

ORIGINATOR: POLICY OFFICER (LH)

DECISION NUMBER: 15 - 2016

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT –
IPSWICH AND SUFFOLK MUSLIM COUNCIL**

SUMMARY:

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner can commission services that:
a) secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017.
2. Following discussions between the OPCC and Ipswich and Suffolk Muslim Council this report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant for up to £2,000.
3. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity focussing on the Police and Crime Plan objective to support community safety, vulnerable families and improve trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

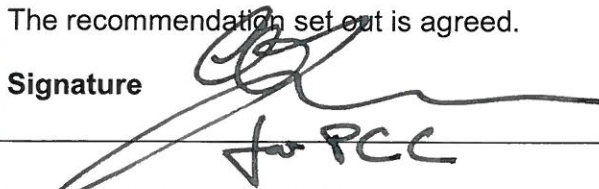
RECOMMENDATION:

That the PCC approves a grant of up to £2,000 to Ipswich and Suffolk Muslim Council for the period of 1 March 2016 to 28 February 2017.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature



for PCC

Date 9 March 2016

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is able to utilise his resources to commission services from anyone who can provide the community safety related services that they believe will contribute to their police and crime objectives including secure, or contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval to award a Crime and Reduction Disorder Grant of up to £2,000 to Ipswich and Suffolk Muslim Council (IMSC) to fund integration and awareness sessions and an end of year conference. The application for funding from IMSC is included alongside this decision paper (Appendix A).

2. IPSWICH AND SUFFOLK MUSLIM COUNCIL

- 2.1 The Ipswich and Suffolk Muslim Council (ISMC) represents the interest of Muslims in Ipswich and Suffolk. This organisation is a registered charity run by 20 volunteers. ISMC is dedicated to the common good of society and the overall aim of ISMC is to 'break down barriers and connect communities'.
- 2.2 ISMC holds a wide range of activities to educate about Islam and the Muslim community including engaging with local schools; for assemblies and classes; churches, interfaith groups and with the public and private sector for diversity training. ISMC also hosts an annual breaking fast event during the month of Ramadan where people of all faiths and no faith come together.
- 2.3 In view of recent events around the world and the increased coverage of Muslims in the media, ISMC have found that young Muslim men and women feel particularly disenfranchised and voiceless. They have previously provided monthly discussion groups for young people to discuss themes and topics of their choice, enabling them to express themselves without being judged and feel that these sessions could usefully be restarted to empower young people in particular, giving them a voice and opportunity to engage in constructive activities.
- 2.4 This project aims to ensure a better understanding and tolerance between people of all faiths or no faith, with people from Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds, statutory, voluntary and public sector all attending. A grant of £2,000 is being requested to hold these integration and awareness sessions. The monthly 2 hour sessions will bring together different faiths (and no faith) to talk about how they can integrate and work together as a stronger local community, culminating in a conference at the end of the year. Speakers and participants from voluntary organisations and statutory agencies including Suffolk Constabulary will be encouraged to attend.
- 2.5 The conference has been previously been attended by up to 300 people from differing faiths. ISMC will actively invite people to this final event from diverse groups to take part in the hope that it will help to break down barriers and maintain a tolerant and understanding community in Suffolk. Through this piece of work IMSC want to strengthen identity, promote social cohesion and integration, raise awareness of faith, culture and traditions so that Muslims can feel that they are part of society.
- 2.6 The Police and Crime Plan states that meaningful and positive representation of young people in policing and community safety matters is essential to creating a vibrant and harmonious community where our young people want to live and work. By engaging with young people in particular and opening up debate to all communities, the activities will contribute to the Police and Crime Plan objectives to

support community safety, vulnerable families and improve trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

- 2.7 The project will report to the PCC on the outputs and outcomes of the project including the following:

Outputs:

- Number of workshop sessions held.
- Number of people engaged with and profile (e.g. gender, age range, location).
- Partners and organisations engaged with.
- Feedback from participants, key themes raised and addressed through the workshops and conference.

Outcomes:

- Young people will be empowered by being engaged in constructive activities and by having a platform to openly discuss issues that concern them and others.
- Service providers and people of other faiths and none will have a better understanding of issues faced by young Muslims through awareness raising.
- Women and younger people will feel empowered by having a platform to meet in a forum where they can openly discuss with peers; not being judged, misunderstood or vilified.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Funding of up to £2,000 is being applied for to cover publicity, volunteer mileage and venue costs.
- 3.2 Evidence of spend will be made available together with detail on outputs and outcomes as part of the monitoring process.

4. MISCELLANEOUS CONDITIONS OF AWARD

- 4.1 The following grant conditions will apply should a grant be awarded.
- (i) The fund will be allocated to projects, initiatives or events in Suffolk which support the objectives set out in the [Police & Crime Plan](#);
 - (ii) All grants are one-off payments that can be used to pump-prime a project or pay for a one-off event;
 - (iii) The PCC is not be responsible for any on-going costs associated the project/initiative;
 - (iv) In normal circumstances the funding will not be made available to support staff salaries, core business activities, overheads/costs associated with business administration or capital projects of the recipient;
 - (v) Projects approved under this process should be completed in the financial year 2015/16 and only in exceptional circumstances will a carry-forward be agreed;
 - (vi) The award must only be used for the purpose set out in the application or as approved in writing by the PCC. The PCC must be notified as soon as reasonably practicable if the organisation ceases operation, the project does not go ahead, or if an underspend is forecast. All underspends must be returned to the PCC;
 - (vii) By accepting the award the recipient makes a commitment to acknowledge the PCC's support publically and must acknowledge the PCC in all promotional

work, as well as display the PCC's logo in all publicity associated with the initiative;

- (viii) All recipients of funding will be expected to provide information on outcomes, including a written summary on how the project supported objectives in the Police & Crime Plan (a monitoring form will be made available to help with this process). The PCC also reserves the right to hold the recipient to account at the Accountability & Performance Panel;
- (ix) The award may not be used to support or promote political or religious activity.

