

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NUMBER: 22 - 2023

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT – THE SAFETY BOX

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. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has discussed the need for a targeted intervention with The Probation Service, local Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Coordinator and police to address gang and serious violence issues in the Ipswich area.
3. This report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant to The Safety Box for £6,300 to match funding of £6,300 from The Probation Service. Working closely with local partners, The Safety Box will deliver an 8 week 'Aspire Higher' violence reduction personal development programme to ten people, currently on probation, in Ipswich.
4. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity and supports Objectives 2 and 4 in the Police and Crime Plan by investing in an initiative to reduce reoffending.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £6,300 to The Safety Box for delivery of the Aspire Higher programme in Suffolk.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



Signature:

Date: 03.07.2023

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) 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.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval from the PCC to award a grant of £6,300 to support the delivery of the Aspire Higher programme by The Safety Box in order to reduce reoffending by those who have previously been involved in serious violence in Suffolk.

2. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 In February 2022, a new Police and Crime Plan for the period 2022-2025 was published. Objective 2 sets out the intention to provide services which support victims of crime and invest in initiatives which reduce crime. Objective 4 sets out how the PCC will work in partnership to improve criminal justice outcomes and enhance community safety.
- 2.2 The proposed grant to The Safety Box will contribute to the following activity within Objectives 2 and 4 of the Police and Crime Plan:
- Use crime and disorder reduction funding to divert young people from crime and seek to work with the Constabulary and partners to reduce reoffending.
 - Explore opportunities to co-commission with the new National Probation Service, where it adds value to reducing reoffending in Suffolk.
 - Support problem-solving in local communities, by investing in solutions which reduce reoffending, prevent crime and disorder, or improve community safety.
 - Work with the Suffolk Reducing Reoffending Group (including the new structures in the National Probation Service and Integrated Offender Management), to understand gaps in provision, particularly for young people up to the age of 25.
 - Consider whether the PCC's crime and disorder reduction funding could support or match fund provision to reduce reoffending.

3. SERIOUS VIOLENCE (IPSWICH)

- 3.1 The Office of the PCC has recently discussed with partners the need for a targeted intervention in Ipswich in response to serious violence and gang activity in the town. The violence issues in Ipswich stems predominantly from two rival urban street gangs and, whilst serious violence involving gang affiliated people has seen a sustained reduction since a peak during early summer of 2022, it remains a long term concern.
- 3.2 Police data shows that crime reporting rates for both Violence with Injury and Violence without Injury have increased post pandemic with +18% and +15% increases respectively in the year ending September 2022. This percentage increase is in line with other 'most similar group' (MSG) forces.

- 3.3 The county has seen the lowest increases in knife crime within its MSG and solved rates are relatively consistent despite the general demand challenges of ‘calls for service’ that the Constabulary responds to.
- 3.4 Latest data shows the South policing area, covering Ipswich, has seen a 15.3% increase in violence with injury in the last 12 month (to May 2023) compared to 10.3% for Suffolk as a whole.
- 3.5 A range of activity is undertaken by the Constabulary, particularly with young people, including prevention, victim engagement and support and suspect management. Further information can be found in the Tackling Serious Violence and Supporting Children and Young People reports to the PCC’s Accountability and Performance Panel:
- <https://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/key-info/holding-to-account/accountability-performance/accountability-and-performance-panel-12-may-2023>
- 3.6 Whilst there is a range of prevention work with young people, gap analysis undertaken with partners has identified a need for interventions to support young adults who remain linked to violent lifestyles and are struggling to move on and reduce their reoffending.
- 3.7 Some background provider research was undertaken and it was established there were no local organisations with a tested programme that delivers the type of intervention required. Given the explorative nature of this project and amount of funding available it is proposed a grant award is made with an experienced out of county provider to test whether this type of intervention is something that could be commissioned in future.
- 3.8 The recommendation to co-fund The Safety Box with the Probation Service will provide an opportunity test these interventions with a key cohort in Suffolk.

