



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD
05 November 2013

DECISION

**BIDS TO THE COMMISSIONER'S
INVEST TO SAVE BUDGET**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. Attached to this report is a copy of the draft decision paper for bids which have been made by the six community safety partnerships for funding from the Commissioner's Invest to Save budget.

BACKGROUND

2. The Commissioner has indicated that he intends to seek the views of the Board on any decisions that he intends to make.
3. The Commissioner has passported the Home Office Community Safety Fund allocation of £6,969,000 to the seven Community Safety Partnerships in the West Midlands. In addition he identified up to £350,000 for non-recurring and invest to save schemes, subject to the submission of appropriate business cases by local partnerships. This is a one-off budget for 2013-14. Partnerships have been encouraged to identify projects that will lead to more efficient and effective working practices and which also help with sustainability of work to reduce crime and disorder in the light of the 12% Government reduction to their community safety funding for 2013-14. The Commissioner seeks the Board's comments on the business cases that are appended to the draft decision.
4. Bids have been received from six of the seven local authority areas. No bids have been received from Wolverhampton. The total bids amount to £509,260. There is £320,000 available with the Commissioner having made a £30,000 award to a joint bid from all seven local authority areas to fund research into domestic homicide reviews.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The Board is asked comment on the business cases submitted.

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE
AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

NOTICE OF DECISION

000/2013

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Title: **Invest to Save Budget Business**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commissioner has passported the Home Office Community Safety Fund allocation of £6,969,000 to the seven Community Safety Partnerships in the West Midlands. In addition he identified up to £350,000 for non-recurring and invest to save schemes, subject to the submission of appropriate business cases by local partnerships. This is a one-off budget for 2013-14. Partnerships have been encouraged to identify projects that will lead to more efficient and effective working practices and which also help with sustainability of work to reduce crime and disorder in the light of the 12% Government reduction to their community safety funding for 2013-14.

Attached at Appendix A to this decision is a financial breakdown of the business cases that have been submitted from each local authority area. Appendix B includes the business cases that have been received. These have been reviewed by the Commissioner's Strategic Policing and Crime Board and the Commissioner has given consideration to those comments in making his decision on the bids submitted.

DECISION

I have considered the attached business cases and approve the following bids, with amounts, funding from the Invest to Save Budget.

List to be included

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

Date.....

NON - CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner has passported the Home Office Community Safety Fund allocation of £6,969,000 to the seven Community Safety Partnerships in the West Midlands. In addition he identified up to £350,000 for non-recurring and invest to save schemes, subject to the submission of appropriate business cases by local partnerships. This is a one-off budget for 2013-14. Partnerships have been encouraged to identify projects that will lead to more efficient and effective working practices and which also help with sustainability of work to reduce crime and disorder in the light of the 12% Government reduction to their community safety funding for 2013-14. The Commissioner sought the views of his Strategic Policing and Crime Board at their meeting on 5 November 2013.

Bids have been received from six of the seven local authority areas. No bids have been received from Wolverhampton. The total bids amount to £509,260. There is £320,000 available with the Commissioner having already made a £30,000 award to a joint bid from all seven local authority areas to fund research into domestic homicide reviews.

A summary of the bids is included at Appendix A with each of the business cases included in Appendix B.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Invest to Save budget has an allocation of £350,000. £30,000 was previously allocated to the joint domestic homicide review project in September 2013. This is the second tranche of applications to the fund.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Schedule 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any organisations and projects they consider will help them achieve their crime prevention and wider priorities. Such award can be made subject to conditions.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Commissioner will ensure that in the operation of the Invest to Save budget, consideration is given to the equality implications of any decision he makes.

Schedule of Background Papers

None

Public Access to Information

Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.

Police and Crime Commissioner's Invest to Save Budget 2013-14

Total budget £350,000

Amount committed to date: £30,000 – Domestic Homicide Review project

Amount to allocate: £320,000

Total amount requested: £509,260

	Partnership Board	Aims and Objectives of Project	Amount Requested
S1	Safer Solihull Partnership	Project to address Violent Crime 1 year project to support a targeted approach to violent crime in the priority areas of Chelmsley Wood and Smith's Wood.	
		Total requested	£50,000
D1	Safe and Sound Dudley	Commissioning of the services of the local Community Payback team.	
		Total requested	£50,000
C1	Coventry Local Police and Crime Board	Safeguarding Hub - Revised model to focus on early intervention and prevention, active case management and safe and well aftercare in response to the biggest community safety issue of DVA.	£35,000
C2		Safer Homes Initiative – partnership activity to recruit an additional 20 Special Constables to serve alongside local neighbourhood policing teams in priority areas	£38,000
		Total requested	£73,000
W1	Safer Walsall Partnership	Business Crime Initiative to respond to an increase in business crime, low level ASB and to tackle the area as an identified priority area.	£25,000
W2		No Cold Calling Zones – initiative to respond to distraction/bogus official burglaries and rogue doorstep sellers	£15,000
		Total requested	£40,000
B1	Birmingham Community Safety Partnership	Youth Violence project which seeks funding for a number of discrete interventions	£100,000 could be reduced to £90,000

B2		Domestic Abuse project which seeks funding for a number of discrete interventions	£95,000 could be reduced to £75,000
		Total requested	£195,000 which could be reduced to £165,000
SS1	Safer Sandwell Partnership	Domehawk Bid request to respond to Town issues and priorities. 8 new mini domehawk cameras 8 x 3G airtime contracts	£33,760
SS2		Alternative Pathways – help and support for young people who are potential offenders and gang members of the future	£20,000
SS3		Polish Engagement Project – a series of engagement events targeting the Polish community in West Bromwich	£1,500
SS4		Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Project (MASH) Co-location of safeguarding agencies to identify risks to children and respond effectively	£38,000
SS5		Rights and Equality Sandwell – Development of a User-led Reference Group to ensure that the partnership connects with local communities.	£8,000
		Total request	£101,260

SAFER SOLIHULL PARTNERSHIP

S1: Project to Address Violent Crime

Background:

Violent Crime accounts for 20.7 percent of Total Recorded Crime across the Solihull Local Policing Unit. Chelmsley Wood and Smith's Wood have been identified as two key wards with the greatest proportion of offences. These two wards also feature as West Midlands Police Priority areas and regeneration wards for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

Local intelligence shows that domestic abuse is 5 times higher than the Solihull average level in Chelmsley Wood and Smiths Wood. These areas also have higher repeat levels of domestic abuse. This has been highlighted further in the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and a Fair Treatment Assessment. We feel there is a gap in knowledge and understanding of the key wards and this weakens our ability to offer the services which meet the community's demands.

The recent change to the definition of domestic abuse has for the first time formally recognised the existence of domestic abuse in teenage relationships. There is no local information available to inform our thinking. National research tells us that young people have worrying levels of acceptance of abuse and this is thought to be due to a blurring in their understanding of the difference between care and control. Research also shows that disclosure is severely restricted with most victims choosing to tell no-one or a friend and feeling that their views and wishes are not taken seriously or acted on by professionals. Interventions that include guidance and information to young people on healthy safe relationships are important to help them in their own relationships but also in a peer support role. There is a correlation between a reduction of patriarchal attitudes and a reduction in the extent to which men use abusive behaviours against their partners. Promoting equality in relationships is important across the board and is a vital element in prevention work. Solihull has developed a learning pack for those aged 15+ called 'Healthy & Safe Relationships'. The learning module has been issued to schools and colleges to help and encourage young people to adopt positive attitudes about equality in relationships and understand about abuse.

We propose a one year project that will support a targeted approach to violent crime in our priority areas. The proposed project will meet Safer Solihull's Community Safety Partnership 2013/14 priorities:

- Focus on the Place
- Focus on the victims and the most vulnerable
- Focus on the offenders
- Focus on the community

And has been endorsed by partners from our Domestic Abuse Priority Group, LSCB and adult safeguarding as well as the Safer Solihull Executive Board.

This bid is formed of two parts Prevent and Protect: the aim is to reduce violent crime through effective interventions. Such interventions will need to take account of local goals and needs as well as gaps in community capacity that may act as obstacles to those engaged in violent crime as offenders or victims. We want to focus on the Police Priority Area as these have high rates of violent crime and therefore afford the greatest opportunity to protect vulnerable individuals.

Prevent:

The project aims to deliver a resolute, united and effective action to demonstrate that all Solihull residents have the right to live in safety. The project will seek to support victims to increase their safety and reduce the risk of repeat victimisation, to gather an improved

understanding of the issues, barriers and needs of those engaged in violent crime. Currently this level of understanding and engagement features mainly for the known high risk victims of DA alone through our commissioned services through MARAC and our IDVA service. A key part of this work stream is to support hypothesis testing that 'Drugs and Alcohol drive violent crime in the Priority Areas', this is an approach supported by West Midlands Police and the Jill Dando Institute for Crime Science.

The information gained from the hypothesis testing will be used to inform future planning on interventions including key issues in the community which are contributing to violent crime and drive partnership working to provide a co-ordinated effort to reduce violence. The subsequent results analysis and influence from this project will be used to shape future service delivery and will form part of the exit strategy.

Key Outputs

- The violent crime caseworker will provide comprehensive support to victims of domestic abuse and violent crimes that live in a Priority Area; this level of support is not currently available.
- The support will be a short term intervention which include risk assessment and advice on improving safety to reduce repeat victimisation
- The caseworker will convey important information on options available and support the victim to access services
- The caseworker will provide direct support for victims of domestic abuse
- The caseworker will identify and address the barriers service users may be facing
- The caseworker will seek to identify the issues that surround the crime providing an improved understanding of the requirements of the community and support the hypothesis testing.
- The caseworker will work in partnership with relevant agencies such as police, substance misuse and housing providers to increase protection from further violence.

Key Outcomes:

- Show a reduction in the number of repeat victims within the Priority Areas
- Reduction in risk or narrowing the gap?
- An evidence base to deliver substance misuse strategies in a different way
- A An evidence base to commission domestic abuse strategies and services in a different way

The Safer Solihull CSP, Solihull Partnership and its safeguarding boards have recognised Domestic Violence as a key issue and have earmarked an additional £40,000 to support MARAC and an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) processes and service beyond its current contribution into 2014/15. The funded key worker will be able to work with medium/standard risk victims which are not currently provided for by the IDVA.

Prevent:

The Voice concept has been put together using data from West Midlands Police Public Protection Unit based in Solihull. This piece of work adds value to the learning unit and is aimed at young people aged 16 and 17.

Local data analysis shows:

- The spike for victims and offenders is between the ages 18 and 26 yrs.
- 47% of offenders are aged 26-35 yrs.
- 41% of victims are aged 26-35 yrs.
- There are a high percentage of Domestic Abuse incidents where children are within the house.

