

AGENDA ITEM 10

WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 18 JUNE 2019

COMMISSIONING ACTIVITY OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER INCLUDING THE CHANGES TO VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES

Recommendation

1. Members of the Panel are asked to note the report.

Purpose

2. To update Panel on the commissioning process used by the PCC's office, coverage of activity and recent changes to victim support services which has received endorsement from the Ministry of Justice. A slide presentation will be given at the Panel meeting.

Background

3. The total commissioning budget for my office is circa £6million per annum. This budget is made up from Ministry of Justice funding of £1.4million which is ring fenced to support victims of crime; the remaining £4.6million sits within the PCC core budget and subsidises the commissioning of victims provision, in addition to programmes which are tailored to reduce and prevent crime.
4. The commissioning strategy is attached (Appendix 1) and provides the outline, process and remit of the team in allocating, processing and managing spend with due diligence. Also attached is a breakdown of the grants issued across the force area (Appendices 2 - 7).
5. The commissioning and granting of services is divided into the following 4 key headlines:
 - I. Ministry of Justice commissioned services to ensure victims of crime receive free practical and emotional support to enable them to cope and recover following a crime.
 - II. Community Safety Partnership (CSP) grants issued to fund local initiatives, managed by CSP leads delivering on priorities of the CSP and Police and Crime Plan.
 - III. Commissioners Grant Scheme thematic areas to support the Police and Crime Plan, commissioned and granted to third sector organisations across the region (covering priorities such as road safety, reducing offending,

reducing substance misuse, preventing rural and business crime for instance.)

- IV. Local Policing and Community Ambassadors Fund supporting small localised projects channelled through Policing area commanders and Ambassadors.

6. All projects commissioned are tailored to meet the needs of the Police and Crime Plan, and where possible designed to support national strategies around victims and offending as appropriate.

7. In April 2019 we celebrated the launch of the Victim Advice Line (hereafter, VAL) (<https://victimadviceline.org.uk/>); our latest initiative to enhance the pathway for victims. Any victim of crime can access telephone support from the VAL team regardless of whether a crime had been reported or not. Victims can also receive support and information online, via an e-portal and also via webchat.

8. The team will be looking to coordinate a multi-disciplinary triage – providing the victim with a single needs assessment and tailored support package. Being based within the new Operation Control Centre at Hindlip we have created a direct transfer from the Crime Bureau where crimes are logged into the team for quick support. We are also looking to create a link between 999/101 and plan to extend this offer to fire in the future once the service is fully mobilised.

9. The service is currently receiving 5000 referrals a month demonstrating the need of provision. In addition to VAL we also fund the following services to enhance the service offer for victims, and direct referrals can be made into these services via the VAL care coordinators:

- Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service provided by West Mercia Women's Aid
- Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) /Child ISVA service provided by AXIS and West Mercia Rape and Sexual Assault Centre
- Victim Support provision to support longer term needs of core crime, and restorative justice interventions.

10. The success in commissioning has led in 2018/19 to over 40,000 success referrals of support for victims of crime. Of this 1371 were referred into ISVA, and 1763 were IDVA referrals.

11. As we move forward this year we are looking to develop needs assessments for both victim and offender profiles across West Mercia to support the management of existing contracts, and to plan for victim and offender related strategies.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – West Mercia Commissioning and Grants Strategy 2016-20

Appendix 2 - Police and Crime Commissioner Funding 2019/20, West Mercia Wide

Appendix 3 - Police and Crime Commissioner Funding 2019/20, Herefordshire

Appendix 4 - Police and Crime Commissioner Funding 2019/20, Shropshire

Appendix 5 - Police and Crime Commissioner Funding 2019/20, North Worcestershire

Appendix 6 - Police and Crime Commissioner Funding 2019/20, South Worcestershire

Appendix 7 - Police and Crime Commissioner Funding 2019/20, Telford and Wrekin

Contact Points for the Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

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