

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO: 22 - 2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT –
CATCH22 SUFFOLK POSITIVE FUTURES**

SUMMARY:

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.
2. This report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant to Catch22 for the amount of £75,000 to contribute to delivering Suffolk Positive Futures across Suffolk for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
3. The project delivers an 'early intervention' approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour by providing a compelling alternative for young people through the delivery of sports-based activity.
4. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity and support the current Police and Crime Plan objectives by 'caring about communities' (and in particular keeping young people safe and deterring them from committing crime) and protecting vulnerable communities by preventing and reducing ASB.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £75,000 to Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.



Signature:

Date: 01.07.2021

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A key part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's role is to commission services that help reduce demand on the Constabulary and support victims of crime.
- 1.2 The PCC's commissioning budget in 2021/22 is £1.95m for both crime and disorder reduction grants and grants for victim services. This includes the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) grant to the PCC for the delivery of services to victims of crime including child sexual abuse (CSA) additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) funding and, for 2021/22, a one year 'uplift' for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval from the PCC to award a grant of £75,000 to support the delivery of a programme of activities by Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

2 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Suffolk Positive Futures directly contributes to the following objectives and themes within the current Police and Crime Plan:

Objective 2: Caring about victims, communities, the local economy and our people:

- Work to help keep young people safe, deter them from committing crime and inspire them to achieve.

Objective 3: Protecting the most vulnerable people and communities by preventing, reducing and solving crime and anti-social behaviour:

- Work with partners to ensure we deliver efficient and effective services.
- Continue with activities to tackle drugs and substance misuse.
- Work with partners to reduce re-offending and transform rehabilitation.

- 2.2 Following the re-election of the PCC in May 2021 a new Police and Crime Plan is being developed. The PCC has indicated he wishes to use crime and disorder reduction funding to focus more support to divert young people from crime and will continue to co-operate with statutory, voluntary and private sector partners to support initiatives which benefit young people.

3 CATCH22 SUFFOLK POSITIVE FUTURES

- 3.1 Catch22 is a charity that aims to deliver social value by turning chaotic lives around. The organisation works with troubled and vulnerable young people, families and offenders, helping them to steer clear of crime or substance misuse, do the best they can in education or employment and play a full part in family or community life.
- 3.2 **Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures** is designed to reach young people on their streets, on their estates, at times when they are most in need. Over the last eighteen years the project has been transforming young people's lives and making a significant impact in some of the most deprived communities in Suffolk. The project does this by providing long-term support to vulnerable 10 – 19 year olds at risk of crime and ASB. On average the project delivers to 1,500 young people per year across Suffolk.
- 3.3 The project delivers an 'early intervention' approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) by providing a compelling alternative through the delivery of sports-based activity. The project contributes to a number of key priorities in relation to making Suffolk a safer area for all by:

- diverting young people from involvement in ASB & gang related activity, especially the young people on the periphery of this activity
 - supporting local communities to tackle ASB, through engagement and diversion
 - addressing the risk factors and strengthening the protective factors to enable young people to choose leadership and positive community action instead of crime
 - reducing crime and, by preventing offending and anti-social behaviour, decreasing demand for front-line criminal justice services
- 3.4 The PCC has provided grant funding for the Suffolk Positive Futures project since 2014/15. The PCC funding supports the core costs of the service with project delivery supplemented by funding from other partners.
- 3.5 To further support their aims, Suffolk Positive Futures deliver other projects such as holiday hunger and summer diversionary projects, and deliver sports leadership qualifications, drug and alcohol and healthy living awareness raising sessions.
- 3.6 Suffolk Positive Futures have a team consisting of full-time permanent staff and trained sessional staff who deliver the activities across the county. Staff are local and know the community. They are supported by volunteers, many of which are former participants of the project who want to give something back to their local communities. Some of the staff members have progressed from young person, to volunteer, to paid employees.
- 3.7 Young people, families and communities are encouraged to help shape the service through regular consultation. Hard to reach groups are targeted through partnership work with local agencies including Suffolk Youth Justice Service, Leaving Care Service and Social Services.

SERVICE DELIVERY DURING 2020/21

- 3.8 At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Suffolk Positive Futures halted all face-to-face activities until the service was able to deliver activities and engage with the young people safely.
- 3.9 Overall the project was unable to operate 'normally' for 8 months of the year, severely effecting the outputs. The negative impact of the pandemic on young people quickly became apparent, particularly in terms of deteriorating mental & general health, social interaction and fitness levels.
- 3.10 Services were quickly adapted to allow the safe delivery of activities and continued engagement with young people. Online sports challenges, a free football delivery service, access to other sports equipment and Zoom boxing enabled Positive Futures to continue delivery and engagement and carry out informal welfare checks.
- 3.11 Other sessions such as sports leadership awards were also delivered online and the "You vs Train" campaign raised awareness amongst young people (from disadvantaged areas) about the dangers of trespassing on railways.
- 3.12 The project resumed permitted 'organised youth sport' when restrictions were lifted to continue offering face-to-face opportunities with young people, provided Covid safe working practices, risk assessments and contingency plans were in place. The project is back to full capacity in April 2021 with face to face sessions being delivered in communities across the county. Online delivery of Boxing will continue alongside the normal boxing sessions, delivering a cost-effective additional activity for young people and bringing together the different boxing projects from across the county.