The Programmes aim is to raise the awareness of the Domestic Abuse before it escalates up to physical violence and to change the attitude of both females as well as males who can be victims but are mainly perpetrators. The Voice is designed to show that Domestic Abuse

can be about controlling behaviour, the concept is to engage the students with the subject in a safe environment.

The programme includes child wellbeing, sexual touching, no male privilege in marriage, the age of consent, relationship abuse, where and how to get help. A Youth ambassador for Women's Aid talks about Domestic Abuse from a male victim point of view. The programme concludes with a discussion on Honour Based Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation.

The programme is interactive and is currently a PowerPoint presented by a Detective Sergeant from the PPU. This bid is to create an interactive DVD as a sustainable resource that can be presented into schools without losing the impact that the Detective Sergeant brings at present. It has so far been presented to around 200 young people and feedback has been very positive. This resource will be available to all schools within the Borough but has potential for wider use across the borough region in colleges and schools, youth centres and other venues/ clubs where young people attend.

To date West Midlands Police have invested approximately £2000 in the development of this programme in officer time and materials.

Outputs:

- Number of young people who attend the awareness session
- Initial increase in reported Domestic Abuse crimes and non-crime reports
- Increased referrals to support services

Outcomes:

- Increase in young people's understanding of what domestic abuse is
- Change in attitude which will be measured by pre and post scenario questionnaires
- Increased number of young people know how to access information and advice
- Improved understanding of the needs of young people around domestic abuse
- Percentage increase of young people aware of what constitutes controlling behaviour as measured by a pre and post programme questionnaire
- Sustainable reductions in reported crime

Costs:

Prevent – Production, manufacture and distribution of DVD £ 10,000

Protect – Employment of and associated support costs for the appointment of violent crime case worker, research and analytical capabilities £ 40,000.

Total Bid: £ 50,000.

This bid is sympathetic to the strategic aims of Operation Sentinel and is supported by the Executive Board of the Safer Solihull CSP, Domestic Abuse Strategy Group and Local Safeguarding Children Board.

SAFE AND SOUND - DUDLEY'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

D1: Community Payback Initiative

The purpose of this report is to request funding as a one off non reoccurring grant to assist with meeting the CSP's priorities and saving costs into the future for those who live, work and socialise in the borough.

Amount Requested £50,000

Reasons for Request

Safe and Sound have identified a number of priorities it wishes to address in its yearly plan.

These are.

- To reduce our repeat victims by tackling reoffending.
- To manage tensions and improve quality of life and safety in our neighbourhoods and town centres.
- To safeguard vulnerable groups and increase the understanding of our youth and young people.

Safe and Sound Dudley's Community Safety Partnership has over the last seven years achieved remarkable sustained reductions in crime and disorder. Crime in the borough is at an all time low, the partnership is strong and the borough is the safest borough within the West Midlands. The partnership intend to work together to sustain this performance against the obstacle of reduced funding opportunities by taking advantage of the funding available in the one off non reoccurring grant that the PCC has offered. The money if made available will address all prioritise above and help to maintain low levels of crime in Dudley Borough whilst seeking further opportunities to reduce crime where possible.

This request is to provide funding to commission the services of the local Community Payback Team.

Project Objectives

The objectives of this project fit into a number of partnership service plans and include:-

- Reducing reoffending.
- Reduce Crime and Disorder- Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal damage and Graffiti.
- Tackling Drug Dealing and Drug Use
- Increasing public confidence in the criminal justice system.
- Cleaner and Greener areas.

Community Payback

Community Payback is the name for operational delivery of Unpaid Work, a sentence imposed by the courts to provide a demanding punishment for convicted offenders. Courts are given the power to sentence offenders of certain crimes to undertake between 40 and 300 hours of Community Payback. This work is unpaid and demanding work that is aimed at giving something to local communities and forcing offenders to repay the community for the wrong they have done.

The Aims Of Community Payback

The primary aims of the Community Payback scheme are to punish and rehabilitate offenders. Not only do they face useful punishment for the crimes they have committed but they will be less likely to re-offend and are given the opportunity to repay the community for the crimes they have committed. Often, Community Payback is part of a larger community sentence that may also include rehabilitation sessions for drug or alcohol use or mental illness.

Projects Undertaken By Offenders

The range of projects undertaken by offenders is significant. Some projects require that offenders work within the community in roles that will see them facing the public and being seen. In these cases, offenders are heavily vetted and their suitability for such a role is assessed. Any offenders that fail this assessment, which takes into account their criminal and personal history, will instead be required to work in a workshop or more secluded environment away from the public.

The totals number of offending hours within the Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust area in 2011 was 667,820. Offender hours in individual placements were 174,578. The financial value to the community was £3,973,529. Nationally last year alone saw 55,000 projects undertaken by offenders and successfully completed to the benefit of local

communities with completed projects totalling more than 6 million hours of work and estimated at £35m worth of labour at minimum wage. Offenders sentenced to Community Payback and managed by SWM Probation Trust completed over 550 projects in 2011. This figure represents a mix of small, medium and large projects - some completed within a single day, others lasting several weeks.

Successful completion of Community Payback Sentences

5043 offenders successfully completed the Community Payback requirement of their Community Order in Staffordshire and the West Midlands in 2010 with over 700 organisations benefited from the work offenders do on Community Payback. These included schools, churches, temples, community associations, day care centres, lunch clubs, care homes. The public benefited from litter-picking, ground clearance and snow clearing in parks, communal open spaces, allotments, streets and bus stops in their neighbourhoods.

The use of Community Payback locally

Dudley Community Safety Partnership wishes to commission the services of the CPT locally in order to provide a flexible and responsive service to identified areas within the borough.

The service will include

- Site/garden clearance including weeds, shrubs, trees, fly tipping, leaf litter, litter-picking, green and other waste;(non hazardous)
- Removal of graffiti;
- Cleansing to waste receptacles and bin stores;
- Horticultural projects and improvements as required;
- Snow Clearance and Gritting;
- Painting/treating of fencing or other surfaces as required.
- Other tasks that are deemed suitable

If funding is approved it would be the intention that suitable projects are identified by members of the Dudley Community Safety Partnership through its newly formed local Police and Crime Board. Co-ordination of projects will jointly be managed by the Performance and Commissioning Manager of the Community Safety Team and the local Community Payback unit manager. In deciding if any project is worthy of consideration for Community Payback work the following will apply.

- It must benefit the local community
- It must not take paid work away from others
- No one must make a profit from the work
- It must be challenging and demanding
- It must be worthwhile and constructive
- Offenders must be seen to be putting something back into the community.

Benefits Expected

Due to its focus on practical work schemes which benefit the community, Community Payback can be used as a creative resource for improving local environments, and for building public confidence in community sentences. It is also an important pathway into employment for many offenders. Offenders who have been assessed as having employment related needs can spend a small part of their sentence on basic literacy and other work in order to obtain qualifications and enhance their employability. This in turn significantly reduces the risk of them committing further offences.

Offenders have the benefit of being able to repay the community for the crime or crimes they have committed and, in some cases; they will also learn skills that can be used in life to gain a job or to conduct themselves. This form of rehabilitation has proven especially useful already with projects undertaken by offenders across the country. The community itself benefits because these projects usually require offenders to complete work tasks that would not otherwise be completed and at no cost to the community.

Monitoring arrangements

The project will be monitored under a Service Level Agreement which will have key monitoring arrangements in place. These include

- Number of projects per month/year
- Number of offenders subject to
- Outcomes against priorities
- Qualitative outcomes from beneficiaries.

How would the money be spent

Under a Service Level Agreement money would be paid at intervals to the Probation Trust for delivery of outcome focused work. Typical breakdown of costs would be :-

- Administration
- Supervisors
- Transport
- Consumables i.e. Paint etc

Risks to delivery

There is at present an ongoing competitive procurement exercise to determine the future responsibility for delivering Community Payback. This process should have no risk to commissioning this type of service.

Any funding will be against strict monitoring arrangements and paid in arrears of satisfactory work completed. The SLA will contain a disputes and termination clause.

Project Assessment

The aspirations of a project such as this are to meet the three main priorities of Dudley Community Safety Partnership. The outcomes will be a cleaner and greener Dudley, a confident public who will see justice being done, opportunities for offenders to atone for their crimes, and a safer borough.

This application recognises the spend to save criteria placed upon being a successful bidder. Whilst it may not be obvious to place a monetary figure on what could be saved, the project seeks to spend to save across a wide range of areas. In the case of land clear up and bringing disused land back into use the benefits will be felt for some considerable time. Other areas that will experience a long term benefit are:-

- Reducing reoffending.
- Reduce Crime and Disorder- Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal damage and Graffiti.
- Tackling Drug Dealing and Drug Use.
- Increasing public confidence in the criminal justice system.
- Cleaner and Greener areas.

COVENTRY POLICE AND CRIME BOARD

C1: Improving Safeguarding in Coventry

Introduction and Background

The Coventry Police & Crime Board and the Coventry Local Safeguarding Children Board have acknowledged that Domestic Violence & Abuse (DVA) is one of the biggest community safety issues in the city. There is clear evidence that DVA has a significant direct and indirect effect on services, communities and individuals. In response to this, the Community Safety Partnership commissioned a review of existing approaches and services in 2010, and requested a model of delivery be developed to improve the management of the existing levels of DVA in the City and begin to reduce predicted rises in the number of cases and future demands on services.

A revised model has been developed which focuses on early intervention and prevention; active case management; and safe and well aftercare.

The model will provide services for victims, perpetrators and children and young people and will be out for tender during the early part of 2014 with the new services commencing on 30th June 2014.

The co-design and consultation work that has taken place to date to arrive at the new model, together with learning from recent high profile Serious Case Reviews, has identified the need for improvement in the way statutory agencies work together to deal with domestic violence and abuse and other child safeguarding issues. These issues include:

- multi-agency training;
- information sharing;
- understanding of the impact of domestic violence and abuse on children; and
- the need for a child focused approach in particular, listening to the voice of the child.

Project Proposal – Improving Multi-Agency Safeguarding in Coventry

We know that work to safeguard children and families is multi-faceted and requires sound, professional judgement which is underpinned by a rigorous evidence base. All decisions and actions based upon these judgements must take full account of information received at the point of referral or as a consequence of subsequent enquiries of partner agencies.

Key Officers from the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Coventry Community Safety Partnership have been looking at opportunities to strengthen multi-agency working with individuals and families where domestic violence and abuse is a feature and seek to ensure that all agencies have a full understanding of the family's involvement with different agencies and in particular, who is taking a lead role in managing the case.

