



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive

Date: 19 December 2013

Victims' Services Grant Funding

1. Purpose

1.1 This report provides an outline of funding made available in-year to Police and Crime Commissioners in order to prepare for the local commissioning of victims' services and take forward restorative justice.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To accept the grant offer of £299,570k in order to create the necessary infrastructure for local commissioning of victims' services and take forward the development of restorative justice.

3. MoJ Grant Funding

3.1 The Ministry of Justice announced in November 2013 they would be making funds available to PCCs to:

- build RJ capacity in the area and, where capacity is sufficient, fund RJ activity;
- build the capacity and capability of the wider Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise support providers in advance of local commissioning; and
- prepare for local commissioning.

3.2 Grant funding for the commissioning of services will be provided to Police and Crime Commissioners by the MoJ under powers given to the Secretary of State by section 56 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act (2004). This provides that the SoS may: "pay such grants to such persons as he considers appropriate in connection with measures which appear to him to be intended to assist victims,

witnesses or other persons affected by offences". The government is currently taking forward legislation to provide PCCs with clear powers to provide or commission a wide range of services for victims, witnesses and others affected by offences.

4. Taking forward support for victims in Cambridgeshire

4.1 The Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board's (CCJB) Victims and Witnesses Subgroup (made up of representatives from the statutory and non-statutory sectors) has been working to understand existing landscape of support provision for victims and shape its future direction through a Strategic Vision of Support for Victims in Cambridgeshire. The group is also looking at the implementation of the new Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

4.2 The strategy is currently out for consultation and was considered at the November BCB. Cambridgeshire County Council is already providing commissioning support to the OPCC to ensure that all organisations commissioning plans align as the strategy is taken forward.

4.3 In order to support the local implementation of this strategy Cambridgeshire has sought support from the MoJ to move forward with early local commissioning of victim support referral mechanism. The aim of the pilot will be to test out a 'Victim Hub' (One Stop Shop) approach, bringing together police and victims' services into a single gateway to triage victims of crime. The Hub would test out a number of different contact methods and approaches, to identify which are the most effective. More details of this approach will be brought to a future BCB.

4.4 There is support for this approach both locally, from the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board's (CCJB) Victims and Witnesses Subgroup, and regionally from OsPCC who recognise the pilot outcomes will contribute to the development of a regional solution to the provision of referral services for victims.

4.5 The Constabulary has identified DCI Kevin Vanterpool as the Single Point of Contact (SPoC) to work with the Victim and Witnesses sub-group and the Eastern Region Victims Group to develop the pilot.

5. Restorative Justice

5.1 Significant work has been undertaken within the Constabulary to promote the use of professional judgement in respect to restorative justice. There are also innovative local authority led restorative justice projects.

5.2 A new Criminal Justice Board Offender Subgroup is developing an offender strategy which will explore how restorative justice can be used to both prevent offending in the first place and promote desistance. A report will be brought to a future BCB setting out next steps with this agenda.

6. Grant agreement

6.1 The grant agreement stipulates particular conditions for managing the grant. In line with its objectives as set out in para 3.1. Monitoring information on how the grant is spent should be submitted by June 30, 2014. There is no requirement to have spent the sum of the grant by the end of this financial year.

7. The grant funding will allow all parties to identify, plan and commission the necessary work required in order to deliver the pilot referral service for October 2014, prepare for local commissioning of services and development of restorative justice.

8. Recommendation

8.1 To accept the grant offer of £299,570k in order to create the necessary infrastructure for local commissioning of victims' services and take forward the development of restorative justice.