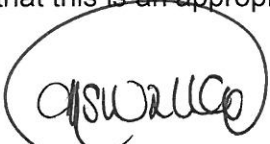
5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

5.1 There are no major implications or risks associated with this decision paper.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	Yes
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	N/A
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive	
I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.	
Signature: 	Date: 4/3/16

Application for Funding

Organisation overview

The Ipswich and Suffolk Muslim Council (ISMC) is the umbrella organisation of Muslims in Ipswich and Suffolk. It aims to promote cooperation, consensus and unity on Muslim affairs, and to establish a position for the Muslim community within British society that is fair and based on due rights. The ISMC is dedicated to the common good of the society and to the betterment of the Muslim community. In addition they provide the community with information on local mosques, events and resources.

ISMC provides a unified voice to address the misconceptions and barriers Muslims face. The overall aim of ISMC is to 'break down barriers and connect communities'. Unfortunately the Muslim community in Britain are amongst one of the most deprived and vulnerable; this is evident in Suffolk too. ISMC have found that young Muslim men and women feel particularly disenfranchised and voiceless and as a result they engage in monthly discussion groups with them discussing themes and topics of their choice, enabling them to express themselves without being judged. In addition ISMC does a wide range of activities to address misconceptions about Islam and the Muslim community including engaging with local schools; for assemblies and classes; churches, interfaith groups and with the public and private sector for diversity training. ISMC also hosts an annual breaking fast event during the month of Ramadan where people of all faiths and no faith come together to join Muslims breaking their fast at the end of the day.

This organisation is run by 20 volunteers.

Funding purpose

The grant request of £2000 is towards integration and awareness sessions of different faiths.

The organisation are looking to run monthly sessions for young men and young women (brother's circle and sister's circle) to bring together different faiths to talk about how they can integrate and work together as a stronger local community.

Holding these sessions in Suffolk New College or the Bangladeshi Centre then bringing everyone together for a conference at the end of the year. Each session will last approximately 2 hours, although they are mainly for those from a Muslim faith, will be open to all and actively encourage speakers and participants from organisations such as the constabulary or local government to attend.

The conference will be towards the end of the project to discuss faith, the Muslim faith and the challenges faced by young Muslims in today's society. The event will be open to all faith and none and to the local statutory and voluntary organisations. They will promote the event via flyers sent to local community organisations, shops and mosques to reach the communities and flyers sent via email to local dignitaries, police, councillors, local government staff etc. This project aims to ensure better understanding and tolerance between people of all faiths or none faith, with people from Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds, statutory, voluntary and public sector all attending. ISMC advise that due to recent events around the world, the Muslim community is facing more racism, intolerance and suspicion. The final event is open to all and actively invites people from diverse groups to take part in the hope that it will help to break down barriers and maintain a tolerant and understanding community in Ipswich and the wider area.

ISMC say that Muslims are often vilified in the media, leaving many feeling they have no voice as most of them are unable to identify the Islam of their understanding to that being portrayed. Racism and Islamophobia is on the increase, particularly towards women and young people. There is a feeling by young Muslims that they are being blamed for anything and everything that is going on locally, nationally and globally leaving many feeling dis-empowered and without a voice.

We are told that young people feel at school that they are told Muslims are bad and at home Muslims are good and that they do not know which is correct, these sessions are aimed at encouraging all faiths to come together to understand exactly what the faith is.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Volunteers costs - £100 travel at 40ppm from Lowestoft and BSE
 Venue hire - £350 for the conference @ Suffolk New College
 Office costs - £720 - £320 towards general overheads of office costs and utilities and £400 venue hire for brother and sister circles
 Publicity £350
 Other costs - £480 printer, cartridges, stationery etc

What is the need?

The Muslim community in Suffolk has proportionally a larger number of younger people being members of the third and fourth generation. Through this piece of work we want to strengthen their identity, promote social cohesion and integration, raise their awareness of their faith, culture and traditions so that they can feel that they are part of the society. At the moment there is a gap in the connection between the young people, the older community members and the mainstream service providers. In summary, there is a disconnect between the older and new generation at present. This project will aim to empower the young people by giving them a voice and opportunity to engage in constructive activities.

Number of beneficiaries:	Target Group:
300	Black, Asian and minority ethnic
Primary social issue:	Primary age group:
Stronger communities/Community support and development	All Ages

Outcomes to the beneficiary group

- 1) Young people will be empowered by being engaged in constructive activities and by having a platform to openly discuss issues that concern them and others.
- 2) Service providers and people of other faiths and none will have a better understanding of issues faced by young Muslims through awareness raising.
- 3) Women and younger people will feel empowered by having a platform to meet in a forum where they can openly discuss with peers; not being judged, misunderstood or vilified.

Fit with Police and Crime Plan

The programme fits with supporting vulnerable families because Muslims struggle with racial issues; so much so that it has a knock on effect on their families. At school, children are often told that Muslims are bad and at home they are told they are good and children find it hard to define which is right. This makes it very difficult as they become teenagers to decide which path to take and can cause them to turn their backs on their families through peer pressure and "needing to stay liked at school".

These workshops are designed to help bring together all faiths to understand and join together the community so that it prevents this separation.