

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL	Agenda Item No. 7
15th November 2021	Public Report

Report of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

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POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S APPROACH TO COMMISSIONING AND GRANTS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share with the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel (the “Panel”) details of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (the “Commissioner”) approach to commissioning and grants.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Panel is recommended to note the contents of this 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.

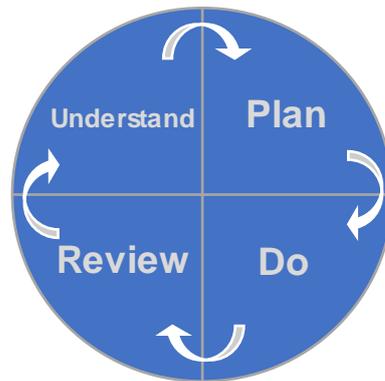
4. BACKGROUND & LEGISLATION

- 4.1 The Commissioner is required to produce a Police and Crime Plan (“the Plan”) which sets out how he will deliver against his statutory role set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the “Act”) and the responsibility to put in place support services for victims of crime.
- 4.2 The Plan sets a number of objectives which enable him to deliver his statutory role in a way which reflects the local landscape and the views of the people who live and work in the county.
- 4.3 The approach taken to commissioning and grants has to enable the Commissioner to award funding, from a range of sources, in an agile and responsive way to organisations which help him achieve these objectives. This is also particularly important when the Commissioner acts as ‘grant sponsor’ on behalf of partnership bids to central government funds and receives the funding. The approach allows the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) staff to ensure it is quickly awarded to the recipients named in the bid with the appropriate outcome monitoring and governance in place.
- 4.4 The approach has been developed within the broader framework of the ‘Financial Regulations for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioners’ (including Contract Standing Orders) which was published in May 2020.
- 4.5 The Act states that a Police and Crime Commissioner can provide crime and disorder reduction grants:
- to any person
 - for securing, or contributing to securing, crime and disorder reduction
 - and can make grants subject to any conditions

4.6 Police and Crime Commissioners were given responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime in 2014 along with an annual grant. An amendment to section 56 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 allows for this.

5. THE APPROACH

5.1 The Cambridgeshire OPCC take a 'commissioning approach' which is underpinned and guided by the four stages in the **Commissioning Cycle**. This continuous cycle of action and improvement is followed, in a proportionate manner, for every funding award made. For example, this process may take up to six months for a £1m contract, but may be a few conversations for a £2k Youth Fund Award.



There are key actions to be carried out within each phase of the cycle which are detailed below.

5.2 UNDERSTAND

- We will develop a **clear evidence-base of need** - through local needs assessments, engagement with the public, potential service users and partners and mapping of existing provision to prevent duplication.
- We will clearly set out the **outcomes to be achieved** and consider if a new service is required or whether an existing service could be re-commissioned or enhanced to deliver the same outcomes.
- We will work in **partnership** with other agencies trying to deliver the same outcomes and explore if a **co-commissioning** arrangement with a **pooled budget** could lead to a more joined up service provision and deliver economies of scale.
- We will consider how a new service or provision might be co-dependant on other agencies and will ensure there are **seamless pathways** between them.
- We will ensure all support services for victims of crime are victim-focused and led and responsive to their needs.
- We will support and encourage early intervention and preventative ideas.

PLAN

- We will ensure **equitable countywide provision** of services (unless funding is being awarded to a small area to respond to a bespoke local need).
- Where possible we will provide opportunities for service users, potential providers and partner agencies to **co-design** services or feedback on service specifications and will support innovation.
- We will develop **outcome measures** in consultation with the provider to enable them to show they are meeting the identified need and delivering the required outcomes.

- We will proactively seek to enhance local service provision by leading/ supporting applications to new funding streams.

DO

- We will support the use of **local suppliers** and recognise the added value provided by local third sector service providers.
- We will adhere to the local Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders in cases where multiple providers could deliver a pre-planned for service. This sets out:
 - £0-£5,000 – one written quote
 - £5,000 - £50,000 – three written quotes
 - £50,000 and above – competitive tender
- We will ensure equality of opportunity **by transparently** advertising all open funding opportunities on our website on the EU Supply Portal where the contract value exceeds £50,000. The funding envelope and quality vs cost split will be clearly shown.
- We will hold **Market Engagement** events where they add value.
- We will only use **Single Tender Agreements** - where a single provider has been proven to deliver the best outcomes for the service or where a bid has been developed in partnership.
- We will ensure an independent member sits on all **tender evaluation** panels. Service users will be invited to engage in the process where possible.
- We will endeavour to **award multi-year contracts** recognising that short-term funding destabilises providers and makes it challenging to recruit into posts.

REVIEW (Contract Management)

- We will ensure outcome reporting is **proportionate** to the size of the funding awarded – as a minimum all recipients will be required to submit a six-monthly monitoring return to demonstrate how the funding is delivering the agreed outcomes.
- We will invite all recipients of funding over £10k to a **six-monthly monitoring** (three monthly for victim services) meeting and maintain two-way dialogue so emerging issues on either side can be flagged and collaboratively addressed before they impact upon the delivery of outcomes.
- We will **listen to, and consider the views** of service users and partners.
- We will support all victim support services to **share learning and best practice** by arranging regular Provider Forums.
- We will **de-commission** services which are shown not to be meeting their outcomes or the needs of service users. This will be done in partnership with the provider and appropriate risk assessments will be carried out.

Funding is awarded as either a grant, contract or contribution to a co-commissioned contract or through a paid invoice.

6. THE RESOURCES

6.1 The Commissioner has access to a number of funding streams from which awards can be made which contribute to the delivery of the objectives within the Plan.

This includes:

- an annual grant from the **Ministry of Justice** to fund services for **victims of crime** (this is often bolstered by bid-for funds in-year);
- additional bid for funding from the **Home Office** – such **Safer Streets Funding** and the Devolved Rape Support Funds;
- a **Crime and Disorder Reduction Fund** – this has to be taken from the main police grant and a third funds Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s statutory contributions to partnership working. This leaves two thirds to be allocated. Many awards are historic in nature and fund ongoing services which need to be regularly reviewed. Difficult decisions have to be made based on whether they are proven to reduce crime and disorder (and are the police’s statutory responsibility), contribute towards delivery of the Plan and/or reduce police demand. Every single penny we award through crime and disorder grants is another penny not available for policing. This is why we follow the approach – we ask for evidence of how something is making a difference; we ask for proof of the ‘so what’; we bring recipients in show the difference they are making.
- a **Casualty Reduction and Support Reserve** – which can only be used for activities which prevent road crashes and **promote road safety**; and
- a **Youth Fund** and a **Community Fund** – which is available to Community Safety Partnerships.

Details of all awards made from each of these funds are available on the Commissioner’s website and will be shared in the Commissioner’s Annual Report.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents>

‘Financial Regulations for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioners (including Contract Standing Orders)’, May 2020

cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/Combined-Financial-Regulations-May-2020-reviewed.doc

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

[Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)

Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)