

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NUMBER: 25 - 2023

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT – IPSWICH
TOWN FOUNDATION ‘DIVERT’**

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 Suffolk Constabulary 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 Ipswich Town Foundation for £14,500. Working closely with Suffolk Constabulary’s Criminal Exploitation and Gangs team and Suffolk Youth Justice Service, Ipswich Town Foundation will support 36 young people through three 10 week ‘DIVERT’ programmes. The programme will support young people on the periphery of, or entrenched in, serious youth violence and is designed to: raise aspirations, develop tangible skills and confidence, increase employability and provide a sense of belonging to the beneficiaries.
4. The funding will enable crime and disorder reduction activity and supports Objective 2 in the Police and Crime Plan by investing in an initiative to divert young people from crime and disorder and to reduce reoffending.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £14,500 to Ipswich Town Foundation for delivery of three 'DIVERT' programmes between 1 September 2023 and 31 May 2024.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



Signature:

Date: 9 August 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 £14,500 to support the delivery of the DIVERT programme by Ipswich Town Foundation to support young people on the periphery of, or entrenched in, serious youth violence and raise aspirations.

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.
- 2.2 The proposed grant to Ipswich Town Foundation will contribute to the following activity within Objective 2 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.
 - Support problem-solving in local communities, by investing in solutions which reduce reoffending, prevent crime and disorder, or improve community safety.
 - Supporting young people – this could include initiatives which divert young people from criminality, enhance their skills or provide crime prevention advice and support so they do not become victims.
 - Consider initiatives which reduce the demand on the police in particular policing the night-time economy, ASB and reducing crime and disorder in our towns.

3. SERIOUS VIOLENCE (IPSWICH)

- 3.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has recently discussed with partners the need for targeted interventions in Ipswich in response to serious violence and gang activity in the town. The violence issues in Ipswich stem 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. Knife crime is also increasing albeit the county has seen the lowest increases within its MSG.
- 3.3 Latest data shows the South policing area, covering Ipswich, has seen a 9.5% increase in Violence with Injury in the last 12 month (to June 2023) compared to 7.4% for Suffolk as a whole. Just under 4% of suspects for these offences were under 18 years old.

- 3.4 In evidencing the need for the proposed programme, Ipswich Town Foundation have used www.crimerate.co.uk/suffolk/ipswich which collates official Home Office released data sets. This allows for the comparison between different locations and shows that the crime rate in Ipswich is 43% higher than the East of England average, as well as 28% higher than the overall figure for England.
- 3.5 The local Superintendent supports the introduction of a targeted programme saying: *“Youth violence continues to be a growing concern nationally and Ipswich isn’t immune to this. Over the past year we have seen a marked change in the age of those getting involved in Gang Criminality, often attracting young teenagers to a lifestyle that is difficult to compete with. Through the work of the constabulary and partners there is a growing indication that those vulnerable to joining gangs often seek a sense of belonging and aspire for a better quality of life not fulfilled by education, friends, family or statutory activity. Suffolk has a robust response and provision for those convicted and a strong third sector offering, but there remains a need for bespoke targeted programmes to support those on the fringes of gang criminality, to meet their needs, provide skills for an alternative future and a give way to a better societal sense of belonging.”*

4. IPSWICH TOWN FOUNDATION

- 4.1 Ipswich Town Foundation is a registered charity that represent Ipswich Town Football Club within the local and surrounding communities, acting as an extension of the club to engage with local people and make a genuine impact on their lives.
- 4.2 The organisation has 50 contracted staff plus casual coaches who deliver a wide variety of projects and programmes across Suffolk and beyond. They currently engage with around 9,000 young people and vulnerable adults each week.
- 4.3 Ipswich Town Foundation’s strategic aims are as follows:
- To advocate and assist with promoting participation in healthy recreation to the local community.
 - To act as a resource for young people in East Anglia, by providing advice, assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of advancing young people in life and helping develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals.
 - To further and assist in the education (on a social and physical basis) of children attending schools within the Suffolk and surrounding area through the use of the game of football and other sports activities as educational tools.
 - To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded (unemployment, financial hardship, youth or old age, ill health – physical or mental), relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.
 - To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life for those whom the facilities are provided.
- 4.4 Ipswich Town Football Club and Ipswich Town Foundation position themselves as the cornerstone in the local community. Although they work closely with Suffolk Constabulary their programmes are delivered independently providing positive engagement with hard to reach young people.

