



Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NO. 33 - 2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT – CATCH 22 MEDIATION SERVICE

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. In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are consistent with the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021.
2. This report seeks approval to award a grant to Catch 22 for the amount of £18,950 for the period 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022 to deliver the Mediation Service in Suffolk.
3. The proposed grant will deliver on Police and Crime Plan objectives by reducing anti-social behaviour and reducing the demand on the police.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the PCC awards grant funding of £18,950 to Catch 22 for delivery of the Mediation Service in Suffolk for the period 1 November 2021 until 31 October 2022.

APPROVAL BY THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The recommendation set out is agreed.

Signature:

Date: 25 October 2021

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 143 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 enables the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide or arrange for the provision of:
- (a) services that in the opinion of the local policing body will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the body's area;
 - (b) services that are intended by the local policing body to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour;
 - (c) services of a description specified in an order made by the Secretary of State.

The PCC arranging for the provision of services under this section may make grants in connection with the arrangements and grants may be subject to any conditions (including conditions as to repayment) as appropriate.

- 1.2 In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan.
- 1.3 As proposed in decision 24-2020, the OPCC has considered commissioning a mediation service on a long-term basis with partners. During 2021 the OPCC liaised with Suffolk Police and countywide ASB partners on provision of service and whether there was appetite for a jointly commissioned mediation service. These discussions found that other contracts exist for specific needs (housing, non-police issues and in specific localities) and there is some internal resource within local councils providing mediation.
- 1.4 This decision paper therefore recommends continuing to grant fund the current service from the PCC's commissioning budget until 31 October 2022 whilst the OPCC undertakes a competitive tender process to commission a mediation service on a long-term basis. This process will include re-engagement with partners in case their position has changed to see if a jointly commissioned service is viable.

2 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The service to date has contributed towards the following objectives and themes in the following Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021:
- Caring about victims, communities, the local economy and our workforce;
 - Protecting the most vulnerable people and communities by prevent, reducing and solving crime;
 - Delivering efficient and effective services with the right resource.
- 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 consider areas that might reduce non-crime demand on the police and support problem solving by local communities by investing in solutions which reduce reoffending, prevent crime and disorder or improve community safety. The proposed grant will contribute towards this activity.

3 CATCH 22 – MEDIATION SERVICE

- 3.1 Catch 22 is a registered charity operating as a not for profit business with a social mission. In Suffolk, Catch 22 has worked with local authorities, housing and policing for over 9 years to reduce the burden of neighbourhood disputes by offering an alternative way to resolve issues (Mediation Service).

- 3.2 The PCC first supported the Mediation Service in April 2015 and, with the support of the Community Safety Partnership chairs, awarded funding annually through the PCC Fund. In 2020/21 the PCC provided a direct grant of £17,600 for 12 months.
- 3.3 The Mediation service provides a facility for police officers and staff to refer neighbourhood dispute cases to. The types of issues addressed include neighbour disputes, anti-social behaviour, family conflict, property boundaries, parking, harassment and litter.
- 3.4 The proposed funding will be used to continue this provision of an alternative means of managing neighbourhood conflict situation and will reduce time and resource pressure on the police.
- 3.5 The countywide service is independent, non-judgemental and confidential, providing the best possible chance of resolving neighbourhood issues, finding practical solutions and better routes of communication so that residents do not have to resort to calling the police.
- 3.6 Catch22 Mediators are fully trained and qualified and professional practice standards are complied with.
- 3.7 The following referral volumes have been achieved over the last 4 years:
- 2017-18 - 26 referrals
 - 2018-19 - 34 referrals
 - 2019-20 - 47 referrals
 - 2020-21 - 43 referrals
- 3.8 In the first six month of the current grant (November 2020 – April 2021) the service received 28 new referrals and continued work on 11 existing cases. 155 people benefited from the service with 80 directly engaging in mediation. Even where mediation does not take place positive outcomes can still be achieved. Demand for the service was noticeably higher during periods of 'lockdown'.
- 3.9 The service successfully continued delivery throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and now uses a variety of methods to work with beneficiaries, according to their needs (face to face, telephone or online) and with appropriate risk assessment.
- 3.10 A range of outcomes were successfully achieved in the period including:
- 100% of referring Police Officers responding report a reduction or complete cessation of calls/complaints.
 - In 5 cases where criminal proceedings were identified as likely by referring Officers, this was prevented with 100% of Officers responding reporting that mediation stopped an escalation of the dispute.
 - Where Mediation took place, so far, 100% of service users responding reported a reduction in stress.
 - 100% of service users, who felt it relevant, felt safer after working with the service.
 - 81% of service users believed the situation would have worsened without the service.
 - 100% of service users would recommend the service to others.
- 3.11 Feedback from recent service users shows the changes in behaviour and impact on individuals having engaged with service:

“Even though there was no mediation, after my neighbour was contacted by the mediator the issues stopped”

“[The mediator] was very quick to act and empathetic”

“We had regular calls from [the mediator], he always kept us updated and gave us great support with trying to resolve the issues with our neighbours”

- 3.12 Feedback provided by Suffolk Constabulary to Catch22 shows clear support for the service which demonstrably reduces time and resource pressure on the police as well as providing an alternative route to criminalisation where appropriate.

