

ORIGINATOR: Community Safety Officer

DECISION NO. 12/2023

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For decision

SUBMITTED TO: PCC

SUBJECT: Bystander Intervention Programme

SUMMARY:

The PCC has funded Norfolk County Council to host a Bystander Programme Co-ordinator responsible for developing a Bystander Intervention Programme based on national best practice which can be sustainability delivered by Norfolk Schools. It is currently funded until the end of the academic year 2022/23.

The programme is needed because evidence and national strategy highlight an effective method for preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is delivering behaviour change education and intervention to young people. This includes evidence that shows bystander programmes as a particularly effective method, as demonstrated by Public Health England's 'A review of evidence for bystander intervention to prevent sexual and domestic violence in universities'.

The Bystander Intervention Programme is achieving promising results in its first year of delivery. However, to ensure sustainability and evaluate the intervention, an extension to the term of the grant is required. This will deliver:

- Sustainability of the Bystander Intervention Programme across education settings in Norfolk beyond the end of the funding;
- Support for education settings embedding the Bystander Intervention Programme;
- Monitoring and assuring quality delivery of the programme across education settings;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide a one-year extension to the programme until the end of the summer school term 2023/24 (Friday 19 July 2024).

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

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:



Date: 30/05/2023

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 Bystander programmes encourage young people to intervene when witnessing incidents or warning signs of sexual assault. 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 further embed the Bystander Intervention Programme into the Norfolk education system and assess its impact. This will be achieved by continuing the Bystander Programme Co-ordinator role in Norfolk County Council's Education department, working closely with Norfolk schools. 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
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention

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 was 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 expanded 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 Norfolk (OPCCN) funded Norfolk County Council to host a Bystander Programme Education Co-ordinator. The role was initially funded between February 2022 and July 2023 to establish a Bystander programme, roll it out with Norfolk Schools and assess its early impact. An initial target of 50 schools was set. At the time of writing this target has been exceeded. The programme has enrolled 87 schools, all of whom have attended a train the trainer session. Of these, 27 have delivered the training to over 1,000 members of staff. This has in turn resulted in nearly 6,000 students being trained to become Active Bystanders.

- 2.7 The project has achieved a great deal but needs further time to measure impact more accurately and further embed in Norfolk schools. Therefore, an extension of one academic year is advised.

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- 3.1 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 the programme will not expand into more Norfolk schools and will not be properly assessed for impact. This will prevent children receiving this intervention in schools that have not engaged yet and assessment of the effectiveness of the programme.

5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:

- 5.1 The role will directly benefit the following aspects of the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan, which came 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
- 5.2 Further, the programme directly contributes to the following long-term outcome from the Safer Norfolk Plan:
- Reduce overall victimisation, risk, harm, perpetration and reoffending for:
 - Rape and sexual offences
 - Domestic abuse
 - Serious violence
- 5.3 This intervention contributes to the achievement of the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021. It highlights that the causes of sexual violence are complex and multifaceted but "effective prevention must include early intervention to attempt to influence these values in

childhood and adolescence, as well as shifting social norms to become less accepting of violence and inequality” (page 34 of VAWG Strategy 2021). This programme is designed to affected attitudes of young people by embedding an educational programme within the local curriculum.

5.4

6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 To deliver the role of Bystander Programme Co-ordinator until 19th July 2024 (inclusive), the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk will fund Norfolk County Council a further £60,000.

6.2 The funding for this project will be taken from the Community Safety Core Funding

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

7.1 No additional risks have been identified at this time.

7.2 Should there be any risk to the project being delivered, Norfolk County Council 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
Is this report a Confidential Decision?	NO

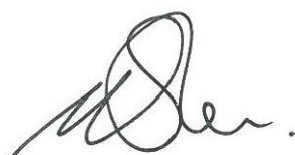
If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

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: 30/05/2023

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Paul', is written over a thin black rectangular border.

Date: 30/05/2023

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.*