

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 8
2nd December 2020	Public Report

Report of Acting Police and Crime Commissioner

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EARLY INTERVENTION YOUTH FUND – OUTCOME MONITORING

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) with a headline evaluation report on the Safe Team which is hosted and run by the county’s Youth Offending Service. The report also provides the context of the current operation of the project.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to note the report.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 Item 6 – to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of the Commissioner’s functions.

Item 8 - To support the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In April 2018 the Government published its Serious Violence Strategy (the “Strategy”) setting out plans to respond to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide. The Strategy committed to create an Early Intervention Youth Fund (the “Fund”). The aims of the Fund included delivering services to support and prevent young people from getting involved in crime by supporting positive activities; driving improved multi-agency partnership working; and reducing the levels of serious violence and crime.
- 4.2 Applications for the Fund had to be submitted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), however the Fund was granted to the county’s Youth Offending Service to act as project lead.
- 4.3 The project ensures young people identified as at moderate or significant risk of exploitation are allocated a trusted worker who will work with them consistently even if they are transitioning between other Local Authority Services. The workers support young people by using a trauma informed model of intervention and contextual safeguarding approaches. The work is overseen by an experienced clinical psychologist who provides structured plans for the workers.
- 4.4 The ultimate aim is to help young people recognise the risk they are at, and develop safe plans to avoid them becoming involved in serious youth violence and exploitation. The interventions will also help the young people to understand their previous and current experiences and make positive steps for the future.

4.5 The Home Office funding was awarded in July 2019 and ran until April 2020. To enable the project to run for a full year the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner (the “Acting Commissioner”) committed a further £90k.

5. CURRENT GOVERNANCE

5.1 The Joint Youth Justice Management Board (the “Management Board”) acts as the main governance mechanism for the Safe Team receiving regular reports on this work. Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s Assistant Chief Constable is Chair of this Board which is attended by the OPCC’s Acting Chief Executive.

5.2 The attached report (at Appendix 1) sets out the outcomes achieved by the Safe Team to date. The report was submitted to the Management Board on 3rd November 2020, and was also presented to the Acting Commissioner at a meeting on 10th November 2020.

6 FUTURE OF SAFE TEAM

6.1 The OPCC has contributed to a local authority led piece of work to develop an Early Help and Vulnerable Adolescent Needs Assessment and subsequent strategy. This will be key to informing future funding decisions by all partners.

6.2 The Safe Project secured additional funds from the local authority and The Freemans in Huntingdon in 2020. This will enable the work to continue until June 2021.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Serious Violence Strategy, HM Government, April 2018

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/serious-violence-strategy.pdf>

8. APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Safe Quarterly Report Headline Summary October 2020