- 3.13 Young people who have engaged with the services during the year report improvements in physical and mental health and Suffolk Positive Futures have captured feedback in their annual report to the PCC, illustrating the positive effect on young people and their parents.
- 3.14 Data for 2020/21 shows that:
- 540 individual young people were engaged in the programme through the year.
 - 20% of participants were girls and 26% participants were from a Black, Asian or other minority ethnic background.
 - 25 young people not in education worked towards a recognised qualification in the period April 2020 to March 2021
 - 25 young people have taken up volunteering placements during the period April 2020 to March 2021.
 - 100% of respondents felt supported by the project over the past 12 months.
 - 96% felt safe at our sessions with the measures put into place to stop the spread of Covid-19
 - 70% of people surveyed did not undertake any other type of formal activity (outside of school) during the past 12 months - demonstrating the ability of Suffolk Positive Futures to adapt and keep running the service despite many other organisations having to close theirs.

SERVICE NEED IN 2021/22 TO SUPPORT A CONTINUATION OF FUNDING

- 3.15 Suffolk Positive Futures runs projects in areas of high deprivation and where higher rates of crime and ASB are reported. This ensures that the most vulnerable young people in Suffolk are given the opportunity to engage with the service.
- 3.16 Areas already committed to deliver the project include: Ipswich, Lowestoft, Leiston, Hadleigh, Haverhill, Brandon, Newmarket and Mildenhall. Other areas are likely to come on board throughout the year based on local need identification.
- 3.17 Suffolk Positive Futures will continue to work with the Youth Justice Service and Suffolk Constabulary who refer young people known to the criminal justice system or are vulnerable to criminal activities and exploitation. The project's work in reducing crime and ASB and preventing offending decreases the demand for front line services.
- 3.18 With the prospect of full easement of lockdown restrictions in 2021/22, the demand for this service is expected to rise as young people may be in need of quality engagement opportunities which promote healthy activities and lifestyles.
- 3.19 To support Suffolk Positive Future's application for grant funding, feedback from other local organisations and public sector agencies was provided which illustrated the positive effect that the project has on young people through engagement and communications, and how this has increased confidence in the young people. Through the project extending its reach to meet local needs other positive benefits were reported, such as a reduction in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour and repeat incidents of minor damage.

4 MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1 Monitoring will be undertaken at six months and year end through written reports setting out activity and progress towards outcomes, along with financial expenditure. These reports will be supplemented by quarterly meetings between the OPCC and service provider. A final report will be submitted to the PCC by 30 April 2022.
- 4.2 In 2021/22, the service outputs will include:

- Provide opportunities for 1,300 young people to engage in the programme
- Generate 10,000 attendances to the project
- Provide opportunities for 20 vulnerable young people not in school or mainstream education to gain a recognised qualification
- Provide 1,100 hours of activity for young people, predominantly in the evening
- Encourage a minimum of 15 young people to take up volunteering placements with the project
- Target and deliver the project to the most deprived areas of the county
- Consult and survey 200 young people per year on the impact the project has had on their lives

4.3 Service outcomes stated within the application for funding were:

- Young People in local communities making positive decisions
- Young people are offered a positive alternative to crime, violence and ASB as well as providing a place where young people can be safe.
- Exit routes into other provision / volunteering/employment opportunities
- Young People integrating better with local community
- Social return on investment

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Grant funding from the PCC's commissioning budget of £75,0000 is recommended for 2021/22. This is a £10,000 reduction compared to previous years. The majority of the remaining total project costs has been secured through a range of other sources.

5.2 The PCC's grant funding is specifically towards the full-time permanent Project Manager and Coordinator salaries. Funding for sessional staff and delivery costs generated through a wide variety of funding partners including charitable foundations (local and national) and local authorities. The project makes full use of volunteers included those who have used the service in the past and want to give something back to the project.

5.3 Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures has raised funding from other sources year on year and for every £1 invested from the PCC on average another £0.82p of additional funding has been secured by the project, ensuring the impact of the PCC's investment goes further and is felt wider across the county.

6 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

6.1 An assessment of risk in delivery of the service has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the value of the grant sought, the duration of delivery and the grant recipient's history of delivery and ability to deliver. The monitoring arrangements outlined in the conditions of award reflect the fact that Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures have successfully delivered the service and regularly report on activity and outcomes.

6.2 The OPCC recognises that it is unlikely that key performance indicators will be delivered in the same order as previous years because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.


6.3 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures are required to notify the PCC.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the PCC awards grant funding of £75,000 to Catch22 Suffolk Positive Futures for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

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
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER

<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>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 Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>	
<p>Signature:</p> 	<p>Date: 01.07.2021</p>