“As far as I’m aware there have been no further issues reported to police involving these two parties, which is a stark contrast to the daily/weekly incidents being reported”

“Proceedings were avoided, partly due to all parties being able to speak and get their point across”

“...this is the 3rd referral I’ve done and so far each has assisted in easing a tempestuous situation/stalemate between warring neighbours where neither party will budge. I cannot rate Catch 22 highly enough a completely impartial 3rd party who are not police seems to do the trick”

- 3.13 Direct feedback to the OPCC from police officers who used the service was overwhelmingly positive but suggested that promotion of the service within the Constabulary needs to continue particularly with new officers joining the service.

4 MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1 This grant award is made on the basis of financial and activity data being made available to the PCC. The intended outcomes for the programme are set out below.

- Referrers report a reduction in calls and complaints from residents.
- Referrers report that escalation to criminal or enforcement measures have been avoided.
- Where mediation takes place a minimum of 90% of services users report a reduction in stress levels.

- 4.2 Catch 22 will also collate the geographical spread of referrals, police and service user feedback.

- 4.3 A monitoring report will be required at 6 month and year end setting out activity and progress towards outcomes, along with financial expenditure.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Monitoring and evaluation from previous service delivery provides evidence there are service and financial benefits in terms of reduced costs and resource implications on the Constabulary and other public services as a direct result of the Mediation Service.

- 5.2 The grant for 202/21 was £17,600 from the PCC and was supplemented by Catch 22 through two small grants available in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic totalling £7k

(August 2020 – October 2021). This enabled the service to manage the increase in referrals over the pandemic period.

- 5.3 The recommended funding of £18,950 reflects the demand for the service, greater awareness of the service with Suffolk Constabulary and required staffing arrangements to support approx. 40 referrals over 12 months. The funding will support the continued employment of the part time coordinator, part-time mediator and some administration costs.

6 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 6.1 If the recommended funding is not awarded then Suffolk Constabulary will no longer be able to refer to the service.
- 6.2 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 history of delivery and ability to deliver. The monitoring arrangements outlined in the conditions of award reflect the fact that the Catch 22 has successfully delivered the service since 2015 and consistently provides monitoring information of a high standard.
- 6.3 It is estimated that the service will receive approximately 40 referrals in the grant period which will be dealt with by the service coordinator and mediator. Catch 22 are able to flex their resources to address any additional caseload. Should the service begin to significantly receive more police referrals than expected they will discuss how to accommodate this with the OPCC.
- 6.4 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Catch 22 is required to notify the PCC.
- 6.5 Full conditions of award can be found in Appendix A.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that the PCC awards grant funding of £18,950 to Catch 22 for delivery of the Mediation Service in Suffolk for the period 1 November 2021 until 31 October 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
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: 25 October 2021



AWARD OF GRANT TO CATCH 22

CONDITIONS OF GRANT

1. Police and Crime Commissioner's Grant
 - 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 Commissioning decisions will be made on the basis of the extent to which the initiative is considered to be able to deliver outcomes, in terms of:
 - a) securing, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk, or
 - b) helping victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
 - 1.3 The Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk will award a grant of £18,950 to Catch 22 for the period 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022 for the delivery of the Mediation service (Suffolk Police Service).
2. Conditions of Award
 - 2.1 This award is one-off award is made on the basis of delivering the service above. The agreement of this award does not place any ongoing responsibility on the PCC to fund the service beyond the period of this grant.
 - 2.2 The award is also made on the basis that the grant recipient uses the grant for the proposed service (paragraph 1.3 above). In the event that the grant is not used for these purposes the monies must be repaid to the PCC.
 - 2.3 Where the grant is used to provide services for victims of crime those services must be free of charge.
 - 2.4 The following costs are not Eligible Expenditure: Payments that support activity intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, government or political parties, or attempting to influence or awarding or renewal of contracts and grants, or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action.
 - 2.5 The grant recipient must be able to evidence appropriate safeguarding procedures for those using their services and have due regard for the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership policies and guidance in relation to safeguarding Children and Adults.

