

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report of	OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	KNIFE CRIME PREVENTION FUND PROJECTS
Date	MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020 – 2:00 p.m.
Authors	SIMON DOWN – HEAD OF STRATEGY AND COMMISSIONING AND GURJIT SAMRA-RAI – HEAD OF SERVICE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION – VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Panel on the 10 knife crime initiatives funded through the specialist knife crime round of the PCC's Prevention Fund.

Recommendation

2. The Panel is asked to note the contents of this report.

Background

3. In November 2018, the PCC announced that he had made available £100,000 through his grants programme for projects specifically aimed at reducing knife crime. The purpose of the fund was to support the delivery of knife crime projects which intervene early to prevent knife crime occurring across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
4. The PCC received 21 bid applications and, having marked and reviewed these agreed to fund 10 of the bid applications for 12 months each at a total value of £107,021 with the additional funding being funded through use of the Commissioning Reserve.

Funded provision

5. Table 1 over the page sets out the funding provided, to which organisation and for what purpose.

Table 1.

Organisation name	Name of project	Project brief	Funding (£)
Go-Getta CIC	Words Over Weapons (WOW)	WOW will work with secondary schools , alternative education provisions, colleges and young people services to deliver interactive assemblies and workshops	18,860
The Cooke E-Learning Foundation (trading as E2)	Street Mediators - Beaumont Leys, New Parks & Thurnby Lodge	Funding will be used to provide Street Mediators who will be visible and present at the locations and times that young people congregate. The Street Mediators team have four objectives: 1. To direct and refer young people away from the streets towards positive activities 2. To discuss, engage and challenge young people's attitudes towards carrying a knife 3. To make safeguarding referrals as well as communicate any criminal intelligence to the police 4. To provide reassurance for residents and young people affected by knife crime	25,000
DNLR CRC	Senior Attendance Centre	DNLR CRC will use the funding to incorporate Street Doctors into their sessions at The Senior Attendance Centre	400
Leicester Riders Foundation	CABNAB – Carry A Basketball Not a Blade	Carry a basketball not a blade, features a mix of basketball sessions and educational workshops alongside on going mentoring and support	9,900
Soft Touch arts	n/a	The project will be delivered in New College, Babington College and Beaumont Leys School. Students will be invited to take part in developing peer educational drama and an interactive workshop	6,843
Leicester Community Services CIC	LOVE4LIFE	The project aims to tackle knife crime and educate young people about crime prevention through sports, education and peer mentoring.	9,980
The Melton Learning Hub	The Venue-Engage	The project will focus on two distinct areas of preventative knife crime work ; Open sessions at The Venue, where the project will offer fun based educational sessions Targeted sessions aimed at those young people most at risk	9,999

Organisation name	Name of project	Project brief	Funding (£)
Somali Development Services	Be Free from Knife - Let's Chat'	Be Free from Knife - Let's Chat' is a new initiative aimed at reducing knife crimes within the Somali youth community. The project includes funding a youth worker to visit local schools, training volunteers and knife crime awareness activities.	6,900
Trans4m Leicester CIC	Trans4m Tools Down	The purpose of Trans4m Tools Down project is to raise awareness of the negative effects of carrying and using knives with the aim that young people will be able to make informed decisions. The project is a 6 week programme which will be delivered to students at Trans4m Training Centre.	9,157
Youth Education Project (YEP) LTD	HEART not Knives	HEART not knives is an 18 week open access programme aimed at young people aged 14-19 years. The project offers young people the opportunity to engage in anti-knife crime diversionary activities.	9,982
Total	-	-	107,021

Progress update

6. All of the original contracts have now ceased and end of project reports have been obtained for the majority of these though Covid-19 has prevented a full return for all projects being provided. A summary of the work undertaken by each project is set out below.
7. Go Getta – Words Over Weapons – Assemblies and workshops delivered to 21 secondary schools/sixth forms, 4 alternative education institutes, 2 colleges and 6 youth clubs reaching 13,946 young people. In addition 104 individual sessions were completed. 148 young people identified as 'high risk' or 'vulnerable' by schools were surveyed.
 - 97% said they would highly recommend their peers attend a WOW session
 - 100% stated they had learnt something important which impacted their attitude towards knife crime, with many specifying 'joint enterprise', 'social media' and 'the real life case studies' as integral
 - 88% said they would never consider carrying a knife due to the learning from the session
8. The Cooke E-Learning Foundation – Street Mediators - The Street Mediators conducted **201** patrols in Beaumont Leys, New Parks, Thurnby Lodge and Loughborough. During these patrols they had **3004** interactions with young people, **729** interactions with adults and **480** with local businesses. They have built strong relationships with local businesses in each area including the Pharmacy in New Parks, the corner shop in Beaumont Leys and the CostCutters in Thurnby Lodge. Through these relationships we have been able to gain intelligence on the local area from the people who live and work there. Much of this information is regarding crimes which may have gone unreported to the police due to their low-level nature.