Agencies from across Health, Probation, Police and the Local Authority have agreed to explore different ways of working that would aim to:

- Reduce duplication
- Enable timely and more effective information sharing
- Facilitate joint risk assessments
- Ensure decisions are based on sufficient, accurate and timely intelligence
- Identify and agree earlier and more co-ordinated interventions
- Reduce the risk of borderline cases slipping through the net
- Increase the use of CAF and earlier intervention
- Reduce repeat referrals

There is significant senior and political support for this work and Agencies are committed to acting boldly and innovatively to ensure that systems for safeguarding children in Coventry are as robust as possible.

Funding is requested to:

Support a Project Manager for 6 months (from the date of appointment) who will be responsible for producing options on different ways of working to achieve more effective and timely information sharing and assessment, leading to more informed targeting of individual and collective action. The Project Manager will lead a Project Group, with representatives from Police, Probation, Local Authority and Health to ensure that individual agencies are involved in the detailed design process and can commit to their role in proposed new working arrangements.

The Project Manager will be responsible for producing options for new ways of working and in particular each option will have:

- Robust Leadership & Governance Arrangements
- A Clear Vision and Operating Principles
- Clear Information on Resource Requirements
- Any IT Implications
- Responses to any Professional/Cultural Issues
- Learning/improving quality and effectiveness of frontline practice
- Requirements for Multi-agency Training
- Consideration of Individual Organisational Reviews/Restructures (ie. Police Service Transformation)
- Performance Framework/Evaluation

Following on from the production of options and agreement by the relevant agencies, the Project Manager will lead the implementation of the project by 1 April 2014.

The costs for a Project Officer amount to: £20,000.

Support set up costs. It is also anticipated that there will be some initial set up costs. Whilst these are yet unknown, the Local Police and Crime Board would like to request up to £10,000 to support the transitional arrangements and future working requirements.

Support evaluation work to quantify benefits and identify improvements post implementation. It will be important to evaluate any new approach that is taken forward, therefore, a further £5,000 for evaluation is requested.

Total funding request amounts to: £35,000

C2 Coventry Safer Homes Initiative

1. Background and Context

Coventry Local Police and Crime Board (formally Coventry Community Safety Partnership) have undertaken a deep dive analysis to better understand the relationship that exists between the physical environment and that of the people that reside in our Priority Locations and which continue, year on year, to be affected by disproportionate levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Subsequently the demand for blue light services in these areas is also disproportionately affected. The Priority Locations also have higher levels of vulnerability and therefore demand on other local services and safeguarding activity tends to be higher in these communities. The Priority Location areas within Coventry have been identified through the Strategic Assessment in collaboration with the Jill Dando Institute as being:

- Foleshill (Edgwick)
- Wood End and Bell Green
- City Centre and Spon End
- Hillfields
- Willenhall and Four Closes

Further analysis and interaction with communities has identified that many residents are reticent or unable to report concerns to the police or other agencies owing to confidence, challenges relating to accessing means of reporting information and social pressures. However there is a clear desire for face to face interaction with trusted uniform officers.

For policing to deliver successful outcomes it is vital that communities have their voice heard. Austerity challenges have resulted in the withdrawal of some local services and there is a requirement to consider alternative forms of provision to support reassurance and engagement activity within our most vulnerable communities.

At the heart of this is the need to consider the most effective and efficient ways for which the

community themselves wish to engage and work with agencies to address community safety related matter. A value for money approach must be developed to support an increase in community confidence in doing so.

Proposal – Safer Homes Initiative

The overall purpose of our proposal comes with the aim to improve community safety, reassurance and safeguarding activity within residential Priority Locations. The approach is enabled through partnership activity between University of Coventry, Coventry City Council and West Midlands Police.

The proposal is to recruit an additional 20 Special Constables to serve alongside local neighbourhood policing teams in residential areas identified as Priority Locations by the Coventry Local Police and Crime Board.

The Special Constables will be drawn from students undertaking the Coventry University Policing Degree and other courses within the Coventry University Law faculty. The recruitment of students studying for criminal justice related qualifications offers a series of mutual benefits to West Midlands Police, the students themselves, Coventry University and local communities.

The officers will be deployed within the Coventry Safer Homes Initiative to provide high visible patrols, visit vulnerable premises and “at risk” residents to address a range of anti-social and criminal behaviours. The officers will engage in direct conversations with residents capturing information in relation to local issues whilst providing information, advice and guidance on personal safety, home security and crime prevention. Each special Constable will be expected to work a minimum of 8hrs per week

This approach forms part of a wider integrated multi-agency strategy to address issues relating to community safety, the early identification of vulnerability and on-going safeguarding work in challenging communities. The methodology is complemented by the Board’s plans to develop a community protection and reassurance initiative in areas of high social housing to mobilise social capital and maximise use of community assets.

Objectives

The Coventry Safer Homes initiative will improve the quality of life within residential Priority Location areas by engaging, listening and responding to communities. The objectives of the initiative are as follow:

- To provide reassurance and face to face engagement with communities
- To routinely identify and address local issues through embedded and committed staff
- To help address persistent and resistant incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- To reduce crime by undertaking property checks and preventative activity
- To act as professional witnesses to incidents where the community’s voice is suppressed as a consequence of intimidation or fear.
- To gather evidence to support civil orders and criminal prosecutions on behalf of communities.
- To build community confidence
- To engagement with communities through ward forums
- To gather local intelligence and information

Cost

The cost of this initiative is spread between Coventry City Council and West Midlands Police. Coventry City Council will underwrite the operating costs for each Special Constable to a maximum of £2000 per municipal year with a pro rata payment for the current year. Provision of these funds are conditional on recruitment by the completion of the 2013-14 financial year.

The purpose of this submission is to seek funds from the PCC's Innovation Fund to support set-up costs totalling £38,000 to include:

Training at £1098 per officer for twenty Special Constables
Uniform at £800.00 per officer for twenty Special Constables

Timeline

- Indicative conformation of funding (November 2013)
- Success criteria identified and agreed.
- Engagement of College of Policing to support independent evaluation using evidence based policing methodology
- Briefing to students outlining benefits and expectations
- Identification of University student cohort
- Community consultation on initial proposals
- Accelerated selection to dovetail into force Special Constable recruitment process
- Formally Secure funds (December 2013)
- Operational deployment principles and benefits evaluation processes agreed
- Completion of training
- Operational deployment into Priority Locations (April 2014)

Outcomes

- Improved public confidence in policing through enhanced policing and alternative in Priority Locations
- The voice of communities better connected to partner agencies working collaboratively in Priority Locations
- More efficient and effective service delivery to address community safety issues.
- A reduction in crime and offending behaviour in Priority Locations
- Enhanced community safety through an improved understanding of vulnerability to minimise risk of harm.
- Vulnerable communities are strengthened through alternative approaches to policing through Safer Homes
- An effective contribution to national policing through the adoption of an Evidence Based Policing methodology

Governance

Strategic Level: Coventry Local Police and Crime Board chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Tactical Level: Chief Superintendent Coventry Police and Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Operational Level: Chief Inspector Local Policing and Head of Community Safety Coventry City Council

Risks

- I. Funding is not confirmed until December 2013 but initiation needs to commence in November 2013 to meet the April 2014 deadline
- II. Funding is not confirmed until December 2013 but initiation needs to commence in November 2013 to ensure alignment with wider West Midlands Police recruitment and training of Special Constables.
- III. There may be no capacity to accommodate the training of a further 20 Special Constables within existing plans to train 50 new WMP recruits (40% increase in capacity).
- IV. There may not be sufficient interest within the Law faculty of Coventry University to recruit 20 Special Constables.
- V. Applicants may not possess the necessary aptitude required by West Midlands Police to perform the office of Constable

SAFER WALSALL PARTNERSHIP

W1: Business Crime Initiative

Introduction

The area around Walsall town centre is home to 17,569 of Walsall's 269,323 residents and is very diverse in terms of its population. It is also home to the boroughs main shopping and night time economy venues attracting a large number of additional visitors.

As with many town centres across the country, Walsall has been impacted by the challenges brought by the current economic situation and, although there has been a considerable amount of residential and some commercial redevelopment, there remain further challenges to be met terms of an increase in some types of crime and disorder.

The latest strategic assessment indicates that the town centre area accounts for 16% of all crime across the borough and is an identified priority location for both Total Recorded Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Latest data shows an increase of around 50% in retail crime, which is impacting negatively on the area.

It is not only acquisitive crime that has affected the confidence of both businesses and residents. As with many other town centres regionally and nationally, our town centre and some of its surrounding areas are currently affected by the presence of street drinkers and the behaviours they display. Recent consultation highlights that their presence has impacted upon the perception of residents, businesses and visitors as many of them have suggested that Walsall town centre is not a safe place.

Indeed, we have been told by some small businesses that they have left their premises and moved out of Walsall because of these low-level ASB issues and the impact they have on their employees and visitors. This results in premises being left empty, which presents its own challenges in the form of rough sleepers, drug and alcohol use etc., Last year, Walsall fell victim to at least two major fires in void properties.

What we are doing to tackle these issues?

Obviously, partnership working is key and effective and sustainable methods to tackle these issues are being explored with the local authority (Community Safety, Licensing, Trading Standards, Environmental Health,) Police, Health Services etc.

Our Town Centre Operations Group and Area Partnership bring agencies together, highlighting current and emerging issues so that what resource is available may be coordinated and targeted.

Historically, crime prevention has been addressed in the town centre primarily by the police with support and intervention from a number of officers within the Council. Over recent years, additional tools have been utilised including the use of Section 27's, seasonal public prevention campaigns, DPPO and Dispersal Orders. The existing Radio Link Scheme also supports crime prevention and is currently managed and operated through the Community Alarms Service. This scheme is supported by 24 hour CCTV surveillance and there are around 70 or so businesses that are active members.

These interventions have resulted in successful arrests and reductions in some crime types. However, business crime remains a concern and is not being addressed pragmatically by the private sector as businesses tackle crime independent of their neighbours resulting in an absence of shared intelligence and resource.

What is missing?

What we lack is a sustainable way to engage businesses and retailers within the town centre in order to keep them informed, offer support with issues, give them a responsive and dedicated reporting facility and bring them together to share intelligence, rather than relying on agencies. In short, partners are looking to develop a Business Crime Initiative.

Benefits of a Business Crime Initiative

- Provision of a banning folder which aids retailers and security staff in the civil exclusion of prolific offenders in the Town Centre, thereby reducing crime levels
- Coherent information protocols in place to manage sensitive data and inform actions including ASBO/CRASBO applications, thus supporting the detection of breaches and reoffending.
- Identifies and develops best practice guidance to support crime prevention and improve community safety
- Analysis of criminal patterns and offenders to develop support mechanisms both for offenders (ie. youth service support) and the implementation of targeted preventative measures
- Shared intelligence and awareness raising (ie, street drinking)
- Training provision to develop a 'single approach' to tackle crime
- Reduced stock loss to retailers therefore improving store productivity through tackling acquisitive crime
- Increased confidence of traders, businesses and, most importantly, visitors to the town centre.

