



DECISION PAPER

DECISION: 2019/36	DATE: 13TH DECEMBER 2019
TITLE: VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT – DIVERT PROGRAMME FUNDING FOR 2020-21	
REPORT BY: ROBERT RUSTON – VRU PROGRAMME MANAGER	

Executive Summary

In summer the Government announced funding for Lancashire for a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which must be spend by March 2020. It is not yet known if further funding will be available from the Government in 2020/21 for the VRU. This paper requests agreement to fund 8 coaching posts temporarily for 12 months so as to aid recruitment pending a formal notification of funding for 202/21.

Recommendation

The Commissioner is recommended to fund the temporary establishment of 4 fulltime and 4 part time coach posts up to £150K

The Commissioner is asked to note that the recruitment of these posts represents a partial budget pressure that is expected to be met through additional funding from the government in 2020/21 and that if funding is not provided provision within the revenue budget for 2020/21 will need to be made.

Signature

Police and Crime Commissioner

Date

13th December 2019

PART II

1. Background

- 1.1 Over the summer of 2019, Lancashire was awarded £1.12m for the establishment and running of violence reduction unit (VRU). This was in addition to the £1.82m Lancashire was awarded from the knife crime fund.
- 1.2 The VRU money must be spent by the 31st of March 2020. In addition the PCC as accountable body, must ensure that a problem profile has been created along with an action plan for moving forward. The whole approach must be evidence based.
- 1.3 The Violence Reduction Unit is a long term initiative which will bring together Lancashire Constabulary, councils, health and education professionals, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime.
- 1.4 It will be delivered through a multi-agency team focussed on interventions for individuals and/or communities to divert them away from involvement in violence, including, but not exclusively, knife crime. It will also support the delivery of interventions in education environments including Pupil Referral Units, with those excluded from education and those being home educated.
- 1.5 The Divert Programme is one of the key work streams of the Violence Reduction Unit, providing Custody Coaches in each of the Constabulary's Custody Suites across the force area. The Custody Coaches are employed by Football Club Community Trusts in the various areas of Lancashire which provides access to additional support activities to divert offenders into. (See Appendix A for further details)
- 1.6 Through the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funding, money is available with immediate effect, to be used to cover the costs of recruiting, training and equipment for 4 full time and 4 part-time Coaches, and to cover salary costs until 31st March 2020. However, to enable the Community Trusts to be confident to employ staff into these roles they are seeking funding beyond March 2020 for a further 9 months – providing the opportunity to offer a 12 month contract to prospective staff.
- 1.7 As indicated above, the Government has allocated Lancashire one-off in nature for financial year 2019/20 and no firm commitment on the level of funding to be provided in 2020/21 has been made.
- 1.8 The request to the Commissioner is to effectively underwrite the amount required to cover the cost of salaries for a period of 9 months – i.e. April to December 2020 up to a maximum of £150,000. This would enable the Community Trust to start recruitment and/or the transfer of staff immediately with Divert staff being available to undertake induction and initial training in January and February. Any further delay may mean that VRU is unable to fully utilise the allocation in the 2019-2020 funding from the Home Office.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

This supports the Commissioner's priorities of Reducing Re-offending and Supporting Victims and Vulnerable People

3. Consultations

N/A

4. Implications:

a. Legal

N/A

b. Financial

The financial implications are as set out above. In addition, VRU Staff will continue discussions with other interested parties, in particular with the LCC Youth Offending Team, to identify any other possible options to assist with funding of this programme.

c. Equality Impact Assessment

N/A

d. Data Protection Impact Assessment

N/A

5 Risk Management

Whilst there is a risk that Home Office funding may not be available, the current government has indicated its intention to provide funding for Violence Reduction Units in 2020-21. Due to the forthcoming general election, a change in government may be possible but, other political parties have indicated their support for the Violence Reduction Unit model and it is anticipated there is a very low risk of funding not being available in 2020/21.

6. Background Papers

None

7. Public access to information

This report is available to the public

Chief Executive Officer (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.....13.12.2019

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE



DIVERT LANCASHIRE

- DIVERT is a Lancashire Police custody programme designed to divert 18-25 years olds away from offending and into employment, development and education.
- Working with Community Trusts the programme connects to a vast network of local provisions.
- DIVERT uses Custody Intervention Coaches based directly in police custody to speak with young adults with the ultimate aim of changing their direction so that they don't reoffend and have a reduced chance of becoming victims or perpetrators of violence.
- Work is separate to the Criminal Justice System and on a tailored approach. Working within police custody uses that environment as a teachable moment.
- DIVERT engages with people arrested for the possession of knives and weapons including offences that also drive violence including drug possession and supply. This isn't a soft option, this is about that young adult taking responsibility and making better choices to change their life.
- After they have left police custody whether they have been NFA'd , Bailed, RUI'd or Charged our Custody Intervention Coaches work in a proactive and timely way to get that young person into opportunity.

BACKGROUND

- DIVERT is a Metropolitan Police custody programme designed to divert 18-25 years olds away from offending and into employment, development and education based in Brixton, Croydon, Wood Green, Stoke Newington, Bethnal Green and Lewisham Police.
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- DIVERT has been running in Brixton Custody since April 2015.
- Between 2015 and October 2018 they spoke with over 320 people. 150 of which are now employed, with another 100 in training and development for work.
- Only 7% out of the 320 have reoffended. Over 60% of those we spoke with were either arrested for possession of weapons, drugs of violent crime.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

TO: [Illegible]

FROM: [Illegible]

DATE: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

3. [Illegible]

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