9. They have also delivered **123** 'Pop Up' Youth Club sessions where **236** young people have completed registration forms with **1025** interactions in total. They have had many young people repeatedly attending the Pop Ups week after week, with young people often needing to be sent away due to high demand and limited capacity.
10. DLNR CRC – Senior attendance centre - Each session was attended by between 12 and 15 young adults, (approximately 60 in the 12 month period). Some of these had been convicted of carrying knives and some had been victims of a stabbing. The Street Doctors held their attention throughout the 3 hour session and almost all of them felt they had learnt a great deal. In particular many of the group felt there were some places on the body that are 'safer' to stab someone. The Street Doctors were able to quash this myth using visual aids and real life stories. They were also able to demonstrate how quickly the body can lose blood. They also provided the group with some simple techniques they can do if someone they are with has been stabbed, that could potentially save that person's life. The sessions were invaluable and well worth the cost. We received very good feedback from the Young Adults that had attended. One of the group stated;
 - "Street doctors was talking about stabbings and what to do – it was really good and told you how to save someone's life. I would use what I learnt if anyone gets stabbed. I think it was a really good thing to do."
11. Leicester Riders Foundation – Carry a basketball not a blade (CABNAB) - Overall they reached out to over 100 mainly male participants. They linked with local police through Sgt Ian Parker and also the community network of E2. They produced a booklet to raise awareness and also utilised their professional players at some events around the Beaumont Leys areas.
12. As part of the project a booklet was designed by Leicester Riders Foundation to incorporate basketball skills alongside a Q & A workshop within their allotted hour sessions, allowing young people to discuss issues around knife crime and how they could address those issues within their local area. This approach provided a relaxed environment for the young people to openly talk about scenarios and discuss how they would feel if put in that position. The booklets were then provided to the schools for participants to keep.
13. Soft Touch Arts - During quarter 4 Soft Touch Arts supported 92 young people. The project was based at Beaumont Leys School and New College. The project sparked lively debate both with the performers and with the audience. Some basic facts seemed to be well known by most young people already (e.g. penalties for carrying a knife) however other facts were not known at all e.g. the prevalence of young people carrying knives was thought to be massively higher than the reality.
14. Leicester Community Services CIC – LOVE4LIFE - During quarter 4 they ran sports/martial arts classes of 13 young people aged 9 – 15 years. The project aimed to tackle knife crime and educate young people about crime prevention through sports and education, and therefore the classes included martial arts, self-defence and character building to enable students to build their confidence.

15. The project also included a mentoring element to make participants better role models by engaging them in role play, quizzes, watching videos, playing games. Participants also got involved in volunteering for the local community, including planting, helping the homeless and gardening for the elderly.
16. The Melton Learning Hub – The Venue – Engage - The Venue youth centre has supported over 70 children so far this year through the knife crime funding. We have worked in partnership locally with The Melton Education Partnership/ Words over Weapons and the local police. Our young people were in two stream of work:
 - The Wednesday youth club and holiday club - This group has regular attendance of over 40 young people. The group has varied through the year and has a total membership of 54 young people. The young people come from a broad spectrum of backgrounds with ages ranging from 11-16.
 - Engage - The work of the two Engage workers has been slightly different. They targeted in partnership with other agencies young people it was felt were at high risk of carrying knives or perpetrating knife crime. They have worked with 16 young people. They trialed group work but we found this did not work as well with young people trying to show off to each other. The workers approached me and asked to move to 1-2-1 sessions. This has proved much more beneficial with specific pieces of work being able to be completed.
17. Somali Development Services – Be free from knife – lets chat - The project has managed to bring together local agencies to work together and tackle Knife Crime issues within the Somali community. One of the success stories is the recruitment and engagement of young people who became the champions of the project and delivered much of it. Eleven young people were trained and became part of the drive in reaching out to young people to tackle knife crime. Some feedback from workshop participants was:
 - “What I found the most useful was to see the different cases where people have been affected and to know that if you follow them you can end up like them”
 - “I appreciated how they let us say what we think about knife crime”
 - “I learnt how to keep safe around knife crime”
 - “I found out how the community was affected by the crime”
 - “The session gave me information that I did not know before and how to be safe and avoid peer pressure”
18. Trans4m Leicester CIC - Trans4m Tools Down - The 6 week study programme designed by Trans4m Leicester CIC was completed by 100 students during quarter 4. The project was successful in harnessing the ‘young person’s voice’ through workshops, role-play, art, debates and discussion, utilising this to generate meaningful discussions to inform the young people’s views and choices moving forward. The open-approach to discussing knife crime enabled some young people to feel confident in disclosing incidences inside and outside of Trans4m College – which were immediately followed up by the safeguarding lead and support was in place through Trans4m College support team.
19. Towards the end of the 6-week project, each young person created a piece of art, highlighting the impact of Knife Crime. The artwork is now displayed