4. THE SAFETY BOX – ASPIRE HIGHER

- 4.1 The Safety Box® CIC has 16 years experience in delivering intervention programmes to those in prison, in education settings and in the community including youths at risk, girls and women, parents, caregivers and professionals working with young people. Their programmes are AQA accredited and are undergoing academic evaluation.
- 4.2 Working with partners they have had an impact on over 19,000 young people in the UK over the last 15 years. Programme facilitators are ‘credible messengers’ who work with young people involved in carrying weapons, gang activity, drugs and those at risk of violent offences.
- 4.3 The Safety Box have been commissioned by several councils and local government across the South East of England and in addition have been contracted by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), His Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), the Police and have been funded by The Home Office.
- 4.4 The Safety Box Aspire Higher programme is an accredited AQA high impact violence reduction and personal development program designed to change behaviour traits, dissuade weapon carrying and stop negative mindsets.
- 4.5 It uses advanced coaching methodologies combined with high impact workshops using credible messengers (those with lived experiences), inspirational and motivational strategies, high level conflict resolution, one-2-one sessions and violence prevention. The programme focusses on building confidence, communication skills and self-esteem, while inspiring the

participants to engage in education, training and employment. The programme content has been provided to the PCC and The Probation Service and takes the form of eight steps as follows:

- Discover Your Purpose
- Believe & Achieve
- The Mind
- Control of Self
- Take The Limits Off
- Profit With Purpose
- Protection Against Knives
- Rewarding Self

4.6 The Aspire Higher programme has seen 67% reduction in violence, 100% reduction in weapon offences, 61% increase in employment, 66% increase in engagement in education post intervention (2017-2019) in prisons within South East England. It has been delivered in schools to over 4,000 pupils in the South East. Evaluation of the programme stated there was a 'rapid and sustained reduction' in violence.

4.7 Police and Probation services in Suffolk have identified a potential cohort (high and medium risk men) to which a community-based intervention could be delivered whilst on probation. Decisions on how to deliver the intervention and the engagement of participants will be decided by The Safety Box and local probation practitioners.

4.8 This pilot is being developed to address risk associated behaviours for those persons currently on probation, this is in addition to the work already being undertaken by the criminal exploitation hub who work with younger people. The purpose of the intervention is for those on the local probation caseload who have limited access to an intervention of this nature.

5. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

5.1 The Safety Box will deliver an end of project report setting out activity and outcomes achieved through the programme as well as any recommendations or learning for the Office of the PCC and other partners to consider. The Probation Service will also have data on compliance and recall to custody which can be assessed for the participants involved in the programme to provide longer term assessment of impact.

5.2 The service outcomes are:

- Reduction in violence
- Reduction in weapons offences
- Participant changes in key metrics such as confidence, communication skills, self esteem measured pre and post programme
- Increase in employment and or in education post intervention.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The total cost of delivery for the project in Suffolk is £12,600, to be supported equally by the PCC and The Probation Service contributing £6,300 each.

6.2 Support in developing the programme, managing participants and providing a suitable location for delivery will be provided by The Probation Service.

- 6.3 It is recommended that the PCC approves funding of £6,300 from his commissioning budget for the delivery of the programme. The Probation Service will transfer the remainder of the funding to the PCC in order for the PCC to grant fund The Safety Box for the delivery of the programme in its entirety.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 7.1 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 ability to deliver. It should be noted there is no history of delivery by this organisation in Suffolk to date.
- 7.2 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, The Safety Box are required to notify the PCC.
- 7.3 The Serious Violence Duty specified authorities (Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022) are required to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area. Partners are currently undertaking a strategic needs assessment to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence in Suffolk and will publish a corresponding strategy no later than January 2024. The needs assessment will give more granular detail about the profile of serious violence in Suffolk on which future interventions can be commissioned. The Suffolk Serious Violence Duty Partnership have been informed of the intention by the PCC and The Probation Service to support this intervention.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £6,300 to The Safety Box for delivery of the Aspire Higher programme in Suffolk.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	NO
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	NO
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: 29.06.2023