

**ORIGINATOR:** Liam Bannon Community  
Safety Officer

**DECISION NO.** 52 /2021

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION:** For decision

**SUBMITTED TO:** PCC

**SUBJECT:** Bystander Programme Co-ordinator

**SUMMARY:** Through the Safer Streets Fund 3, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk was awarded funding to deliver bystander programmes in Norfolk Schools, amongst other deliverables. This funding is time limited to the end of the financial year 2021/22, limiting the sustainability of the bystander programmes. It is proposed that by funding Norfolk County Council to host a Bystander Programme Co-ordinator based on the Scottish Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) the sustainability of bystander programmes in Norfolk schools can be guaranteed beyond the end of the financial year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Fund Norfolk County Council to host a Bystander Programme Co-ordinator until the end of the school term 2022/23 using the Community Safety Fund.

**OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY:** PCC/CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (Delete as appropriate)

*The recommendations as outlined above are approved.*

Signature



Date: 07/12/2021

## DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

### 1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 Bystander programmes encourage young people to intervene when witnessing incidents or warning signs of sexual assault (e.g., controlling behaviour, such as intervening with a would-be perpetrator leading an intoxicated person into an isolated area). The strength of the bystander model lies in its emphasis on the role of peers in the prevention of violence.
- 1.2 The objective of this project is to integrate Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) into the Norfolk education system. This will be achieved by installing a role (Bystander Programme Co-ordinator) into Norfolk County Council's Education department. The role will be responsible for:
- Developing, implementing and sustaining a bystander intervention programme across education settings in Norfolk;
  - Work with a wide range of teams within Children's Services and other partner organisations to design and develop a joined-up approach to implementing the programme;
  - Supporting education settings embed and embrace bystander prevention programmes;
  - Monitor and quality assure delivery of the programme across education settings.

### 2. BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 The tragic killing of Sarah Everard on 3 March 2021 brought to the forefront concerns about women and girls' safety in public places. To provide reassurance to women and girls and ensure the safety of public spaces, the Government announced, on 15 March, an additional £25 million for the Safer Streets Fund. This is being used to run a third round of Safer Streets Funding, with a focus on ensuring the safety of public places for all, and a particular emphasis on improving the safety of public spaces for women and girls. This third pilot round of the Fund seeks to expand the evidence base on the prevention of VAWG crimes, aiming to prevent these crimes before they can occur, whilst simultaneously increasing feelings and perceptions of public safety in problem areas.

- 2.2 Women are disproportionately likely to experience certain crime types. For example, they are around four times more likely than men to experience a sexual assault. According to the 2019/20 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), 2.9% of women aged 16 to 74 and 0.7% of men were victims of sexual assault in the last year. Only a small proportion of sexual assaults are reported to take place in public spaces such as parks and streets and all such crimes should be treated with the seriousness they deserve.
- 2.3 Women and girls have also been found to suffer high levels of sexual and verbal harassment. Examples include a survey of 14-21-year-olds by Plan UK in 2018 that found that 38% of girls experience verbal harassment including sexual comments in public places at least once a month. Women are also less likely to feel safe walking alone at night in their local area. According to data from the 2019/20 CSEW, 69% of women aged 16 and over said that they felt very or fairly safe walking alone after dark, in contrast to 89% of men. In women aged 75 and over, that figure falls to 58%.
- 2.4 In developing Norfolk's bid to the Safer Streets Fund, local VAWG organisation were consulted. They said they felt it was important to enact culture change that meant people would be less likely to exhibit VAWG related attitudes and behaviours and for our community members to feel comfortable challenging these attitudes and behaviours. They also stressed the importance of advertising key messages and services to gatekeepers within the NTE. Whether behind the bar, on the door, serving food or driving them home, key gatekeepers can identify, intervene, signpost and safeguard people.
- 2.5 Evidence has highlighted that bystander programmes are an effective intervention, which have led to attitude shift and an increased likelihood in intervening in situations associated with VAWG, as reported by programme attendees. Therefore, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be funding delivery of programmes in Norfolk schools and development and delivery of a programme at the University of East Anglia.
- 2.6 The funding through the Safer Streets Fund must be spent by the end of the financial year and the current approach lacks sustainability of delivery with Norfolk Schools. By funding the Bystander Co-ordinator role, bystander programmes can be integrated within schools in Norfolk.

### **3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- 3.1 For more information on Norfolk's Safer Streets Fund 3 project, please refer to decision notice 50-2021.
- 3.2 The benefits of this programme of interventions are:
- By focusing on primary prevention interventions, the greatest impact for the greatest number of residents can be achieved
  - Younger people experience more VAWG, and this work will target work at children and young people
  - The night time economy is a key area of police demand and these interventions will reduce impact of the night time economy on policing

- The work has the potential to impact on other key police and crime concerns, including but not limited to hate crime, domestic abuse, violence in public spaces, and acquisitive crime.

#### **4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

- 4.1 **Do nothing:** Without this additional funding, a bystander programme will have been developed to deliver to the University of East Anglia students, without providing capacity to integrate it within Norfolk schools. The creation of this role enables resources created through the Safer Streets Fund 3 to be utilised to full potential and to be sustained in the long-term.

#### **5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:**

- 5.1 The role will directly benefit the following aspects of the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan, which comes into action at the end of March 2022:
- Pillar 3: Tackling Crime
    - Promote a co-ordinated county wide response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) to tackle high harm behaviours/criminality with a focus on domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences
  - Pillar 4: Prevent Offending
    - Strengthen early intervention and preventative approaches to crime in the county and reduce first time entrants into criminal justice
  - Pillar 6: Safer and Stronger Communities
    - Working with partners and communities to prevent crime and harm
    - Promote crime prevention initiatives

#### **6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 To deliver the role of Bystander Programme Co-ordinator until 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 (inclusive), the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk will fund Norfolk County Council up to £75,000.
- 6.2 The programme will make use of resources created by the University of East Anglia with funding provided by the OPCCN through the Safer Streets Fund 3.

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:**

- 7.1 Recruitment processes are subject to delay. The delay will depend on several factors and will affect the amount of time the appointee has to deliver. The longer it takes to appoint, the shorter the role will have to make an impact.
- 7.2 Current prevalence rates for Covid-19 Virus and the related restrictions are having an impact of capacity of providers and attendance rates at school. This may limit deliverability of projects and the number of children reached through schools.

7.3 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, each organisation is required to notify the OPCCN as per the conditions of the award.

7.4 The funding for this project will be taken from the Community Safety Fund.

<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>Yes</b>
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>Yes</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	<b>Yes</b>
Have human resource implications been considered?	<b>Yes</b>
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	<b>Yes</b>
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	<b>Yes</b>
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	<b>Yes</b>
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	<b>Yes</b>

**Is this report a Confidential Decision?**

**NO**

If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER** (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

**Chief Executive**

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

**Signature:**



**Date: 07/12/2021**

**Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)**

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,  
OR
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,  
OR
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves  
AND
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

**Signature:**



**Date: 07/12/2021**

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION:** *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*