throughout Trans4m College, giving Tools Down longevity as a project, and a talking point for current and future learners for years to come. This has also empowered the young people to make a difference and 'leave their mark' on a topic that, by the end of the project they all were extremely passionate about.

20. Youth Education Project Ltd – Heart not knives - Overall 48 young people have been involved in the project during this quarter, including those taking part in music production workshops, lyric writing sessions, acting and mentoring. A total of 15 sessions relating to the above topics and also an anti-knife crime workshops have taken place. All of this work had fed into the production of a play called 'Life of Shaka'. The young people have also produced four tracks to complement the play and choreographed a dance. It was planned that the play would be shown as part of the Knife Angel installation in Leicester City, due in May 2020. However developments with the Covid-19 pandemic have unfortunately meant that the Knife Angel has been postponed. The project is currently looking at ways to use social media and IT to continue to engage and work with the young people. This may include producing a 'Tik Tok' video during 2020/21.

Violence Reduction Network

21. The knife crime funding was instigated prior to the existence of the Violence Reduction Network (VRN). The VRN has worked with many of these organisations to ensure that provision is coordinated; commissioning responsibility was moved to the VRN in November 2019 to enable better strategic alignment to wider violence reduction initiatives.
22. The VRN are now leading the LLR knife crime response and continues to invest in suitable interventions. A briefing note on the Violence Intervention Project (VIP) at the Leicester Royal Infirmary can be found at appendix 1. The VIP is likely to be a key component of the knife crime response going forward.

Implications

Financial: None

Legal: None.

Equality Impact Assessment: None.

Risks and Impact: None identified.

Link to Police and Crime Plan: Vulnerability and Prevention

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Violence Intervention Project briefing

Persons to Contact

Simon Down – Head of Strategy and Commissioning, OPCC

Tel: 0116 229 8980

Email: simon.down@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Gurjit Samra-Rai – Head of Service Design and Implementation, VRN

Tel: 07775783985

Email: Gurjit.Samra-Rai@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Violence Intervention Project (VIP)

Background

The priority focus of the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) is on serious violence by or against a person under 25 years. The new Violence Intervention Project (VIP) went live on 13th January 2020. In the stage of implementation Turning Point were commissioned in October 2019 to deliver the service until 31st March 2020. They have since been commissioned to provide the service for a further year.

Introduction

The primary purpose of the VIP is to support young people who are admitted to the Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI) Emergency Department (ED) with violence related injury to prompt reflection on their current lifestyle and situation and how they can make better choices and decisions to lead them into happier and safer lives. Essentially the service seeks to offer support at a 'reachable moment' with the overall aim of enabling an exit from risky lifestyles linked to crime, violence and exploitation. Engagement with the service is voluntary.

The VIP spans both secondary and tertiary levels of prevention in that it offers a service to those young people both at risk and those already involved in offending and potentially violence:

- Secondary: the objective is to prevent the progression of serious violence through early identification of at-risk groups and the provision of timely, tailored and effective support and interventions to halt progression at the earliest opportunity.
- Tertiary: the objective is to reduce impact and prevent the recurrence through providing timely, tailored and effective support and interventions aimed at enabling recovery and rehabilitation for victims and perpetrators.