The option of developing a business crime initiative has been discussed and agreed upon by partners as the preferred way forward to deliver the advantages shown above.

The key element is to engage businesses so that they see the benefits of being part of a fee paying scheme. These benefits include the potential to free up resources that are continually being called upon to tackle town centre issues and support information sharing and communication.

Desk top research and face to face meetings have shown that businesses within the town centre would welcome an opportunity of joining a crime initiative in order to become more aware and proactive around tackling business crime through the implementation of practical measures and partnership working. Furthermore, as new developments emerge in the town centre including Primark, the Co-operative and potentially a cinema/leisure complex along with other aspirations within the draft Area Action Plan we can expect to attract new customers who will require certainty that the town centre is a safe environment for business and pleasure.

The options exercise below explores some of the benefits of a Business Crime Initiative further and was part of an options paper developed to explore various methods of tackling this on-going and increasing issue.

The Radio Link Scheme will continue to serve existing businesses and provide the police with surveillance intelligence as appropriate with the potential to retain an income of approximately £15,700. The BCI offer will deliver the BCI objectives and continue to promote partnership working to reduce and prevent crime. A review of current charges for the Radio Link Scheme will be required together with agreement on where a potential post or virtual IT based scheme should be situated internally.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience brought in from other areas through the development of 'Walsall' bespoke scheme. Ability to increase income targets Ability to meet strategic objectives Dedicated resource for businesses Effective and timely information exchange Potential for ongoing consultation, Learning from existing schemes on information sharing and protection of data. Supports existing Pubwatch initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional cost to initially develop offer estimated at 25-30K Increase in charges may be unacceptable to all businesses

Dedicated resources results in improved service provision and reduced crime levels	
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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

The police team managing the town centre recently applied for Proceeds of Crime Act Funding (POCA) of £25K in order to support a pilot BCI Scheme until the end of March 2014. This was unsuccessful due to funding being utilised elsewhere. Partners remain very keen to deliver a pilot project for a period of approx 6-8 months which would:

- enable businesses to join free of charge
- allow businesses to see the real financial benefits of such a scheme resulting in contributing to a sustainable fee paying scheme in the future
- provide us with the opportunity to benchmark and make improvements to a permanent BCI, for which we are know there is already a significant level of initial interest amongst businesses.
- Develop an IT package to support the initiative.

On behalf of Safer Walsall Partnership, this brief project outline is submitted to support a bid for £25,000 from the Invest to Save Fund.

A full project plan would be made available, should this bid be successful at the initial stage.

W2: No Cold Calling Zones

Introduction

Walsall Borough has suffered from distraction / bogus official burglaries and doorstep callers such as bogus workmen and high pressure sales people for a number of years.

It is now well established that distraction burglaries and rogue doorstep trading are inter-linked. All too often, the seemingly innocent doorstep seller is actually checking things out for a re-visit to carry out a burglary or distraction burglary.

Whilst this type of criminal behaviour can impact on anybody in any place,

research shows that older people and those living alone are particularly at risk. The number of serious doorstep crime incidents reported to both the Police and Trading Standards services has grown significantly over the past few years. Incidents involving older people losing thousands of pounds are now not unusual to hear about in Walsall as, with many areas, we meet the challenges of an ageing and increasingly diverse population.

During 2013 there have been 28 reported distraction burglaries in Walsall Borough, and 6 of these have been in the Bentley / Darlaston area.

The Bentley area of Walsall is a defined estate, accessed by only three major roads, and is in close proximity to the M6 motorway. The area has a high proportion of elderly persons who live alone. These factors have led to the area, over the last few years, becoming vulnerable to the type of crimes detailed above.

Trading Standards, local residents and local agencies working in the area will evidence that these callers are a problem for this area.

Consultation has shown us that there is a desire from local residents to establish a 'No Cold Callers Zone' which is simply an area in which residents have stated they do not wish to

receive unsolicited visits to their homes (cold calls) from businesses/ tradespeople. It gives local residents the confidence to say 'NO' to uninvited salespeople or to warn rogue traders and cold-callers that they are being watched by residents and will be reported.

Benefits Of 'No Cold Calls Zones

'Hundreds of zones are now operating successfully across the UK with reports of significant reductions in crime and a greater feeling of security amongst residents.

The aims and objectives of the No Cold Callers Zone Project include :

- To reduce the number of victims of crime
- To empower residents so they have the confidence to deal with unsolicited callers.
- To educate residents in dealing effectively with unsolicited callers.
- To reduce the number of criminal offences reported to the Police.
- To reduce fear of crime in participating roads.
- To send a clear message to would be criminals that residents and agencies are working together to safeguard elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

The information below is from an evaluation carried out by Surrey Trading Standards into a Cold Call Zone in their County:

118 responses were received to the questionnaire and it is clear that the vast majority of respondents support the 'No Cold Call Zone' with 78.9% of respondents stating they feel safer since the zone was established and 93.8% stating they feel the scheme should be expanded to other areas.

The respondents clearly feel that the stickers and road signs have helped to deter cold callers but respondents appear to feel that the sticker is more important than the road sign in acting as a deterrent. 85.1% of respondents feel the stickers have helped to reduce the number of cold callers and 80.4% think the road signs have. It is encouraging to see that 77.8% of respondents are displaying the 'No Cold Call Zone' sticker although it would be nice to see this figure get even higher.

50% of respondents stated they had been cold called in the last 6 months but none of the respondents bought goods or services from them.

Delivering A 'No Cold Callers Zone'

There are several elements to delivering a project and we already have the support of Trading Standards, Police and local Registered Social Landlords.

Vulnerable areas are identified through Walsall Intelligence Network and Area Partnerships. The key elements include:

- Identifying vulnerable areas
- Consulting sensitively with local residents
- The production of information packs for householders which contain details of the "No Cold Callers" Scheme and offers basic crime reduction and Trading Standards advice.
- Raising awareness through local community groups, Neighbourhood Watch etc.,
- The erection of street signs in selected roads to show where the "No Cold Calling Zone" is located

A key element for this work in order to meet the needs of the vulnerable across our diverse community is to ensure material is culturally appropriate and available in a range of languages and formats (i.e. Braille.)

Initial project costings suggest £2,000 will be required to deliver the project in the Bentley/Darlaston area

However, we know that this is not the only area vulnerable to doorstep crime. Our on-going work through 'Operation Doorstop' has highlighted that there are more areas across the borough that would benefit from a 'No Cold Callers Zone.'

For Your Consideration

This outline bid is made for £15,000 so that materials can be purchased 'in bulk' thus reducing costs and ensuring we have materials in place to meet demand across the borough. This money could effectively deliver at least 6/7 schemes depending upon the benefits derived from economies of scale. It would also allow us to ensure we can deliver on the diversity of materials that we require in order to ensure our zones are inclusive and accessible.

BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Each business case comprises a number of discrete interventions. These are:

B1: Youth Violence

i) A schools co-ordinator and funding to support schools-based programmes to enable children to identify and manage personal risk and vulnerability and develop teenage relationships interventions to challenge domestic abuse 'within' young people's relationships.	£30k
ii) Development of a Youth Violence Strategy	£10k
iii) Trial of 4G re-deployable cameras in areas most heavily affected by youth violence*	£35k
iv) Feasibility study of locating specialist youth workers in A&E departments	£10k
v) Design and trial a database that will log and track the use made of new ASB powers in advance of the introduction of new legislation.	£15k
<i>Sub-total</i>	£100K

**Please note this could be reduced to £25K if full funding were not available.*

B2: Domestic Abuse

i) Feasibility study of locating domestic abuse specialists in A&E departments and targeted interventions	£30k
ii) Development of care and support pathways from Primary Care for victims of domestic abuse	£15k
iii) Target-hardening for victims of domestic abuse within the offender management Domestic Abuse pilot *	£50k
<i>Sub-total</i>	£95k

**Please note this could be reduced to £30K if full funding were not available.*

The total sum requested is £195,000

Please find attached the two business cases and annexes outlining the separate interventions. The business cases identify the relevant alignment with the West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2013 and with stated BCSP priorities.

The Partnership welcomes any comments or suggestions on areas to improve these proposals.

The following proposals have arisen from considerations within various working groups. They are interventions that can be delivered within 2013-14, and have value as standalone projects but also provide valuable grounding for further work in 2014-15.

The two subjects have been chosen as BCSP believes that these may feature as thematic priorities in 2014-15. The contents of these business cases are not the only pieces of work being considered, or are already underway relating to these subjects. If the Members of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board would like more information, the BCSP would be happy to provide it.

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Priorities

For 2013-14 the BCSP has five strategic thematic priorities are:

- Tackling Re-offending
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Night Time Economy
- Gang Violence
- Domestic Violence

BCSP Business Case 1 – Youth Violence

Please find attached five separate annexes for each of the following proposed interventions:

- A schools co-ordinator and funding to support schools-based programmes to enable children to identify and manage personal risk and vulnerability and develop teenage relationships interventions to challenge domestic abuse 'within' young people's relationships.
- Development of the Youth Violence strategy
- Trial of 4G re-deployable cameras in areas most heavily affected by youth violence
- Feasibility study of locating specialist youth workers in A&E departments.
- Design and trial a database that will log and track the use made of new ASB powers in advance of the introduction of new legislation

BCSP Business Case 2 – Domestic Abuse

Please find attached three separate annexes for each of the following proposed interventions:

- Feasibility study of locating domestic abuse specialists in A&E departments and targeted interventions
- Development of care and support pathways from Primary Care for victims of domestic abuse
- Target-hardening for victims of domestic abuse within the offender management domestic abuse pilot.

B1: Youth Violence

Intervention 1 – A schools co-ordinator and funding to support schools-based programmes to enable children to identify and manage personal risk and vulnerability and develop

teenage relationships interventions to challenge domestic abuse 'within' young people's relationships.

PCC Police & Crime Plan Objectives supported –

- Better protecting people from harm
- o Reduce the harm caused by gangs and organised crime by targeted preventative work to prevent young people from joining gangs
- o Carry out activity to maintain vigilance around child sexual exploitation
- o Reduce the harm to vulnerable victims caused by domestic abuse
- Improving the service the public receive from the police
- o Develop strategies to reduce repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Delivering better value for money
- o Implement 'invest to save' schemes that enable more efficient working practices
- Reduce crime and offending
- o Support local and national projects aimed at understanding what interventions are effective at reducing low level offending

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Thematic Priorities supported -

- Tackling Re-offending
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Gang Violence

Background

MissDorothy.com is a project that was used in 120 Birmingham primary schools during 2012, supported by funding through the Ending Gang and Youth Violence Programme. Its strategic aim is to deliver a preventative project to "early years" cohort (Year 5, 9-10 years old) with the intention of providing a risk based approach to understanding positive values & behaviours that will keep young people safe.