5. THE DIVERT PROGRAMME

- 5.1 The DIVERT programme has been designed to raise aspirations, develop tangible skills, develop confidence, increase employability, provide a sense of belonging and provide opportunities for the beneficiaries involved in the service.
- 5.2 The service will focus on young people (aged 13-17) engaged in, or susceptible to serious violence and gang criminality. We will be expecting to support 36 young people across three 10 week projects. The young people will be identified and referred by the police Criminal Exploitation and Gangs Team in conjunction with the Youth Justice Service, focusing on those who are on the periphery or vulnerable to gang activity in key areas across Ipswich.
- 5.3 The project will be delivered over 10 consecutive weeks, delivering 2 hours per week. Each 2 hour session will consist of 1 hour workshop/skills based learning followed by 1 hour of physical activity. The majority of delivery will be by Ipswich Town Foundation staff, who are experienced at working with a range of young people however other figures who can act as role models for the young people will be involved in the delivery and support of the programme to raise aspirations. Delivery will be at Portman Road, home of Ipswich Town Football Club, as an inspirational venue to base the project.
- 5.4 The programme content has been provided to the PCC and takes the form of ten sessions including:
- Programme Introduction / Ice Breakers / Goal Setting/ Tour of Portman Road to capture attention
 - Skills Matrix
 - Knife Crime / County Lines
 - Searching for Opportunities – Education/Employment
 - Application / CV Writing
 - Team Building Challenges
 - Mock Interviews and Preparation
 - Day Trip – Playford Road First Team Training and Tour
 - Programme review / volunteering opportunities
 - Celebration Event / Graduation
- 5.5 Whilst a range of prevention work with young people is undertaken across the county, this proposal addresses a specific location and cohort with a targeted programme tailored to serious violence and in support of Operation Hull (gang criminality). Delivery of the programme with partners will improve community safety and support activity to prevent offending/re-offending leading to lasting criminal justice outcomes.
- 5.6 Written endorsement from the South Area Command Superintendent and local councillors has been provided by Ipswich Town Foundation.
- 5.7 Given the explorative nature of this project and amount of funding available it is proposed a grant award is made to Ipswich Town Foundation as an experienced provider of services to young people to test whether this type of intervention is something that could be commissioned in future.

6. MONITORING AND OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Ipswich Town Foundation will provide the OPCC with interim updates following the completion of each programme. An end of project report will set 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.

- 6.2 Ipswich Town Foundation state that the outcomes of the programme are to:
- Increase confidence to take up opportunities that will lead participants away from a life of crime.
 - Increase in tangible skills, including people skills to engage with new people and their peers.
 - Delivery employability and education outcomes including the provision of new skills that can be used within education and within future employment.
 - Increase in physical activity to benefit young people and increase engagement in positive activity and provide mental health benefits.
 - A sense of belonging, showing them that they can build new relationships with their peers as well as form new meaningful relationships with trusted adults.
- 6.3 Monitoring reports will include data and qualitative input on:
- Overall participant numbers, referrals and completions.
 - Key metrics such as confidence, communication skills, self esteem measured pre and post programme.
 - Changes in attitudes and understanding of serious violence, ASB, crime and exploitation.
 - Uptake of employment, volunteering or education opportunities post intervention.
 - Participant feedback and satisfaction with the programme content, delivery and impact.
 - Stakeholder (including police) feedback.
 - Monitoring of crime and ASB data and assessment of reduction in adverse engagement with police.
- 6.4 Ipswich Town Foundation will use pre and post programme questionnaires for all young people attending the 10 week programme, supplemented with written (and video where possible) case studies to show the impact of the service. The questionnaires will provide an understanding of how the young people view their local community and those that police it, their current view on peers, their confidence levels, as well as finding out any aspirations they have and on completion, how the programme has helped them.
- 6.5 Follow up engagement with participants, up to 6 months after completion of the course, will allow the identification of tangible impact.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The total cost of delivery for the project is £14,500 which covers the delivery of three programmes delivering to 36 young people.

Item	Total cost
Weekly Operating Costs Room Hire, staffing, workshops, refreshments	£7,431
Resources and Equipment IT equipment, delivery resources, certificates/awards, sports equipment	£4,500
Miscellaneous	£750
ITFC Match Tickets and programmes for participants	£840
Management Fee	£1,316
Total	£14,477

- 7.2 It is recommended that the PCC approves funding of £14,500 from his commissioning budget for the delivery of the programme.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 8.1 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 and track record of work with young people.
- 8.2 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Ipswich Town Foundation are required to notify the PCC.
- 8.3 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 intention of the PCC to support this intervention will be shared with the Suffolk Serious Violence Duty Partnership.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £14,500 to Ipswich Town Foundation for delivery of three 'DIVERT' programmes between 1 September 2023 and 31 May 2024.

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: 1 August 2023