

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report of	OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING
Date	WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022 – 1:00PM
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Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the panel on the changes made by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the funding allocations made to the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across LLR.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that members comment on the contents of the report.

Background

3. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has for a number of years funded CSPs across LLR, primarily through two contracts, the Partnership Locality Fund ('PLF') and the Youth Diversion Fund ('YDF'). There is no statutory requirement for this funding, however it has been continually provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner to support partners in tackling crime across LLR.
4. The total funding amount across the 9 LLR areas is £639,675 and granted over the financial year, from April to March. The rationale for division of funding is currently based on unknown parameters and dates back to when the first Police and Crime Commissioner was in term.
5. With the current system, there have been numerous underspends which have not been reported in a timely manner and a significant lack of monitoring information being provided. This has resulted in an inability to scrutinise expenditure, utilise any excess funding in a more practical and valuable way and has caused difficulty when tracking and shaping projects aligning to the Police and Crime Plan priorities.
6. As a result, an updated, defensible and transparent framework is being proposed to re-evaluate the funding distribution across the CSPs. It encompasses changes in crime data, crime types and population changes and promises a system that ensures value for money by being needs based.

Consultation with CSPs

7. There are currently 8 CSPs across LLR as Blaby, with Hinckley and Bosworth operating as a joint partnership.
8. Consultations with partners began in May 2022 and each CSP was invited to review the current system and provide ideas on improvement.
9. Feedback was collated on what worked well in each respective CSP area and their suggestions on the new framework and how the funding allocation could be calculated.
10. There was a resistance to a commissioning-based model from all partners due to a lack of time and resource to put in competing bids. Partners asked for their funding allocations be known in advance to allow for planning and acknowledged that having a better system which allows for funding to be reallocated could benefit areas most in need.
11. The Crime Harm Index was suggested as a possible parameter for calculating need across CSP areas. A data-led approach was believed to be the fairest and most defensible.

New Funding Allocation Proposal

12. The new system proposes to amalgamate the two contracts into a single pot of money for each area based on a new formula. It will seek to follow a grants-based approach where partners will be asked to complete an application outlining how their defined allocations will be spent and how this activity links to the Police and Crime Plan. Funding will only be provided for approved projects based on how much funding is required. (Appendix 1)
13. The provisional funding allocation for each area has been based completely on a data-based model and has been shared openly with partners for complete transparency. The formula (Appendix 2) for determining the allocations is made up of; the Crime Harm Index (Appendix 3) for each area (65% weighting), crime per 1000 people (20% weighting) and population size (15% weighting).
14. At the end of the financial year, any underspends identified from individual CSP allocations will be collated as efficiency savings to form a central pot. Partners will then be invited to submit a further application for additional funding following a review process. It is yet to be determined whether this additional pot of funding will have a specified criteria or theme.
15. Each CSP will be asked to complete a Quarterly Monitoring Return which will outline how the project is being delivered against the initial application and its proposed success measures. This shifts the onus onto CSPs to ensure their returns are submitted in a timely manner to avoid affecting their allocation for the following year.
16. This will aim to increase accountability for how public money is being spent in an effort to increase transparency and trust. The proposal will allow savings to be made through partners only being able to put in requests for funding based on needs. This will ensure that value for public money, increased confidence and transparency remain at the centre of the fair and coherent process in place for CSP funding allocations.

17. A further update will be completed and reported to the panel at a future date.

Implications

Finance: The total amount given across the CSPs has remained the same however now opens up the potential to make savings each year which can be redirected to support areas of need.

Legal: There is no legal requirement to provide funding for the Community Safety Partnerships

Equality Impact Assessment: This new framework was assessed to ensure no adverse impact on any of the nine protected characteristics and assessed as positively impacting them when linked to criminality.

Risks and Impact: The Panel provides additional independent assurance to the Commissioner that Leicestershire Police are operating within the standards expected.

List of Attachments / Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Community Safety Framework Document

Appendix 2 – Funding Formula

Appendix 3 – Crime Harm Index Research Paper

Persons to Contact

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