

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO. 1 - 2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: SUFFOLK DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME & GRANT FUNDING FOR THE VENTA PROGRAMME

SUMMARY:

1. The Home Office have awarded grant funding of £238, 307 to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk for delivery of a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme in Suffolk between October 2020 and March 2021. Match funding from the partners will support continued delivery of the programme between April and September 2021.
2. The programme of work will be delivered by Suffolk Constabulary who will work on one to one behaviour change with perpetrators and by Icení, a local charity, who will expand the Venta Programme, a unique group programme tackling offending behaviour.
3. In order to facilitate the delivery of additional Venta group programmes the PCC is recommended to award a grant to Icení. Monitoring requirements and assessment of risk will be put in place to ensure successful delivery of the project.
4. The funding supports the objectives in the Suffolk Multi-agency Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy and the Police and Crime Plan focus on DA and reducing re-offending.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the PCC:
 - a. Notes the grant funding of £238,307 from the Home Office for delivery of the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme and match funding requirements;
 - b. Agrees the award of a grant to Icení for the delivery of the Venta programme between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature



Date 04.01.2021

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 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.
- 1.2 This report sets out the background to new Home Office domestic abuse perpetrator programme funding, the successful bid from Suffolk to the fund and the proposal to fund IcenI through a PCC grant to fulfil their element of the project.

2. HOME OFFICE DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME FUNDING

- 2.1 The Government announced £10 million of funding in the March 2020 budget for interventions working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. The funding is in support of the national Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy to tackle crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls including domestic abuse.
- 2.2 The Home Office opened an application process in August 2020 to support the introduction of perpetrator focussed domestic abuse programmes in PCC areas. £5 million was allocated to support interventions delivered to perpetrators of domestic abuse in the community, £1.1m to implementation of the Drive Programme and £0.4m for research programmes.
- 2.3 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner led a successful application for funding supported by Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council and local charity IcenI.
- 2.4 Domestic Abuse is increasing in Suffolk with reported crimes up 24% on the 3 year average and yet there has been little investment in reducing re-offending through perpetrator focussed activities. The objective in the bid was to engage with more perpetrators than currently, on quality programmes, that support sustained behaviour change. The intended outcomes are to reduce reoffending and repeat victimisation, while protecting victims and their families.
- 2.5 The successful bid proposed to extend provision of DA perpetrator interventions in Suffolk, through two elements of delivery: one to one behaviour change with perpetrators delivered by Suffolk Constabulary and expansion of IcenI's Venta group programme across Suffolk. This would mean that a wide range of perpetrators and characteristics would be catered for, tailoring interventions for maximum impact and providing additional support where needed for full participation.
- 2.6 The expansion of perpetrator work in Suffolk supports the local Multi-agency Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy and the Police and Crime Plan focus on DA and reducing re-offending.
- 2.7 Support to victims was integral in the bid and the new funding provides the opportunity for police to work with the voluntary sector in a more systematic manner.

3. ICENI - THE VENTA PROGRAMME

- 3.1 IcenI is a well established charity based in Ipswich.

- 3.2 The Home Office funding and the match funding from Suffolk partners provides the opportunity to expand provision of The Venta Programme which is 2 years into a three pilot and has been evaluated externally by the University of Suffolk. The Venta Programme is a unique group programme to Suffolk and has thus far proven to be highly effective in reducing DA.
- 3.3 The Venta Programme is a 16 week community based programme for those who want to take personal responsibility and change their behaviour with current and future relationships. The programme combines skills development and group therapy and, like the one to one work Suffolk Constabulary is undertaking, there is a range of add on interventions for perpetrators and victims to address underlying factors such as poor mental health, substance misuse and Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- 3.4 The Venta Programme has supported 34 men since 2018 and been independently evaluated by the University of Suffolk with positive results. Feedback from pilot participants shows the impact on individuals and their partners: “This had been absolutely life changing” and “since I have understood what empathy is we (partner) haven’t argued since”.
- 3.5 However The Venta Programme has to date only been able to run one programme, located in Ipswich, at a time. The recommended funding will enable 4 programmes to be delivered, including one in Lowestoft, by March and at least a further 4 programmes by September 2021, expanding to West Suffolk. Each group has up to 12 participants and victims are simultaneously supported and their safety prioritised.
- 3.6 This decision paper recommends the award of a grant to Iceni using the Home Office funding and match funding in order to deliver the Venta programme element of the Suffolk DA perpetrator programme.

4. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1 The Home Office grant agreement sets out the requirement for the OPCC to report quarterly on progress with the activities.
- Period 1 (Oct – Dec 2020) by 14 Jan 2021
 - Period 2 (Jan - Mar 2021) by 14 April 2021
 - Period 3 (Apr – June 2021) by 14 July 2021
 - Period 4 (July – Sep 2021) by 14 Oct 2021
- 4.2 In order to facilitate this the OPCC will require the following information from the Suffolk Constabulary and Iceni:
- an update on progress,
 - number of intervention sessions delivered and, where applicable, broken down into:
 - one to one sessions
 - group sessions
 - number of perpetrators anticipated to be supported by interventions,
 - overall actual number of perpetrators supported by interventions,
 - completion rate of perpetrators on intervention programmes,
 - where possible and appropriate/relevant demographic breakdown of perpetrators supported by interventions including:
 - Gender
 - Age (17 or under, 18-39, 40-59, 60 and over)
 - Ethnicity
 - Sexuality
 - Level of risk (standard/medium/high)

- Whether they are subject to a court mandate
 - Nature of abuse engaged in (physical/ sexual/ coercive control/ economic/ violent or threatening behaviour).
 - Relationship with victim (partner/ ex-partner/ sibling/ parent/ child/ other family member – please specify);
 - number of referrals into specialist support services (drug and alcohol, mental health etc);
 - (where applicable) number of victims supported (including children of victims),
 - delivery of evaluation (after 12 months).
 - a financial update including any underspend or overspend
- 4.3 The Head of Commissioning will provide oversight of the project and meet quarterly with the delivery partners, Suffolk County Council (as a provider of match funding) and liaise with Constabulary finance in order to comply with the monitoring requirements.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Home Office have awarded grant funding of £238,307 from 27 October 2020 to 31 March 2021 to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk. in 2020/21.
- 5.2 The Home Office required the application to have match funding for six months from April 2021 and this was secured from all the bid partners including a pledge of £25k from Suffolk County Council and a commitment from IcenI to raise £50k in 2021/22. The remaining match funding will be met using ringfenced underspend from the 2020/21 budget, topped up by the PCC's commissioning budget if necessary.
- 5.3 Funding will be distributed as follows to support delivery of the programme.

	October – March Home Office funded	April – September Match funded
Suffolk Constabulary costs	£88,863	£69,160
IcenI costs	£144,444	£164,284
Accessibility Fund (held by the PCC)	£5,000	£5,000
Total	£238,307	£238,444

- 5.4 Funding to IcenI includes Group programme co-ordinator Basic Pay, NI and Pension for the programme coordinator, recruitment costs and training for a new programme facilitator, the cost of running at least 8 group programmes and indirect costs such as premises costs, utilities and office consumables and evaluation costs.
- 5.5 A Single Tender Action (STA) has been produced in accordance with 7 Force Contract Standing Orders (Section 5.2) which sets out the circumstances that allow for a single tender action, namely that only one supplier is able to carry out the work for technical reasons and because of exclusive rights and that the contract is required so urgently (due to Home Office grant restrictions) that competition is impracticable. The STA documentation includes a value for money assessment which indicates public value benefits of £17 for every £1 invested in Venta group work. Short-term fiscal benefits are valued at £183,589 split across the public sector. (University of Suffolk, September 2020.)
- 5.6 The value of the recommended PCC grant to IcenI over the period 1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021 will be £258,728 including £144,444 from Home Office grant for delivery to 31 March 2021, £89,284 from the PCC and £25,000 from Suffolk County Council for delivery between April and September 2021. There is a commitment from IcenI to raise the remaining £50,000 for programme delivery themselves.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

6.1 A risk assessment was undertaken in the bidding process highlighting risk and mitigation for the following factors: Insufficient referrals; delivery uncertainty in response to Covid-19 pandemic; recruitment of new staff; evaluation within short timeframe and sustainability of programmes.

6.2 An updated assessment of risk in delivery of the service is below:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Use of Home Office funding by 31 March 2021	M	L	Delivery commenced in October on instruction from HO. Costs will be monitored monthly and any forecast underspend or reprofiling notified to the Home Office by 31 January 2021. Any unspent funds will be returned to the Home Office.
Delivery uncertainty in response to COVID-19 / 'lockdowns' which could reduce availability of staff and change methods of delivery.	M	M	Covid-19 data shows low levels of sickness across Suffolk police staffing and below average prevalence in Suffolk. Online methods of delivery are available for one to one work and victim services continue to operate in 'lockdown'. The number of people in group sessions can be reduced in line with guidance.
Risk of Iceni not raising the match funding	L	M	Iceni have previously been able to raise funding for delivery of one or two Venta programmes each year. Respect accreditation and recent evaluation provides reassurance of quality and an evidence base for potential funders.

6.3 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Iceni is required to notify the PCC.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the PCC:

- a. Notes the grant funding of £238,307 from the Home Office for delivery of the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme;
- b. Agrees the award of a grant to Iceni for the delivery of the Venta programme between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021.

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?	Yes
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

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 24.12.2020