



**Lancashire
Constabulary**

police and communities together

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

DECISION 35/2016

DATE: 8 DECEMBER 2016

TITLE: VOLUNTEER POLICE CADETS SCHEME

REPORT BY: IAN DICKINSON

Executive Summary

The National Citizen Service (NCS) was established to engage young people (15 -17 year olds) in social action in their communities and the democratic process, building their understanding of their responsibilities as citizens and build skills for work and life.

This report seeks the Police and Crime Commissioner's approval to enable the Constabulary to fund and include the National Citizen Service Programme in to the new Senior Cadet Programme.

Recommendations

That the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to allocate £7,800 to enable Lancashire Constabulary to write the National Citizen Service Programme into the new Senior Cadet Programme as set out in the report now presented.

Signature

Police and Crime Commissioner

Date

8th December 2016

1. Background and Advice

Lancashire Constabulary currently have 500 Volunteer Police Cadets aged 13-18. The Cadets currently work to a curriculum (national workbook) which forms the basis of some of the class inputs however the main emphasis is around work they undertake in the community. This work currently consists of assisting at local fetes, sponsored events, open days and marshalling in the main. The cadets are also currently offered the opportunity of completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award which involves an expedition, however not all cadets take up this opportunity.

Officers from Lancashire Constabulary have recently done some work with the older cadets aged 16-18 about the changes they would like to see to the programme to enable them to move on post cadets. Some of the suggestions have been around applying for jobs, managing money, improving self-confidence and public speaking skills. Accordingly, Lancashire Constabulary, with the support of the Commissioner, sought funding from the National Citizen Service to undertake an initiative to meet these identified needs.

The initiative comprised of 3 parts.

Part 1 - The first phase will be a residential experience. During this residential the young people will be tested physically and mentally with a variety of challenging outdoor activities. They will be required to mix with other young people and work as a team with a chance to reflect on lessons learned at the end of the weekend.

Part 2 - The second phase will take place either at Force Headquarters or at Divisional Headquarters but will follow a set timetable over 3 or 4 days. It will include practical inputs from Department of Work and Pensions and Santander Bank in relation to budgeting and managing money. Inputs from careers advisors in relation to interview technique and completing application forms. There will then be inputs and group discussions with key local businesses through the Chamber of Commerce, charities, rotary clubs and community members. These inputs will focus on current significant community issues which the cadets will be able to get involved with in phase 3. Such guest speakers will be from disability groups, transgender awareness, dementia friends, Neighbourhood Watch etc with a view to doing work around peer education projects. The cadets will also meet victims of crime and investigating officers with a view to doing some work around crime hotspots. It is hoped that in Phase 2 the young people will be given a whistle stop tour of various agencies and partners within their home communities and some of the problems that they face so that they can work together as a team, choose their own area of interest and a relevant project which will improve the area in which they live and encourage them to take responsibility for their community.

Part 3 - The final phase is the social action phase. This will be done within cadet units on cadet nights and at weekends. The teams of young people taking part will work together to choose a community project that they would like to work on and meet regularly with one another and the intended beneficiaries to work on the project, create a plan and look to raise any necessary funds through traditional fundraising and crowd funding. Each team will have a cadet leader and or Rotary Club member as a mentor to provide guidance and keep the young people on track. Once the plan is in place the cadets will put their project into action within the community. At the end of their project the young

people will be asked to present their project to other cadet units, chief officers and the Commissioner.

Unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful. However, the Commissioner indicated that should this be the case then he would be minded to fund the initiative from the Commissioner's budget.

There will be further opportunities in the New Year for Lancashire Constabulary to make a further bid to the NCS to become a pathfinder provider however success is not guaranteed.

However, all young people aged 15-17 are able to apply online to do NCS; we currently have 156 cadets in that age group. Should a young person apply direct to NCS then the cost to them is no more than £50 each as the remainder is subsidised by the government.

Proposal

If Lancashire Constabulary undertook the initiative 'in house' as set out above the cost would be in the region of £44,800.

The main cost will be the week activity centre. The other costs would be arranging the community speakers, staffing the events and the project team meetings and volunteering.

Alternatively, if Lancashire Constabulary do not become a provider but write it in to the new Senior Cadet Programme enabling all cadets of the appropriate age to have the opportunity to complete the NCS funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner the cost would be in the region of £7,800.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

The initiative supports the Commissioners objective to protect local policing by enhancing the skills of the police volunteer cadets and growing the Citizens in Policing Programme.

3. Consultation

4. Implications

a. Legal

None to consider.

b. Financial

The programme will be funded from with the Police and Crime Commissioner's budget.

c. Equality considerations

None to consider.

5. Background Papers

6. Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.

Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.

Officer declaration	Date
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above	
CONSULTATION – As above	
Director to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Monitoring Officer) I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire. Signature.....Date.....	