

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE



REPORT ON THE ALLOCATION 2020-2021 FUNDING:

- **POLICE SURGE GRANT**
- **VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT GRANT**
- **COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND**

BACKGROUND

The Home Office has provided grant funding for the financial year 2020-21 for the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner from both the Police Surge Grant Fund, for police led activities to prevent, enforce and investigate serious violence, and from the Violence Reduction Grant Fund to continue funding the delivery of a local Violence Reduction Unit, in Lancashire identified as the Violence Reduction Network.

Whilst the Police Surge Funding is exclusively for use by the Constabulary the funding application for this was a combined application with the Violence Reduction Unit Grant with the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (VRN) being responsible for completing and submitting the single application.

The application to both funds was approved by the Home Office subject only to minor clarifications to the VRN Partnership Board membership.

The level of funding allocated is determined by the position of the Lancashire Constabulary area in rankings based on the hospital admissions data for injury with a sharp object as recorded in 2015/16 and 2017/18.

VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT GRANT

The Grant allocated in 2020/21 is £1,160,000.

The grant is used to support the core Violence Reduction Network Team, the VRN Office and to provide funding for a number of programmes that support the aims and outcomes of the VRN detailed in the Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy.

The grant conditions require that the VRN will review and update the Serious Violence Needs Assessment and Strategy (produced in 2019/20), provide an annual report with longer term sustainability plans to be submitted in January 2021, and undertake an evaluation of a number of the programmes developed by the VRN.

There is also a requirement that no less than 20% of the grant is to be spent on direct interventions. In 2019/20 the VRN allocated just under 45% of the budget to direct interventions and the proposed programme for 2020-21 would see just under 46% of the budget used for direct interventions.

Direct interventions currently being delivered by the VRN include the DIVERT Programme, Accident & Emergency Navigators and parenting support through the EPEC and Caring Dads Programmes. Further work with prisoners and their families and work focussed on victims of exploitation is due to commence in the near future.

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POLICE SURGE GRANT

The Grant allocated in 2020/21 is £1,189,610.

This grant is allocated under three categories as follows:

- Prevention and Enforcement in Hotspot Areas (Location Targeting)
- Intelligence and Targeting (of individuals and groups)
- Investigative Response

The additional category of Equipment and Technical Resources which was included in the 2019/20 Grant has not been included this year with a resulting reduction in the overall level of grant available.

The Lancashire proposals detailed in Appendix B allocated the funding as follows:

- Prevention and Enforcement £642,657
- Intelligence and Targeting £232,163
- Investigative Response £314,790

Whilst responsibility for delivery against this grant is the Constabulary's, four key areas of work have been identified which would be best delivered in partnership through the local Community Safety Partnerships:

1. Prevention and Enforcement Surge Activity

This should include additional prevention activity that may take place as a result of a major/serious incident, activity utilising the knife arches, knife wands, knife bins etc., stop and search or any other additional activity that will support the aims of prevention or enforcement in relation to serious violence.

2. Targeted Interventions – Individuals and Groups

This could support existing Operations such as Op Consequences or be used to supported other targeted interventions.

3. Child Exploitation Teams

The VRN recognises that serious violence has strong links to Child Exploitation and this budget should be used to specifically target both/either victims or offenders.

4. Children & Young People Engagement and Support

This funding should be used to support police led engagement and support for young people and could be used to support a specific post. The activity supported with this funding should also support the use of the mobile Youth Vans/Police Station vehicles that have recently become available.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (CSP)

The PCC has a responsibility to work with CSPs in delivering shared priorities that support the issues and concerns identified by the Community Safety Assessment and by the PCC. CSPs will also be required to deliver the Serious Violence Duty that will be placed on them and a number of public sector organisations once legislation has been approved by the government.

This report proposes that funding allocated to the CSPs by the PCC should be used for projects or programmes proposed by the CSP for the funding should be able to evidence how that they that will support one or more of the Commissioner's priorities;

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Protecting Local Policing, Supporting Victims and Vulnerable People, Tackling Crime and Reoffending and Developing Safe and Confident Communities along with one or more of the four Violence Reduction Network priority areas outlined above. The OPCC, the Violence Reduction Network and the CSPs will work together to agree outcomes for programmes and projects and the measure to be used to evaluate their impact and effectiveness. This will improve monitoring of the current funding as well as develop a more robust evidence base for future funding and co-commissioning work between the PCC, VRN and the CSPs.

The ambition is for Community Safety Partnerships to work in partnership with the Police to tackle serious violence and the VRN has offered to support the OPCC in assessing the suitability of submissions from the CSPs to ensure that they fit the criteria and support the wider outcomes of the Serious Violence Strategy.

To enable the CSPs to better address the issues of serious violence, with a particular focus on prevention work targeted at young people it is proposed that the level of funding available for each District Local Authority area in 2020/2021 is raised from £10,000 to £20,000. This will enable the district level CSPs to take a more ambitious approach to tackling serious violence and, working with the VRN and the OPCC have the potential to deliver significant change at a local level.

Funding levels for the two unitary areas will remain the same as in 2019-20 with £70,000 allocated to Blackburn with Darwen and £91,000 allocated to Blackpool.

Proposals submitted by the CSP would be considered jointly by the OPCC and the VRN before a recommendation is made in a formal decision report to the PCC.