The scope of the service is:

- Male and females
- Aged 11-25 years
- Living in Leicestershire, Leicestershire and Rutland
- Have been admitted to LRI A&E with serious violence related injury

The service:

- Enables vulnerable young people to access appropriate support.
- Reduces risky lifestyles and involvement in violence by young people.
- Reduces repeat attendances to the Emergency Department arising from violence.
- Supports clinical staff within Emergency Departments to feel more confident, skilled and knowledgeable to support vulnerable young people.
- Links services together to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people

The Team

The VIP workers are individuals with lived experience of some of the issues young people experience to ensure credibility and empathy. They are trained in areas such as sexual abuse, domestic violence, child sexual and criminal exploitation, trauma informed practice and adverse childhood experiences. All workers have the necessary expertise, training and rapport to identify the unique risks and needs of each young person they see, and the skills to work with the young person in response to these risks.

The VIP workers are fully embedded in the hospital and have close working relationships with their clinical colleagues and other support services already in the Emergency Department. All wearing purple polo shirts the workers are highly visible and wherever possible, they engage patients in situ. They are also available to offer support and advice to clinicians who are dealing with young people, give regular training to new doctors and nurses on working with vulnerable young people, and are involved in multidisciplinary safeguarding meetings.

This worker remains the key worker for the young person whilst they are in hospital and is part of the patients discharge plan. When discharged, the worker continues to work with the young person in the community for a minimum of three community appointments before the young person is supported in a transition to a community based service.

The team work out of typical office hours, into the evening and at weekends in identifiable purple uniforms.

The Approach

The VIP worker adopt an evidence informed approach which is outlined below:

- Young-adult led: The VIP Worker is there as a resource for the child/young person/adult and will support them in identifying and realising their own achievable goals. The approach offered will be tailored to individual maturity and need.
- Targeted: The team will ensure that those most at risk will be offered the service through identifying those children/young people/adults who have known risk factors for offending and violence and who live in the communities where need is the greatest.
- A proactive and persistent approach to engagement: The team recognises the need to ensure their approach is relevant to the child/young person/adult, flexible and responsive. This includes ensuring the service is delivered at a time, venue and in a manner that will meet a young adult's reasonable preferences, once the individual has been discharged from hospital.
- A relational and trauma-informed approach: The team recognises the importance of a 'trusted adult' in a child's and young person/adults life who shows consistent care and respect, provides emotional and practical support and builds trust. VIP Workers will be aware of the impact of trauma on development and well-being and will adopt a trauma-informed approach at all times.
- A strength-based approach: Keyworkers recognise and build upon the multiple strengths children and young people/adults have personally and within their family and networks.
- Maximising opportunities for multi-agency and partnership working: The team recognises that children and young people/adults needs are most effectively addressed holistically and difficulties can arise if services operate within silos. The VIP Worker has a role in supporting the children and young person/adult to navigate and access relevant services to support them within their own community.

- A commitment to continuous improvement: VIP Workers consistently seek feedback from young people in the design and delivery of the service and identify ways to improve the work of the team. There is also an outcome-focussed performance framework.

Outcome measures:

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25
- A reduction in repeat attendance to A&E with knife (or other assault injury), for those referred 12 months after initial referral

The team are also expected to secure outcomes in relation to key risk and protective factors including improvements in status relating to accommodation, education and employment, mental well-being and substance misuse.

Progress to Date

As the service has only been operational for two months before Covid-19 restrictions were imposed, it is too early to report on outcomes. Since the launch, there had been a growing number of referrals; receiving 185 referrals of which 59 were in scope i.e. between the ages of 11 and 25 years old; of these 59 young people 23 continue to engage post discharge from hospital. Going forward, the team will only focus on in-scope referrals to ensure capacity is prioritised for this group. Approximately 50% of young people in scope have presented at the ED in the evening and overnight. The youngest person the team has had contact with is 13 years old; there have been a number of assaults relating to bullying at school and there has been an assault on a teacher by a pupil who has a neurological and developmental disorder. The team is working with the relevant schools in order to support them and the young people. Issues such as gang affiliation and exploitation are evident amongst this cohort.

To limit non-essential face to face interventions due to Covid-19, the decision was made to withdraw the team from the LRI on 20th March 2020 in partnership with health colleagues. Young people continue to be supported virtually and referrals are still being received, albeit more limited numbers, over the telephone and via email. The work (and capacity) of the service is being kept under review. Discussions are currently underway to introduce the workers back in the Emergency Department to ensure the service is available as we start to see increases in public place youth violence.