Year 5 was selected as this age group are just approaching the age of criminal responsibility, it was felt had the required maturity to fully understand the issues to be discussed with an ability to apply learning to keep themselves safe. An evaluation of the 2012 project can be provided if required.

Proposed Intervention

To develop a more sustainable approach to embedding the Miss Dorothy.Com resource into schools, through the encouragement to schools to purchase the resource direct and embed the programme in their annual planning cycle. (Costs per year include online material and teacher resources packs and resource and parent books which are £7 per pupil - £210 based on a class of 30). The intervention will create a model of sustainability enabling all 299 Birmingham primary schools to participate in the programme. The coordinator will also support secondary schools and other educational units such as Pupil Referral Units in accessing other programmes such as Watch Over Me and Precious Lives. In addition the coordinator will develop teenage relationships interventions to challenge domestic abuse 'within' young people's relationships

Communication is key to effective delivery. The schools' email and messaging systems are complicated, often unreliable and unmonitored. Direct and personal communication to schools regarding these types of projects, their aims and benefits is the single most effective factor in securing engagement. This intervention is to support a project co-ordinator to work with the schools to embed the projects. There will be additional value in facilitating engagement with schools with other BCSP workstreams around Domestic Violence.

Funding requested

The total sum requested £30,000.

Improvement achieved by proposed intervention

Early intervention to reduce future costs associated with the criminal justice system, and wider areas such as health, housing, unemployment etc.

Proposed timescale (assuming approval received by 6 Nov 2013)

It is proposed to have a co-ordinator in post until July 2014 to link in with the school timetable, which will embed the resource during this school year. This does stretch into the next financial year, however because of the different academic year it is hoped that this will flexibility will be supported.

Succession strategy (e.g. Not applicable / adoption by statutory agency / other)

The community interest company, Values Versus Violence, which is the Miss Dorothy.Com programme creator, is planning to provide sustainability for this role from 2014/15 onwards. The development of the teenage relationships interventions to challenge domestic abuse 'within' young people's relationships will be absorbed into mainstream delivery from September 2014 onwards.

Intervention 2 – Development of the Youth Violence strategy

PCC Police & Crime Plan Objectives supported –

- Better protecting people from harm
 - o Reduce the harm caused by gangs and organised crime by continuing to target them and targeted preventative work to prevent young people from joining gangs
- Improving the service the public receive from the police
 - o Develop strategies to reduce repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Delivering better value for money
 - o Implement 'invest to save' schemes that enable more efficient working practices
 - o Improve productivity of staff and assets
- Reduce crime and offending
 - o Reduce violent crime where injury is caused by 8%
- Improving public confidence in policing
 - o Increase confidence in policing
- Creating stronger partnerships
 - o Allocate funding to partnerships to tackle local policing and crime problems
 - o Reduce re-offending through partnership working

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Thematic Priorities supported -

- Tackling Re-offending
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Night Time Economy
- Gang Violence
- Domestic Violence

Background

There has been increased community concern around youth violence and particularly youth knife crime following some high profile incidents involving young people in Birmingham. Following a brief review of existing services and provisions from the statutory authorities, it was felt that Birmingham would benefit from the development of a Youth Violence Strategy to co-ordinate activity to prevent and reduce youth violence, incorporating knife crime, but not exclusively focussing on the subject.

Proposed Intervention

To create some additional capacity through a short-term commission to:

- o Evaluate the effectiveness of existing provision to prevent youth crime in

Birmingham,

- o Identify existing good practice and learning from previous national and local campaigns
- o Identify gaps in provision and opportunities for further development
- o Formulate a Youth Violence Strategy for Birmingham for partners.

Funding requested

The total sum requested is £10,000.

Improvement achieved by proposed intervention

Provide a clear strategy for partners to adopt and work towards identifying tactics.

Proposed timescale (assuming approval received by 6 Nov 2013)

Completion by 31 March 2014.

Succession strategy (e.g. Not applicable / adoption by statutory agency / other)

Adoption and roll out of the strategy from April 2014 onwards.

Intervention 3 – Trial of 4G re-deployable cameras in areas most heavily affected by youth violence, moving toward compliance with the Surveillance Commissioner’s Code of Practice.

PCC Police & Crime Plan Objective supported –

- Increase public confidence in policing
 - o Increase confidence in policing
- Delivering better value for money
 - o Implement invest-to-save schemes that enable more efficient working practices

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Thematic Priorities supported -

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Night Time Economy
- Gang Violence

Background

The first re-deployable CCTV systems were introduced in 2003. As a cost effective and flexible option to complement fixed systems, at first there was considerable enthusiasm for the equipment but problems soon emerged of limited capacity and any useful footage being quickly overwritten and lost. The industry responded and in 2007 digital systems were introduced which improved performance.

While seeking to fully evaluate the contribution of CCTV (including re-deployable systems) to arrests, detections and convictions has remained very difficult, public feedback when re-deployable CCTV has been used at neighbourhood level in response to problems remains very positive. Often the camera is physical evidence of an official response that other methods of policing cannot match.

Proposed Intervention

Recently the BCSP commissioned an independent report into re-deployable CCTV. Within the report was a recommendation of a future course for this equipment:

“One of the issues when deploying temporary CCTV cameras is the method of getting the video signals back to command centres / monitoring sites. Several technologies have already been used to varying degrees of success. All present their own set of challenges, however, an emerging technology worthy of consideration and based on cellular telephone masts, is that of 4G. In 4G equipped areas such as city centres, 4G data transmission can

be used effectively to transmit digital CCTV footage as well as return telemetry to good effect and at speeds comparable with fixed line transmission.”

The report also set out proposed business cases based on a variety of purchase, leasing or rental arrangements.

If a sum of moneys were awarded to this proposal, negotiations could commence with suppliers to explore some of the options contained in the report. Also, if this proposal went ahead, a specific arrangement could be made for them to feed back to the central control room. This would better present the opportunity to track how much use was made of them and their contribution to arrests, detections and convictions.

Funding requested

The sum requested is £35,000.

Depending on how the costs worked out, within this sum a communications strategy would be prepared to publish the learning from the pilot, which could be shared at a half-day seminar.

Improvement achieved by proposed intervention

The pilot would enable:

- An assessment of the effectiveness of this technology, in line with the recommendations from the independent report.
- Insight into the merits of other means of using this equipment rather than outright purchase, which has led to a complex mix of old and new equipment with different levels of efficiency.
- Subject to further negotiations with police partners, work to better understand the use made of the cameras (downloaded footage etc) in arrests, detections and convictions.
- Collaboration with Sandwell CSP as they are exploring similar work.

Proposed timescale (assuming approval received by 6 Nov 2013)

To have all further negotiations and agreements in place by 20 December with a view to trial launch in January 2014.

Succession strategy

An evaluation report to go to the Birmingham Community Safety, Police and Crime Board (in autumn 2014).

Intervention 4 – Feasibility study of locating specialist youth workers in A&E departments.

PCC Police & Crime Plan Objectives supported –

- Better protecting people from harm
 - o Reduce the harm caused by gangs and organised crime by continuing to target them and targeted preventative work to prevent young people from joining gangs
- Improving the service the public receive from the police
 - o Develop strategies to reduce repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Delivering better value for money
 - o Implement ‘invest to save’ schemes that enable more efficient working practices
 - o Improve productivity of staff and assets
- Reduce crime and offending
 - o Reduce violent crime where injury is caused by 8%
 - o Support local and national projects aimed at understanding what interventions are effective at reducing low level offending
- Improving public confidence in policing

- o Increase confidence in policing
- Creating stronger partnerships
- o Allocate funding to partnerships to tackle local policing and crime problems
- o Increase engagement with Health and Wellbeing Board
- o Reduce re-offending through partnership working

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Thematic Priorities supported -

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Tackling Reoffending
- Gang Violence

Background

There has been increased community concern around youth violence and particularly youth knife crime following some high profile incidents involving young people in Birmingham.

The Kings Youth Project is a project that has taken place in Kings College Hospital, London, where youth workers based within the A&E Dept engage young people admitted with violent crime and/or knife related injuries. The project is based around early engagement with young people preferably whilst they are still in hospital; their research indicates that such on-site engagement has more chances of success (70%) rather than the traditional out-reach contact which appears to only engage up to 30%.

From discussion the areas around Kings College Hospital are similar to Birmingham in so far that postcode issues and gang culture are apparent. Youth Workers are cognisant of these risks and the young person is only referred to services within "safe" local areas they know the young person would be prepared to attend and engage with. Agencies are then able to facilitate follow up visits to Health drop in services, sexual health services & advice, CAMHS or any other adolescent services - therefore they are able to maintain the relationship with the young person and offer additional services. Furthermore the youth workers have the ability to flag safeguarding issues if they become apparent and this enables the statutory agencies to respond more appropriately and more quickly.

In practice, the A&E staff are asking youth workers to engage with young people who may be exposed to gangs, violence and knife crime, Child Sexual Exploitation, substance misuse, self harm etc. This is a single response to the multi-layered and complicated issues faced by the city's adolescent population.

Proposed Intervention

It is believed this programme can be transferred to Birmingham to provide a multi agency response to violence and knife related incidents. Our proposal is to fund a third sector youth organisation in a pilot programme to make contact with young people who meet the criteria.

The aim is to engage young people believed to be engaged in, or victim of, violent and knife related incidents, with the view to signposting them to suitable support services. It is important these services are independent of Police and Health and provided by an organisation with local credibility and resilience to provide coverage based on analysis of geographical areas and key times and days that young people present to A&E.

The pilot would initially concentrate on City Hospital & QE in Selly Oak. The Queen Elizabeth hospital is the main receiving department for traumatic injuries and local but young people affected by violence and knife crime also turn up at City Hospital for treatment. If successful the intervention could be rolled out to Heartlands & Good Hope hospitals.

Funding requested

The total sum requested is £10,000.

This sum would enhance an approach to secure match funding from West Midlands Police

and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Improvement achieved by proposed intervention

Early intervention looks to impact on the future costs and resources associated with the criminal justice system and health.

Proposed timescale (assuming approval received by 6 Nov 2013)

It is proposed to have youth workers in post within approximately one month.

Succession strategy (e.g. Not applicable / adoption by statutory agency / other)

If the project delivers positive outcomes it can support a call for agencies to redesign services using existing resources and funding. Public Health is keen to see the outcomes of the pilot and may assist with medium term funding if the pilot is successful and youth workers engage and promote violence reduction together with an additional range of other Health services.