The grant recipient must ensure that its services, policies, training, recruitment, vetting and referral processes appropriately safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

- 2.6 The grant recipient shall ensure that service users are able to access a complaints procedure which enables them to raise complaints and to obtain appropriate redress.

3. Bureaucracy

- 3.1 The grant recipient must be able to demonstrate that they are managing the grant in an efficient and effective manner, and are actively seeking to minimise bureaucracy and streamline processes in order to deliver the best possible outcomes.

4. Transfer of funds

- 4.1 Payment will be made following the receipt of an invoice/payment request.
- 4.2 The grant recipient will invoice the PCC for the grant after which transfer of funds will be arranged within 21 working days of receipt of the invoice.
- 4.3 The PCC will not pay in advance of need. If the PCC reasonably believes that payment is being made in advance of need, the PCC may change the timing and/or the amount of any payments.
- 4.4 In order for any payment to be released, the PCC will require the grant recipient to:
- have accepted these conditions by signing and returning a copy of this Conditions of Award agreement,
 - have provided a communications plan and agreed publicity for this decision;
 - have provided appropriate bank details, and
 - be in compliance of the terms of award

5. Monitoring and Reporting

- 5.1 The grant recipient will report six monthly on progress with activity to the PCC and on financial expenditure.
- 5.2 The PCC may require the attendance of any grant recipient at a public meeting of the PCC's Accountability and Performance Panel, on dates as determined by the PCC's Chief Executive. If this is the case the Chief Executive will advise the recipient.
- 5.3 The grant recipient must notify the PCC immediately if the organisation ceases to operate, the project does not proceed or if an underspend is forecast. Any underspend must be returned to the PCC.

6. Commissioning Principles

- 6.1 In the circumstances where the grant recipient commissions services from other bodies applications must be assessed (by the grant recipient) with good practice commissioning principles in mind (e.g. guidance on commissioning issued by the Association of Policing and Crime Chief Executives) and the PCC's Contract Regulations, and will have due regard for equality, diversity and human rights issues.

7. Publicity and Marketing

- 7.1 By accepting the award from the PCC the grant recipient makes a commitment to acknowledge the PCC's support publicly and must acknowledge their funding from the PCC in all their promotional work. Any recipients of funding via the grant

recipient must display the PCC's logo in all publicity for the life of the initiative. Logo artwork can be provided upon request. Any exceptions must be agreed with the PCC.

- 7.2 The grant recipient will liaise with the PCC's Communications Manager to agree a communications plan, including publicising this funding decision.

8. Access to Information

- 8.1 The PCC expects reasonable access to any records and information held by the grant recipient for purposes associated with the award.

- 8.2 The PCC reserves the right to withhold all or any payments of the award if the PCC has reasonably requested information/documentation from the grant recipient and this has not been received by the PCC in the timescales reasonably required.

9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1 The award may not be used to support or promote religious activity. This will not include inter-faith activity.

- 9.2 The grant recipient must ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that it and anyone acting on its behalf complies with any applicable law for the time being in force (so far as binding on the recipient).

- 9.3 The grant recipient, and its employees, shall be careful not to be subject to conflicts of interest.

- 9.4 The grant recipient shall ensure that third party recipients have comprehensive insurance cover (including, but not limited to, public liability insurance) in place and shall provide evidence of such insurance to the PCC on request.

- 9.5 The PCC accepts no liability to the grant recipient or third party recipients for any costs, claims, damage or losses, however they are incurred, except for to the extent that they arise from personal injury or death which is caused by the PCC's negligence.

- 9.6 The grant recipient agrees to indemnify the PCC for any costs, claims, damages or losses which arise as a result of negligence by the grant recipient or out of any breach by grant recipient of any of the conditions of award.

- 9.7 The grant recipient will, in relation to the service being commissioned, ensure that any data processing that is carried out to deliver the service meets the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or other relevant data protection legislation, and further ensure that the rights of the data subject are delivered.

- 9.8 The grant recipient will be expected to evidence their compliance as appropriate with the GDPR and such other relevant legislation if asked to do so by the PCC.

10. Termination

- 10.1 This agreement may be terminated by either party giving the other at least three months' notice in writing.

ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT

Catch 22 accepts the offer of an award of £18,950 and agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant on which the offer is made.

On behalf of Catch 22:

Signature	
Name:	
Position:	
Date:	

Bank details for grant payment:

Bank name:	
Branch name:	
Sort Code:	
Account name:	
Account number:	
Address:	
Postcode:	

Signed on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk:

Signature	
Name:	
Position:	
Date:	