

ORIGINATOR: Liam Bannon Community
Safety Officer

DECISION NO. 03/2022

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For decision

SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

SUBJECT: Safer Streets Fund 3 - Charter

SUMMARY: The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk has secured £461,895.65 of Home Office funding to deliver a series of measures to improve safety in King's Lynn, Norwich and Great Yarmouth. The Home Office has agreed to allow the OPCCN to repurpose its identified underspend to fund the creation of a Night Safety Charter.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the PCC for Norfolk support the work programme highlighted in this decision notice to enable the delivery of Norfolk's Safer Streets Fund 3 bid by 31st March 2022. This will see Norwich Business Improvement District funded £12,000.

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

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.



Signature

Date: 02/02/2022

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 The objective of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund 3 is to improve the safety of public places for all, with a particular focus on reducing Violence Against Women and Girls crimes¹, in these spaces, as well as improving feelings of public safety in target areas.
- 1.2 The main aims of this fund are to:
 - Reduce VAWG and increase women and girls' feelings of safety in public spaces;
 - Build the evidence base for what works on reducing VAWG crimes and increasing women and girls' feelings of safety in the public domain;
 - Improve the national and local data picture regarding VAWG crimes in public
 - spaces, which could include increased reporting for some crime types; and
 - Make public spaces safer for all.
- 1.3 The specific objective of funding attributed to Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk will be to test the bids hypotheses, which are:
 - A. by working with the gatekeepers in the NTE and adapting the physical environment to design out the opportunity for crime we can make people feel safer and be safer from potential VAWG offenders.
 - B. by working to change attitudes and behaviours in the general population, particularly those engaging in the night time economy and of high school age, we can increase community capacity to challenge attitudes and behaviours resulting in VAWG and prevent them from developing.

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

¹A non-exhaustive list of crimes in scope includes rape, causing sexual activity without consent, sexual coercion, sexual assault/ indecent assault, abduction, street harassment, stalking, indecent exposure and voyeurism, unwanted sexual touching and up-skirting

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 Scanning and analysis of local crime data and other data sources highlighted:
- Norwich city centre and Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn town centres account for 16% of VAWG crimes in public spaces, but only account for 1% of the population of Norfolk. Many crimes occurred at bars, clubs or at bus stations, bus stops or on public transport.
 - Sexual harassment on the street was highlighted as a concern by residents in an EDP survey due to frequency
 - VAWG organisations 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 There is limited evidence on what interventions are effective at preventing violence against women and girls in public spaces. However, based on the evidence that does exist and by determining what key factors the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk wants to effect with its bid, the key deliverables for the submitted bid are:
1. **UEA bystander programme** developed and implemented by student services. Bystander programmes focus on giving people the skills to recognise and safely respond to problematic attitudes and behaviours that contribute to a culture where violence occurs.
 2. **Bystander programmes for selected high schools** in Norfolk (Norwich, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn) – this will involve procuring interventions from an organisation able to deliver a programme to schools. In addition, resources will put in place to provide the UEA bystander programme is rolled out to schools in Norfolk, providing a sustainable intervention.
 3. Expand **CCTV coverage of the Night Time Economy in King's Lynn** with 5 additional cameras, recommended by an EVA assessment
 4. Area renovation and cleaning in the **Great Yarmouth Rows**, including street lighting.

5. Employ a **Community Safety Officer** to cover the town centre of Great Yarmouth on a full time, fixed term contract.
 6. Engage with the national working group on **Project Vigilant** to access learning and explore establishing a similar scheme in at least Norwich NTE. Project Vigilant, first piloted by Thames Valley Police in Oxford, is aimed at targeting perpetrator behaviours in the NTE, which are often displayed before a sexual offence takes place.
 7. Develop and deliver a **campaign** targeting violence against women and girls crimes in the NTE and affecting children and young people. The campaign will be influenced by research which will focus on the following aims:
 - a. Challenge attitudes and beliefs which are associated with VAWG crimes. This will be informed by behavioural insights research to ensure maximum effect is achieved.
 - b. Encourage victims of all forms of VAWG crimes to report and victimisation they experience in public spaces.
 - c. Increase feelings of safety by highlighting work to tackle VAWG crimes in the NTE and in Schools
- 2.6 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk has identified an underspend in the budget associated with Bystander programmes in schools. It has liaised with the Home Office to repurpose the funding and has agreed to fund the creation of a night safety charter, to be led by Norwich Business Improvement District's (BID) and which is made available to all businesses operating in the Night Time Economy and wider in Norfolk. The deliverable is:
1. Fund the creation and implementation of a Night Safety Charter and associated toolkits for Norwich, Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn.
£12,000 (added 20/12/2021)

3. **AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

- 3.1 Norwich Business Improvement District's (BID) bid to the Home Office's Safety of Women at Night Fund was unsuccessful. It included the deliverable mentioned at 2.6, so this repurposing has already undergone rigorous assessment regarding feasibility.
- 3.2 The benefits of this programme of interventions are:
 - Through focusing on primary prevention interventions and environmental changes, 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. The OPCCN and its partner members of the NCCSP saw not developing and delivering a bid as an unacceptable option as they are both committed to preventing and responding to VAWG crimes and have related statutory objectives.

5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:

- 5.1 This range of projects complements the NCCSP's Safer Norfolk Plan. The bid will directly benefit the response to neighbourhood crime and sexual violence.
- 5.2 The projects will also complement the national Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. In particular, the prioritising prevention and pursuing perpetrators strategic priorities.
- 5.3 The project will also support the delivery of the soon to be published Norfolk Police and Crime Plan.

6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The OPCCN will fund the cost of creating the Night Safety Charter, up to £12,000
- 6.2 The funding awarded by the Home Office must be spent on activity set out in Norfolk's original bid and all funded activity must be completed by 31st March 2022.
- 6.3 The total award for Norfolk's bid to the Safer Streets Fund 3 is £461,895.65.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

- 7.1 The short timescale allowed for this project may result in incomplete delivery prior to the March 2022 deadline.
- 7.2 In line with usual government grants, PCCs must ensure that organisations do not use the funding for any of the following activities:
- religious activities outside of projects benefiting the wider community and not containing religious content;
 - political or lobbying activities;
 - loan repayments; or
 - activities that make profit for private gain
- 7.3 All organisations awarded funding will need to comply with the OPCCN Governance 'Check List' that will be provided with offers of Grants if this has not been completed in advance.
- 7.4 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.

| 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 |
| <p data-bbox="204 1424 786 1458">Is this report a Confidential Decision?</p> <div data-bbox="1259 1440 1380 1509" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-left: 680px;">NO</div> <p data-bbox="204 1534 1430 1568">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the PCC Decision Making Policy</p> | |

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: 02/02/2022

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: 02/02/2022

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.*