Intervention 5 – Design and trial a database to log and track the use made of the incoming powers to address Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

PCC Police & Crime Plan Objectives supported –

- Delivering better value for money
- o Implement invest-to-save schemes that enable more efficient working practices
- Improving the service the public receive from the police
- o Develop strategies to reduce repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Thematic Priorities supported -

- Anti-Social Behaviour

Background

The BCSP set up a multi-agency task and finish group, which included representation from Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police, Centro and Registered Providers (Registered Social Landlords) to identify the opportunities and challenges presented by the ASB Bill 2013. It also examined the current powers to address ASB and assessed how they had been used. The aim was to review and prepare for the changes in the new Bill. This process identified the lack of any central records of the powers currently being used e.g. number of ASBO's or Dispersal Orders and their location or duration. Such data could only be recovered by examining individual case files, which was assessed to be too labour intensive for the time and resources available.

Proposed Intervention

The proposal is to design and develop an electronic central database to record the use of the new powers which will come into force once the Bill becomes law in 2014.

Funding requested

The total sum requested £15,000.

Improvement achieved by proposed intervention

The project would enable a corporate and partnership understanding of how the powers are being used and facilitate a strategic oversight of their effectiveness.

Proposed timescale (assuming approval received by 6 Nov 2013)

It is proposed that the Partnership could draw up the specification which could be tendered out to contract for completion by 31 March 2014.

Succession strategy (e.g. Not applicable / adoption by statutory agency / other)

The task of maintaining the database could be adopted as a function with an existing

Officer's job role.

B2: Domestic Abuse

Intervention 1 – Feasibility study of locating domestic abuse specialists in A&E departments and targeted interventions

PCC Police & Crime Plan Objectives supported –

- Creating stronger partnerships
 - o Increase engagement with each health and wellbeing board across the seven local authority areas
- Delivering better value for money
 - o Implement invest-to-save schemes that enable more efficient working practices

- Reduce crime and offending
 - o Reduce overall crime by 5 per cent.
 - o Support local and national projects aimed at understanding which interventions are effective at reducing low level offending
- Better protecting people from harm
 - o Reduce the harm to vulnerable victims caused by domestic abuse
- Improving the service the public receive from the police
 - o Increase satisfaction with services provided relating to crimes
 - o Implement a customer services strategy drawing from the Victims Summit and the Customer Journey to deliver further improvements
 - o Develop strategies to reduce repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Thematic Priorities supported -

- Domestic Violence

Background:

The recent domestic violence needs assessment highlighted gaps in Birmingham's approach to domestic violence and abuse. In recent years, many services have been focussed on victims identified as high risk. However, a new approach would be the need to target victims at the earliest opportunity, particularly after their initial presentations to services, with the aim of reducing harm and risk.

The BCSP receives data from Accident and Emergency departments in the city which highlights that significant number of victims presenting with injuries arising from domestic violence and abuse are not reporting these assaults, either to the police or to other agencies. Consequently no support or protection is being put into place. Presently there is an absence of protocols and training for staff to ensure that there is a consistent approach to victims of domestic violence and abuse, and an inconsistency in the data recorded which impedes the future planning of services.

Proposed intervention

For a pilot period to:

- locate independent domestic violence advisors (IDVAs) in Accident and Emergency departments of Birmingham hospitals
- provide support to hospitals in the development of protocols and pathways for routine and direct questioning on domestic violence, and training for front line services to undertake routine questioning and respond to the needs and risk identified thereafter.

Funding requested

The total sum requested £30,000.

Improvement achieved by proposed intervention

- Improved practice of responding to domestic violence and abuse in Accident and Emergency departments
- Safety and protection offered and provided to victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- Greater consistency in data collection.
- Early intervention resulting in harm reduction to victims and their children

Proposed timescale (assuming approval received by 6 Nov 2013)

Lead in time probably one month, to start first week December 2013 for completion by April 2014.

Succession strategy (e.g. Not applicable / adoption by statutory agency / other)

To feed the outcomes arising from the project into commissioning strategies of:

- Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England (hospital contracts).
- Public Health (early help commissioning).
- West Midlands Police, A&E data sharing protocols.

Intervention 2 – Development of care and support pathways from Primary Care for victims of Domestic Abuse.

PCC Police & Crime Plan Objectives supported –

- Creating stronger partnerships
 - o Increase engagement with each health and wellbeing board across the seven local authority areas
- Delivering better value for money
 - o Implement invest-to-save schemes that enable more efficient working practices
- Reduce crime and offending
 - o Reduce overall crime by 5 per cent.
 - o Support local and national projects aimed at understanding which interventions are effective at reducing low level offending
- Better protecting people from harm
 - o Reduce the harm to vulnerable victims caused by domestic abuse
- Improving the service the public receive from the police
 - o Increase satisfaction with services provided relating to crimes
 - o Implement a customer services strategy drawing from the Victims Summit and the Customer Journey to deliver further improvements
 - o Develop strategies to reduce repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Thematic Priorities supported -

- Domestic Violence

Background

Both locally and nationally, Domestic Homicide Reviews are revealing the significance of the role of GPs in identifying domestic violence and abuse, and the opportunity that they have in being able to build the confidence of victims in seeking help at the earliest opportunity.

Proposed intervention

To work in partnership with Birmingham South Central Clinical Commissioning Group and pilot primary care practices to develop a 'whole practice' response to domestic violence and abuse, to include developing a coherent pathway for direct referral to specialist services. The project will compare the effectiveness of on-site domestic violence services with a dedicated referral arrangement with the specialist service.

Funding requested

The total sum requested £15,000.

Improvement achieved by proposed intervention

- Improved practice of responding to domestic violence and abuse in primary care.
- Safety and protection offered and provided to victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- Early intervention resulting in harm reduction to victims and their children.

Proposed timescale

To complete by April 2014.

Succession Strategy

To feed the outcomes arising from the project into commissioning strategies of:

- Clinical commissioning group and NHS England (hospital contracts)
- Public Health (early help commissioning)

Intervention 3 – Target-hardening for victims of domestic abuse within the offender management Domestic Abuse pilot

PCC Police & Crime Plan Objectives supported –

- Creating stronger partnerships
 - o Increase engagement with each health and wellbeing board across the seven local authority areas
- Delivering better value for money
 - o Implement invest-to-save schemes that enable more efficient working practices
- Reduce crime and offending
 - o Reduce overall crime by 5 per cent.
 - o Support local and national projects aimed at understanding which interventions are effective at reducing low level offending
- Better protecting people from harm
 - o Reduce the harm to vulnerable victims caused by domestic abuse
- Improving the service the public receive from the police
 - o Increase satisfaction with services provided relating to crimes
 - o Implement a customer services strategy drawing from the Victims Summit and the Customer Journey to deliver further improvements
 - o Develop strategies to reduce repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour

Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Strategic Thematic Priorities supported -

- Domestic Violence

Background:

Many domestic violence perpetrators are not prosecuted through the criminal justice system because of lack of evidence but continue to pose a risk, if not a heightened risk, to their victims and children. The absence of a prosecution means that they will rarely feature in traditional offender management processes. The BCSP is currently working with Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid and West Midlands Police on a perpetrator management pilot, to develop a more robust approach to managing domestic violence perpetrators, whilst supporting and protecting their victims.

In order to ensure the safety of victims, a number of safeguarding measures, such as alarms and home security, are needed in most cases to strengthen our ability to keep safe those victims engaged with the pilot scheme.

Proposed intervention

Provide target hardening measures such as alarms and home security for up to 20 victims involved in the perpetrator management pilot.

Funding requested

The total sum requested £50,000.

Improvement achieved by proposed intervention

Sustained engagement with domestic violence victims in the perpetrator management pilot and harm reduction.

Proposed timescale

To complete by April 2014.

Succession Strategy

The outcomes of the offender management pilot will be considered by Birmingham Community Safety Partnership and where effective, drive changes in offender management and commissioning of future specialist services. Many of the products will be used in new households in the future (e.g. mobile alarms), however, some will be permanent installations (e.g. locks).

SAFER SANDWELL PARTNERSHIP**SS1: Domehawk Bid request****Background**

The current existing domehawk network is now over 9 years old. Sandwell has 39 cameras split across the borough. These cameras are used by neighbourhood to prevent and deter crime and ASB. Over the last 9 year period they have been used continuously as an available tactic with many examples of success in that the problem ceases after the deployment of the domehawk camera. In many instances the camera is then redeployed after approximately a 3 week period to another location.

The domehawks are bid for as a partner tactic through the town tasking process. This ensures they are focussed on town issues and priorities. In the period between town tasking, urgent moves are requested and actioned.

Usage of domehawk across the borough

To give an idea of the use of domehawk, in the last 9 years Sandwell north and south have accumulated approximately 1500 sites that are fully connected ready for domehawk deployment. This means that over 1500 camera moves have taken place at the very least to tackle over 1500 community issues around crime and ASB. In many cases to save costs, and time savings a bracket location will be used many times over to address different community issues. This means in excess of 1500 community issues and problems have used domehawk as a solution.

As the cameras are now failing due to age and technical capacity (out of date tech), we now only have half the network available for deployment. This number is quickly falling. Despite this in the last 3 months North sector have instructed 22 domehawk deployments and south 20 domehawk deployments. This is still a very much used, tried and tested solution that is proven to work as a deterrent and prevention to most neighbourhood crime issues. They also provide instant community reassurance. In the most recent mosque bombing 2 domehawks were placed within days to successfully provide community reassurance.

Proposal

It is recognised that to replace the whole domehawk network is costly, therefore as a tried and tested tactic my proposal is to replace a small amount of domehawk cameras specifically for priority area use and deployment. These cameras can be bid for throughout

the town tasking and priority area strategic group forum and will be restricted to tackle issues within the priority areas.

This then provides focus and continues to maintain domehawk as a tactic for both crime / ASB prevention and community reassurance.

The plan is to buy 8 new domehawk cameras. These cameras are mini domehawks i.e. smaller in size; they have a 500 gb hard drive in solid state which will store 14 days continuous video footage at high resolution 25 frames per second. The cameras can be accessed via line of sight using a laptop (for setting up, viewing and downloading); alternatively they are 3G compatible. If a 3G contract was agreed, the cameras could also be viewed, moved and downloaded remotely. This would potentially enable 24/7 viewing at Roway Lane. (a prospect which can be tested now prior to purchase.)

The costs

8 x new mini domehawk cameras = £ 3500 each (total £ 28,000)

8 x 3G airtime contracts (2 year contract) = £ 360 per camera per year (total £ 5760)

Total spend £ 33,760

This would include a 2 year manufacturers warranty and 12 month technical support (as quoted if supplier consulting used).

