



Subject: Knife carrying and violence prevention awareness and education programme

Originator: Serious Violence Programme Lead

Decision no. 45

Reason for submission: For Decision

Submitted to: PCC

Summary:

1. The Serious Violence Duty commenced in January 2023. The Duty places a new legal duty on a number of organisations to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
2. Under the Duty, local areas are required to develop a strategic needs assessment (SNA) to inform a local strategy setting out how the partnership will work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
3. The Home Office have allocated funding to meet costs arising from the Duty. The funding is allocated to local policing bodies who can subsequently allocate funding to duty-holders.
4. Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner is the grant holder of Home Office funding to deliver a local response to the Serious Violence Duty.
5. As part of Norfolk's response, the Serious Violence Duty responsible authorities have agreed to allocate Serious Violence Duty Funding to fund Norfolk Constabulary to deliver a knife carrying and violence prevention awareness and education programme.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner provide Serious Violence Duty grant funding to Norfolk Constabulary to deliver a knife carrying and violence prevention awareness and education programme.

Outcome/approval by: PCC/~~chief executive~~/~~chief finance officer~~
(Delete as appropriate)

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:



Date: 19/12/2023

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

- 1.1 The Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.
- 1.2 The key objectives of the development of a knife carrying and violence prevention awareness and education programme are to:
 - Develop an evidence-based knife carrying and violence prevention awareness and education programme for delivery to young people. The programme is aimed at raising awareness amongst young people, of the risks associated with knife carrying and violence.

2. Background:

- 2.1 The new Serious Violence Duty has been introduced to facilitate the partnership response to preventing and reducing serious violence.
- 2.2 The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations to develop an evidence base (strategic needs assessment) and create and implement a strategy containing bespoke solutions as to how the local partnership will work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.

- 2.3 The Home Office have allocated funding to meet costs arising from the Duty. The funding is allocated to local policing bodies who can subsequently allocate funding to duty-holders. This includes funding allocated to evidence informed interventions which are aligned to the response strategy.
- 2.4 Serious violence has a devastating impact on lives of victims and families and instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society.
- 2.5 Interpersonal violence can be viewed as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels – the individual, their relationships, their community and wider society.
- 2.6 The public health approach to serious violence means thinking about violence, not only as a problem for the police, but as a preventable consequence of a complex range of factors which influence the likelihood of being affected by violence. It recognises that to effectively tackle violence an approach is needed which does not just focus on those who are already affected by violence but also by addressing the underlying risk factors.
- 2.7 The public health approach involves interventions in three overarching categories, which focus on prevention for different population groups depending on the risk level:
- Primary prevention – aims to stop risk factors from emerging or promotes protective factors
 - Secondary prevention – aims to address risk factors and stop issues from escalating
 - Tertiary prevention – aims to manage an ongoing problem and reduce harm
- 2.8 There is growing body of research exploring why some people or groups are at higher risk of violence while some are protected from it. Although risk and protective factors are not predictive of future behaviour, research has found that reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors has been found to be effective in preventing violence.
- 2.9 Whilst the approach to using risk and protective factors in predicting outcomes is still developing, they can be utilised to support strategic decision making, planning and allocation of interventions and resources. Considering protective factors, alongside the risks is important in developing approaches which are strength and asset-based. The Youth Endowment Fund endorses approaches that aim to change outcomes (or risk and protective factors) for young people that are related to violent and criminal behaviour later.
- 2.10 The Youth Endowment Fund has identified two main ideas about why knife crime education programmes may reduce violence. Firstly, increasing awareness of

the consequences of knife crime may deter young people from carrying a knife or using a knife as a weapon. Young people may talk to their friends and family about the consequences of knife carrying and knife crime, further spreading awareness. Secondly, increased awareness may change attitudes about how acceptable it is to carry a knife and may encourage young people to challenge their peers for carrying knives or involvement in knife crime. (Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit)

2.11 The Youth Endowment Fund identified that there is limited evidence regarding the use of knife carrying education programmes within England and therefore there is an opportunity to test and evidence informed programme locally.

2.12 Our Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment identified the following:

- Although the number of young people directly affected by serious youth violence is relatively small, every case has far-reaching implications for the young person, family, friends, peers and communities.
- National trends indicate that younger people are more likely to be affected by serious violence than older people.
- Serious violence affecting young people is complex and can be driven by a range of factors.
- From a public health perspective addressing the factors which increase the risk of children and young people being affected by violence is key to future serious violence prevention and harm reduction.

2.13 The Serious Violence Duty Strategy has identified a priority focus on the safety of young people, reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors, for all forms of serious violence.

3. Areas for consideration:

3.1 The benefits of this project align with the evidence base developed through the Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment and the priorities of Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty Strategy.

3.2 Rigorous analysis has been undertaken to inform the evidence base including quantitative partnership data analysis and qualitative engagement activity with stakeholders including statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and community sector and communities, including young people.

3.3 The approach adopted by Norfolk Constabulary in designing the programme will reflect the evidence base of what works in preventing serious youth violence and how knife carrying prevention programmes can be implemented well.

3.4 The outcomes of the project will be monitored and reviewed.

4. Other options considered:

4.1 Do nothing: Without the funding provided through the Serious Violence Duty, Norfolk Constabulary would not be able to deliver the knife carrying and violence prevention awareness and education programme.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

5.1 The project will directly benefit the following aspects of the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan, which came into action at the end of March 2022:

- a. Pillar 4: Prevent Offending
 - i. Work in partnership to safeguard vulnerable adults and children.
 - ii. Strengthen early intervention and preventative approaches to crime in the county and reduce first time entrants into criminal justice.
- b. Pillar 6: Safer and Stronger Communities
 - i. Working with partners and communities to prevent crime and harm.
 - ii. Promote crime prevention initiatives.

5.2 Further, the programme directly contributes to the following long-term outcome from the Safer Norfolk Plan:

- a. People feel safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in Norfolk.
- b. Reduce overall levels of anti-social behaviour.
- c. Reduce overall neighbourhood crimes levels.
- d. Reducing the threat of criminal exploitation
- e. Reduce overall victimisation, risk, harm, perpetration, and reoffending for:
 - i. Rape and sexual offences
 - ii. Domestic abuse
 - iii. Serious violence

5.3 This intervention contributes to a range of national strategies, including:

- a. Serious Violence Strategy

- b. Beating Crime Plan
- c. Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 To deliver the knife carrying and violence prevention awareness and education programme, the OPCCN will grant fund Norfolk Constabulary £ 7095.10 in the financial year 2023/24.

7. Carbon Emissions and Other Environmental Implications:

Carbon Emissions

7.1 The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

Emission Categories:	Increase in tCO ₂	Saving in tCO ₂
Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating	0	0
Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity	0	0

Environmental Implications

7.2 No material implications

8. Other implications and risks:

8.1 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

8.2 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Norfolk Constabulary 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?	No
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
Have sustainability and environmental factors been considered? (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction)	No
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

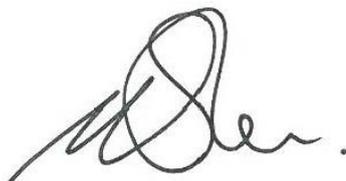
If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

Approval to submit to the decision-maker (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCQ).

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: 19/12/2023

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:



Date: 19/12/2023

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.*