction across Darlington from the direct engagement with the high impact users.

Funding Requested

Out of pocket expenses and mileage for the Mentors and Coordinator	£1,200
Training of 2 x Community Peer Mentor Cohorts (26 Additional Mentors)	£2,300
Support Coordinator to support the project between September 2016 and January 2017 (on a trial basis as a self-employed person), the person identified has been working with	£3,800

the Mentors throughout the course of the project. This person has already produced and delivered the Community Peer Mentor five week training course.	
Harmonise Project Coordinators pay with Support Coordinator (September 2016 to April 2017)	£2,100
Total	£9,400

The Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) is recommended to agree additional funding of £9,400 for the Community Peer Mentors Project. This funding will enable the project to move forward at a much quicker pace and to realise its full potential to engage and support the vulnerable and isolated. It will also support the aims and objectives of the PCVC and assist in the reduction of demand on Durham Constabulary resources. It will build resilience for project delivery and enhance confidence amongst clients, mentors and stakeholders. Ideally, approval for this funding prior to September 2016 offers the best chance to effectively expand the project at a more desirable pace.

Charles Oakley
Head of Governance & Commissioning
3rd August 2016