There is no identified budget to pay for either technical support continuance or 3G air time after the stated timeframe. It should be kept in view that without the 3G contract, the cameras still work and exist remotely (using line of sight laptops).

The cameras themselves would be owned and could potentially last as long as existing cameras (9 years). Any costs beyond this would need to be assessed and scoped for existing funding.

SS2: Alternative Pathways (AP) £20,000

Project Outline

The Smethwick Alternative Pathway (AP) looks into potential offenders and gang member of the future and looks to helping and supporting the young person and their family so they can choose the right path. The AP group is made up of representatives of partners from a range of organisations across the public and community and voluntary sectors including SMBC, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Services, Job centre Plus and local schools.

The aim of the AP project is to provide specific support dependent on each case that comes to the group. The cases that come to the group are the most complex and require specific support that cannot be provided through mainstream projects. What is being offered is a range of services that have been used and been very effective, most of those projects that were used had short term funding via Ending Gang and Youth Violence which is now finished.

The Alternative Pathways has developed over a number of years but since September 2012 the project has decided to work with children as young as eight in the Soho and Victoria red priority area. Work developed for primary school children between 8 and 11 years old as there was found to be very little in the way of diversion and support for children and their families. We have children's services (Sure Start which look to the age of 7) and youth services which look after the age of 12, but presently there is little support for children between the age of 8 and 11 years.

The list of interventions includes projects that we would like to use for cases that have come to the AP and no other funding is available to support there on-going use. Providers that we would like to commission are:

1. Krunch, Voluntary / Community Organisation - 1-1 Mentoring - One to one sessions with experienced mentors who are skilled at building trusting relationships with young people in a creative and confidential manner, aim to help children understand how to make positive, safe and healthy choices as they mature. Topics include: Identifying strengths and qualities, as well as areas for growth and change, the value of boundaries and rules, investigating self worth and addressing any confidence issues

2. Murray Hall, Voluntary / Community Organisation - Head to Head Counselling/Therapeutic Services - H2H+ allows quick access and appropriate referrals. Counselling sessions take place at school at a time that is suitable for the client. A parent is able to attend the assessment appointment (where safe/appropriate) to understand what counselling is and the requirement to attend.

3. Mentoring West Midlands, Community Interest Company - Fathers Programme - Mentoring West Midlands have supported a number of very complex families through the Fathers Programme they have delivered under the Ending Gang and Serious Youth Violence agenda.

4. Complete Kidz, Community Interest Company - Personal Development via Sports - The activities are designed to support young people to develop in a number of ways, including- team work skills, leadership skills, raising self esteem and confidence, problem solving skills, consequential thinking, and awareness mental and physical wellbeing

Client Group and Proposed Expenditure

We will be working with a cohort of 50 Young People who will require access to a mixture of the services above dependent on need. Funding we will be allocated on a case by case basis utilising services dependent on need, the service will be needs led for each child. The average amount we would spend on each child is approx £400, which could include 1-1 mentoring, school based counselling, father support and additional support outside the school via Complete Kidz.

Spend would be achieved via projects supporting each child who is on the AP list, we currently have a need highlighted for young people on the list but cannot commission services due to having no funding to buy in the service. We are confident that we would spend the £20k within the year as we will be dealing with over 50 young people who have been identified by partner agencies as the most vulnerable and at risk within the primary schools. It's a partnership of collective organisations which identify the young people to bring to the group and hence additional support beyond universal services is required for each child.

Added Value

The added value provided by Alternative Pathways is that the children who are identified and brought to the AP are seen as the most vulnerable and at risk of engaging in criminal and ASB Gang behaviour. Due to assessment criteria for the young people that are brought to the group on the basis that they require the most urgent intervention and support failing which means there is a real danger that they will become involved in criminality or ASB Gang behaviour in the future. The aim of the group is to target the most vulnerable young people and their families to prevent this from happening, the cost implication for a prolific offender could be around £250,000 or above so if we can prevent this from happening the project will provide significant cost saving and added value in the future.

We are currently working with local community groups in partnership with local primary schools to look at external funding e.g. Lottery, Barclays etc to develop new services in the area of Soho & Victoria, this is to ensure that additional opportunities are available for all YP within the priority area. This funding will help to enhance the work we are doing collectively and demonstrate the real need and success of providing tailored provision to the most hard to reach. Following the initial intervention it is imperative that ongoing support is provided to ensure that Young People are diverted from criminality and along a more productive and

long term "alternative pathway". There is also the development of Community Operation Groups (COG's), who are looking at the AP group as good practice and could potentially bring funding in the future if we continue to show evidence of success in dealing with the most at risk young people. Following the use of the tailored services via this funding, we will be looking to ensure that the young person participates in the universal services that are offered to all young people in the area and hence no further specific funding is required.

SS3: Polish Engagement Project

Background

West Bromwich Town Centre (SWAW) has a large Polish community. Engagement with this community is currently very limited across all partner agencies. The latest figures (Jan 2013) show 104 families who enrolled their Children within the Sandwell Education System resided within SWAW. The 2011 census showed that nearly 8 per cent of SWAW population was Polish and that 19% percent of the population migrated from a EU Country. This figure has increased over the last couple of years and the largest age bracket migrating into the West Bromwich area is the 24-37 age range.

Sadly, stories of exploitation (specifically human trafficking) and vulnerability associated with this migration are being coming more and more apparent. (SWAW already has one alcohol related ASBO in place for a polish national and two more in the pipeline.) Yesterday (16/07/2013) I attended the EU Migration Meeting in Sandwell and it became apparent that the language and cultural barriers are preventing polish nationals from accessing local services and instead they are attending unofficial locations, sometimes flats/private houses, where they are being charged large sums of money to obtain basic advice. (£20 to check or £40 to complete a simple Dr's surgery registration)

Proposal

Together with a wide number of partners (Housing, Gang Masters, SMBC, Health, Education, Swanswell Alcohol Service etc) my aim is to arrange a series of engagement events specifically targeted towards to the polish population. Acting as a "pop up" style Citizens Advice Bureau / social event, agencies will have the services of a polish interpreter present to ensure that the community are able to access the general services/ help they require. The events will take place bi-monthly and at varying times of the day to maximise engagement. Location is yet to be decided but will be a prominent place within the SWAW ward. Advertising will be done via Polish posters placed in prominent Polish Shops and via the schools where the families are enrolled.

The potential for community engagement across the public sector is huge and it is hoped that this pilot project creates a sustained polish reference group for all agencies to access.

Targeted Sandwell Local Policing Plan Objectives

- Improve Trust and Confidence
- Improve the quality of service
- Protect our Communities from Crime and ASB
- Protect our communities from serious organised crime
- Protect vulnerable communities from harm
- Support social prosperity in the region.

Cost

(Interpreter Service quoted is the "Big Word" (sourced via the West Midlands Police Immigration Team)

Interpreter Costs - £38 per hour + £14 per hour travel depending on location = £52

Each Session @ 2 hours = £104

6 x 2 hour sessions = 12 hours = £652

(Should the sessions become popular contingency for a second interpreter for 4 sessions @ £52 = £208)

£300 - promotional material advertising / posters / leaflets

£200 - room hire, unforeseen costs, refreshments etc.

Total Bid = £1500 (All sessions will be completed within this financial year)

SS4: Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Project (MASH)

A MASH is a centre which co-locates safeguarding agencies (and their data) with a view to identifying risks to children at the earliest possible point and responding with the most effective interventions. The creation of a MASH enables the multi-agency safeguarding team to conduct joint confidential assessment, research and referral of vulnerable children. Agencies work together to ensure vulnerable children are identified and properly cared for and protected.

The purpose of the MASH is to deliver the best safeguarding decisions which ensure timely, necessary and proportionate interventions, improving the outcomes for vulnerable children.

The inability of statutory safeguarding agencies to join up the information picture has been subject to persistent criticism and recommendation. The MASH is a direct response to a number of serious case reviews including the Laming report which directly attributed the lack of good information sharing and communication to the subsequent death of a child:

Social care, health and police do not communicate and collaborate routinely and consistently to ensure effective assessment, planning and review of care of vulnerable children and young people.

The MASH is in line with best practice round the safeguarding of children and adults.

The following are considered nationally to be core partners/agencies required to be co-located in the MASH:

- Children's Social Care
- Police
- Health
- Education
- Probation
- Housing
- Youth Offending Service

Categorising some agencies/functions as core is not intended as a limit to further co-location or involvement of other key local partners or specialists from within local organisations.

In Sandwell there is clearly expressed commitment across the professional partnership and the third sector to support the creation and development of Sandwell's MASH. In addition to initial work done by the police and social care, partners in the early intervention service, in health, in probation and in the council's education service have already contributed significantly to the work done to date.

In Sandwell the agreed **Phase 1** (co – location) Partners are:-

- Police (Public Protection Desk)
- Children's Social Care (Initial Screening Team)

- Sandwell Information & Support Service

Phase 2

This will involve an expansion of the initial partners and the establishment of specific MASH processes and 'MASH care pathways' recorded within a dedicated "fire walled" IT environment.

Domestic Violence

Also incorporated within the MASH framework will be domestic violence and abuse incidents screenings. This will include incidents involving children but also those where children are not involved.

There will be three types of multi-agency screening response available within the MASH: a high-level comprehensive information sharing process for high-risk DV or child protection cases; an early help or CiN screening and information sharing process for concerns regarding children that are not DV-related, and do not reach the child protection threshold; and a more targeted DV screening and information sharing response for moderate-risk cases. Different partners within the MASH may be more substantively aligned to either high-level information sharing processes, early help or child in need screening processes, or targeted DV screening and information sharing processes, but will be available to contribute to other screening processes when required. At any point a case could be escalated or de-escalated for different types of screening and information sharing process when the level of risk involved is revealed to be different to that presented (e.g. escalated from targeted DV screening to high-level information sharing).

Management, escalation and dispute resolution processes are being developed to enable appropriate and timely resolution to any partner disagreements on different elements of MASH process or decision making. A performance and quality assurance framework for the MASH is also being developed to enable close monitoring and evaluation of the model initially, and continuous review and development in the longer-term.

From the launch of the MASH all domestic violence notifications issued by the Police will be directed to the MASH for screening. DV notifications involving children which are risk assessed as being Level 1 or Level 2 will be screened by the DV screening team, while DV notifications involving children which are risk assessed as being Level 3 or Level 4 will be subject to high-level information sharing and screening. Following implementation, the MASH and its constituent processes will be carefully monitored by the MASH Operational Board and MASH Project Board. Once satisfied by the performance of the MASH, the ambition is that notifications of DV from other sources (e.g. via Sandwell Women's Aid or via Health) will also be screened through the MASH. However, it is important not to overload the MASH from the outset, and to develop and expand the scope of the MASH incrementally.

