



PCC DECISION

REF: 2019/008

Decision Title: Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Units 2019/20 – funding allocation and approach

Decision summary:

To approve the funding allocation and OPCC approach to the introduction of Violence Reduction Units in 2019/20 across Avon and Somerset, following the award of a Home Office grant of £1.16m for this purpose.

Background or reference to supporting papers:

On 17 June 2019 the Home Office invited the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner to put forward a proposal for £1.16m to introduce a Violence Reduction Unit in Avon and Somerset for the 2019/20 financial year. This allocation from the government's £100m Serious Violence Fund was calculated on a tiered basis, reflecting levels of serious violence in the force area (based on hospital admissions for sharp object assault data).

Prior to this the OPCC, Constabulary and partners had undertaken the following preparatory work:

- Multi-agency Visits to Glasgow VRU
- PCC investment in Operation Remedy (April 2019)
- Serious Violence Summit (May 2019)
- Commissioned a Behavioural Insights Team (BIT) to produce a report on Serious Violence in Avon and Somerset (Summer 2019)

The deadline for returning proposals was the 8 July 2019. Based on what had been learnt from the above steps, the OPCC decided to devolve the funding to the five local authority areas to account for the different levels and nature of serious violence in each area as well as crucially, broader opportunities for prevention and early intervention. Recognising the transient nature of offending and victimisation the PCC required bordering areas to work together where there is intelligence to suggest that this is required. This localised approach was informed by the findings from the report by the Behavioural Insights Team Report. It also supported a public health model by being informed by local need and supporting prevention and early intervention opportunities.

Allocations were based on:

- Population
- Recorded Serious Violent Crime (March 2018- March 2019)

Area	%	Funding
Bath and North East Somerset	10%	£114,884
Bristol	37%	£424,389
North Somerset	12%	£143,582
Somerset	31%	£362,225
South Gloucestershire	10%	£114,920
AVON AND SOMERSET	100%	£1,160,000

In line with Home Office Guidance Local Authorities, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and the relevant Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were invited to put forward proposals and senior stakeholders from those organisations were required to sign off the bid. There were 19 signatories to the final bid, demonstrating the breadth of partnership engagement in the process. Numerous other partners were also involved in the development and will be part of the delivery of the VRUs.

The Avon and Somerset proposal was submitted on time to the Home Office and was subsequently approved on the 9 August 2019 following a clarification process. Work has since commenced to introduce VRUs.

The Avon and Somerset Model consists of a **Strategic Group with Five local VRUs** as follows:

Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Strategic Governance Group

This group will:

- Give strategic direction for the development of the Avon and Somerset VRUs, avoiding duplication with other work streams
- Provide coordination across VRU activity where required
- Ensure that the VRUs follow a public health approach
- Oversee performance and delivery of VRUs
- Ensure that delivery is informed by Behavioural Insights Team (BIT) Report on Serious Violence in Avon and Somerset.
- Ensure compliance with Home Office reporting requirements
- Seek to understand and resolve issues that require force-wide resolution or are strategic systems change / infrastructure issues e.g. data/intelligence sharing arrangements/agreements - the group will assist to allow for effective local delivery.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Role</u>
Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)	Chair
Office of the PCC Chief Executive Officer Senior Commissioning and Policy	To advise the PCC, coordinate Strategic Group including submission of Home Office returns and support effective partnership working.

Officer Commissioning and Policy Officer	
Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)	Constabulary Gold Lead for Serious Violence - strategic policing input and alignment to other operational work e.g. Op Remedy.
Public Health (PH) England South West Deputy Centre Director, Deputy Director for HCPH, Public Health England, South West Centre	To ensure a Public Health model is followed e.g. provide links to academic research, support the development of health indicators, use of evidence based practice, advise local PH teams.
Education Somerset Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH) Executive Officer	To support and advise on education engagement in tackling serious violence.
Clinical Commissioning Group Director of Transformation NHS Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire CCG	To support and advise on health engagement in tackling serious violence.
Representatives from each of the five VRUs: 1. South Gloucestershire (LA, Community Safety) 2. BANES (LA, YOT) 3. North Somerset (LA, Community Safety) 4. Bristol (LA, Children and Families) 5. Somerset (LA, Director of Public Health)	To feedback on local delivery: performance, risk, issues and share good practice / lessons learnt.

Local Violence Reduction Units

A range of local stakeholders selected according to Home Office guidance, local priorities and arrangements will come together to oversee local delivery. In the main, local proposals from the five areas consist of **coordination**, delivery of the year one priorities (**problem profile** and **response strategy**) and a range of **interventions**.

Area	Brief Overview of VRU
BANES	A coordinator will work with partners delivering the key deliverables linked to an Exploitation sub-group. There will be a focus on CYP engagement.
South Gloucestershire	A coordinator will work with partners delivering the key deliverables and as part of the contextual safeguarding process to identify those at risk. A range of interventions

	including mentoring will be available.
North Somerset	A coordinator will work with partners delivering the key deliverables with the focus being on Weston-super-Mare, expanding on existing work and interventions.
Bristol	VRU funding is expanding the existing multi-agency Safer Options Team in East-Central Bristol to the North and South of the City.
Somerset	A multi-agency team will deliver the work of the VRU reporting to Safer Somerset CSP. The Missing and Vulnerable to Exploitation (MAVE) process will be used to identify those at risk and allocate support / interventions.

In October 2019 the Home Office and OPCC signed a grant agreement underpinning this funding arrangement, followed by subsequent local agreements with the five areas.

Avon and Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any declarations of disclosable interest in this matter. Any such interests are disclosed.

The above request has my approval.

Sue Mountstevens

Date

6/11/19..

Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset

CFO Signatures

(OCC CFO required if decision requested or presented for approval by Constabulary)

Date

6/11/2019

[Signature]

PCC CFO

OCC CFO

Other relevant lead officer as required
(e.g PCC CEO, COG lead)

Date

10/11/19

CEO

J. SMITH

[Signature]

Job title

name

signature