A risk assessment will be applied to DV notifications before they are referred to the MASH for screening, but this assessment may be escalated or de-escalated within the MASH following multi-agency information sharing and screening. Dependant on the risk assessment following MASH screening, an appropriate service response will be triggered. These 'pathways' out of the MASH are being mapped presently, and the MASH Operational Board DV Task & Finish Group will also consider potential service gaps, and will feed any recommendations for service commissioning and development into the DASP for consideration and inclusion in the DASP delivery plan.

Furthermore it is imperative that we take the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) to be able to effectively screen and identify risk at the earliest opportunity. Having domestic violence screenings undertaken alongside the MASH would therefore allow the links to be made with relevant partner agencies quickly and efficiently.

Project Objectives

The key objective of this project is the successful establishment of the Sandwell MASH, specifically:

- The co-location of Phase 1 partner agencies;
- Defining service provision within the MASH -
 - Agreed policies and practices within the MASH, including decision making processes and management of MASH
 - Establishment of governance arrangements for MASH
 - Agreement as to the commitment each partner will make to the MASH
 - Information Sharing Protocol signed by all partners working within the MASH
 - Confirmation of the performance monitoring and reporting arrangements for the MASH
- Development of bespoke data storage within Protocol ICS to meet MASH process and security requirements;
- Police, Health and other agencies' ICT systems successfully installed in MASH site;
- Establishing a 'single care pathway' for all referrals into Children's Social Care and agreed protocols for passing responsibility to partner agencies to provide Level 2, 3 & 4 services to address individual children's needs;
- Minimise the impact of the transition on staff;
- Ensure that the transfer is seamless for service users;
- Ensure that the new service delivers an enhanced service to service users through more timely interventions;
- Minimise the cost of the transition.

Benefits Expected

- 'Getting it right first time' leading to earlier work with vulnerable children, improving outcomes for children by reducing escalation of need, and reducing re-referral rates;
- Medium-to-long-term potential for cost savings through reduction in demand for more acute services;
- Minimising costs incurred through re-referral or inappropriate intervention;
- As a result of being co-located and with access to basic information through agencies' databases the MASH should enable a response to be completed in hours and for decisions to be based on better information, in contrast to the current single agency approach;
- Having more information gathered at an earlier stage will assist police and social work teams in their work on child protection cases. For example, police could access research and make use of this in their enquiries.
- In addition, earlier identification of children at risk will provide the opportunity to pursue evidence at an earlier stage;
- Social workers will benefit from having more information before they investigate a case;
- Service user increased satisfaction (less complaints, recognised benefits);
- Increased staff morale as staff feel they are contributing towards success;
- Direct positive impact on staff retention;
- Time delay will be driven out face to face strategy discussions / meetings will be easy to facilitate growth in trust and respect between police, social workers and health colleagues through joint working;
- High quality risk management and critical analysis is more likely;
- Children engaged at times favourable to them will elicit better evidential quality.

Costs

We have a MASH model that has been agreed by the MASH Project Board. We are in the early stages of identifying project costs; at this stage it is envisaged that resources will be required for the following one-off activities:

Description	Cost
*Set-up costs of ICT infrastructure	*£20,000 (approx)
Office accommodation set-up	£4,000
Marketing & training activities	£1,500
**Funding of an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) for 12 months	**£12,500 (funding for 5 months, November 2013 – March 2014, at £2,500 per month)
Total:	£38,000

*ICT costs associated with the project at this time are estimated costs which will change. We continue to work with partner agencies to firm up their ICT requirements for the MASH.

**The 5 month funding required for an IDVA post would be a one-off cost for the remainder of the financial year.

It is envisaged that other costs would be incurred through time spent by existing staff from other agencies (either co-located or virtual) and additional MASH staff (e.g. business support); however these costs are also unknown at this stage. Once modelling work has been completed (anticipated 30 August 2013) this information should be available.

The project should deliver on a spend to save basis. Organisations that have a MASH in place recognise that it has the potential to deliver medium-to-long-term cost savings through reduction in demand for more acute services. By increasing input earlier in the process should reduce the need for services later on. Further areas with the potential for costs savings are very briefly detailed in the benefits section above.

Project Timescales

The MASH will be implemented and go live on 14 November 2013.

SS5 Rights and Equality Sandwell - Development of a User-led Reference Group

Background

Rights and Equality Sandwell (RES) formed in 2003 has a proactive outreach approach providing peer support for communities and their representative organisations to gain confidence in developing interactions with diverse stakeholders. RES aims to improve the quality of life for all Sandwell residents and acts to improve cohesion, equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination. RES holds regular meetings with service providers, equality and inclusion leads and community organisations and representatives to discuss subjects of concern.

Initiative Aims

This proposal aims to build on the Community Safety Engagement component of the Safer Sandwell Board that identifies various arrangements for connecting with local communities, such as neighbourhood forums, tenants and residents associations, Town Area Panels and working alongside community organisations, etc.

Specifically, this initiative identifies service users as key stakeholders in crime prevention and community safety work. The focus will be to support effective service user participation in improving services and in the culture and attitudes of the agencies and staff who deliver those services. A key component of these discussions will be to develop user-led perspectives in service development, provision and evaluation. The starting point is to identify and support a network of people selected from user-groups to have a local, user-led, bottom-up approach to supporting practitioners and service development. Developing dialogue and community conversations between service practitioners and user-led participation will provide person centred perspectives of a small locality and will be immensely helpful in highlighting 'hot' neighbourhood issues, and so adds a layer of data simply not available through statistical analysis.

Methodology

RES will coordinate activity to support service users as partners interacting with professionals at front-line service delivery level. The aim would be to involve people in mapping and feedback of services. This will be achieved by providing user-led awareness training and engaging front-line delivery staff with service users in participation strategies. We will pilot the initiative in geographical areas and communities where the data sources identify specific concerns relating to service provision and profiling of communities. RES will meet with a number of key agencies with a remit for developing equality analysis of user data that is already available and use this as a basis for which community concerns can be measured. In particular, a key focus will be to develop partnerships and new ways of working by forging relationships between front-line staff with people who have often been marginalised. Some of the local agencies we will work with include:

- SMBC
- Public health teams
- Police, probation and youth justice services
- Other relevant local agencies with a crime prevention and community safety brief.

This will provide an overview of the data available on the local population, its strengths and weaknesses, and the extent to which user-led participation can close gaps and remove on-going concerns. User-led perspectives can improve the link between data analysis, service provision and community perspectives.

RES will provide the user led reference group with knowledge and support to empower them to participate through:

- Training - we will provide training materials in user friendly formats
- Mentoring
- Supervision
- Support during the participation initiative
- Final/end of project support in utilising the skills they have learned signposting to other arrangements where their skills can be utilised

RES staff has a good mix of skills and experience in addressing the needs of communities and service providers. In this initiative we will develop content as the project progresses and tailor it to the overarching principles of the SSPB, and supporting Sandwell's communities through the provision of:

- Interviewing and qualitative research
- Peer research and participatory methods
- Work with marginalised and hard-to-reach communities
- Statistical analysis
- Training
- Consultation work
- Stakeholder interviewing

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Reporting
- Action planning

Activity

We will support the user-led reference group to develop awareness of the dynamics of interaction between institutions, professionals and service users. Through user-led participation we can achieve a significant impact on influencing mainstream structures and existing ideologies through formal consultation measures and service development. Addressing issues of language, sharing expertise and challenging assumptions on the sides of both the professionals and population groups can facilitate healthier discussions to be heard, and to drive forward positive impacts.

Developing representative and varied participation approaches to engage service users can also help to reach those who are thought to be hard to reach. We will ensure that we manage conflicts and expectations in given circumstances – such as, limited funds, service remits and so on. We will also focus on ensuring the diversity of service users are represented across age, gender, disability, religion or belief, ethnicity and sexuality. The challenge is to creatively engage marginalised groups into positive social discourse with service providers.

Capacity building is a core objective of the project. We would build this into a number of different elements of the project.

- The knowledge and skills gained through the project which has a long term benefit for the individuals involved, and in building the capacity of community itself. Individuals from the user-led reference group will be able to speak with authority to and for the community on service development, provision and analysis of data sets and the ways in which these can support (or detract from) community service provision.
- The potential of the user-led representatives to cascade techniques learned, information gathered, knowledge gained and skills acquired, to other parts of their respective and other communities of interest.
- Individuals will be able to communicate effectively to stakeholders, service providers and others the needs and aspirations of the community from a position of evidence-based knowledge.
- As part of the consultation processes’ emerging from this work it is anticipated that new networks will be created which may cross a range of divides. These may be geographical or related to the protected characteristics identified above.
- Resources will be concentrated on support for the user-led reference group and their longer term community usage and development

Activity Plan	
2013-2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In conjunction with SSP Identify and approach groups and individuals to become part of user-led reference group network (representatives to include: ex offenders - Probation, victims of crime, drug and alcohol users – SDAP, Young people) and identify front-line staff to support with engagement activity 2. Capacity building work with individuals to develop individual skills and to form the user-led reference group 3. Develop network of service practitioners and users/individuals that can be part of the forum/consultative body 4. Co-ordinate and hold meetings between agencies and the reference group to drive forward positive impacts 5. Report back to the quarterly SSP meetings progress and issues 6. Enable the reference group to feed into SSP, as appropriate

	<p>7. Assess effectiveness of group after agreed period of time</p> <p>8. Utilise skills developed by individuals into further research and monitoring activities</p>
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Key outcomes

This work will achieve the objective of community capacity building through training and supporting a group of service-users to build confidence and undertake locally based interactions and leading to mapping and monitoring of service provision. The profiles of the service users will reflect the population diversity in the targeted geographical localities. It is important that as wide a variety of perspectives be offered through the user-led reference group.

Developing shared understanding and trust takes time, however developing a focus between front-line practitioners and the user led-reference group can achieve positive outcomes in promoting service development and cascading prevention messages to people on the ground through the user-led reference group.

The following core outcomes are expected from this initiative:

- User led community development work
- Valuing user expertise and involvement
- Working in partnerships
- Bottom up change

The SSP will benefit in the following ways:

- Building relationships and engaging with individuals and groups that the SSP may not necessarily engage with
- Establishment of representative user led network to support quality improvement of services
- Exchange of better information of how individuals experience services and monitoring impacts
- Develop messages for policy and practice
- Support change, development and participation at individual level
- Demonstrate organisational commitment and responsiveness
- Improved focus on marginalised groups and diversity

Costing

- Identify, map and scope geographical areas and communities where the data sources identify specific concerns relating to service provision and profiling of communities
- Development and capacity building of user-led reference group
- Chair and administer forum bringing together service practitioners and user groups
- Reporting and evaluation of activities
- Venue hire
- Travel and subsistence incentives for users where appropriate

Total £8,000