

Subject: Safer Streets Fund Round 5

Originator: Community Safety Manager

Decision no. 29/2024

Reason for submission: For Decision

Submitted to: PCC

Summary:

1. This Decision Notice should be read alongside Decision Notice 37/2023
2. In July 2023 the Home Office launched the Safer Streets Fund Round 5 (SSFR5). The funding round provided an opportunity for PCCs to develop proposals that tackle neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour (ASB).
3. The SSFR5 was worth £43 million over the course of the 18 months from 1st October 2023. The funding needed to be targeted in areas of England and Wales disproportionately and persistently affected by neighbourhood crime, VAWG and ASB. A full list of interventions in scope was provided by the Home Office.
4. Each PCC was provisionally allocated £1m of funding and, therefore, can apply for up to this amount over the entire delivery period. PCCs may apply for up to £465,000 in financial year 2023/24 and up to £535,000 in financial year 2024/25.
5. The Norfolk OPCC led a multi-agency working group responsible for developing bids to the SSFR5. Over a 7-week bidding period, the group delivered:
 - High level scanning of the neighbourhood crime, VAWG and ASB in Norfolk, identifying areas most affected.
 - Analysis of the driving factors in areas acutely affected by these crime types.
 - Developed a range of responses to the drivers identified.
 - Ensured responses were as sustainable as possible.
 - Sought the views of the public in designing interventions.
 - Created a robust application describing, in detail the responses and the rationale behind them.

This process culminated in a £936,303 across two proposals being successfully awarded by the Home Office. In December 2023, the Home Office confirmed that the allocation awarded to Norfolk OPCC's allocation for financial year 2024/25 being reduced by £180,000 to £756,303.14. In addition, several unavoidable delays to multiple projects were experienced leading to budget changes in financial year 2023/24 and agreement of additional projects. The projects that will be delivered are:

- Norwich ASB Officer
- Great Yarmouth Alleyway Cleansing, community engagement and bike tagging project.
- Thetford ASB Officers
- Community Empowerment Programme research
- Targeted Youth Outreach Project
- CCTV expansion, including for targeting fly-tipping.
- Neighbourhood watch expansion
- Community Safety and ASB skills and capacity training
- Neighbourhood clean ups and anti-fly-tipping signs
- Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Advocate
- Licensing SAVI
- Expansion of Good Night Norwich
- Environmental improvements in Watton
- Purchase of crime prevention assets

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner commissions the activity set out in Table 1 in section 6 of this report, subject to paragraph 6.4.

Outcome/approval by: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:



Date: 25/03/2024

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

1.1 The key objectives of the SSFR₅, and therefore this programme of interventions, are to:

- Reduce neighbourhood crimes (domestic burglary, robbery, theft from person, vehicle crime).
- Reduce ASB incidents.
- Change perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours towards VAWG and ASB in public places, with the long-term goal of reducing VAWG crimes and disorder in public. However, for VAWG and ASB, it should be noted that increased reporting could be seen as a positive outcome.
- Improve feelings of safety for everyone within the community, in particular women and girls' feelings of safety in public spaces and the Night-Time Economy (NTE).
- Make local areas safer and reduce demand on the police, local authorities and other local agencies.
- Increase local area trust in policing and their activities within the community.
- Build the evidence base for what works on reducing neighbourhood crimes and ASB and for changing attitudes and behaviours in relation to VAWG in the public domain.

1.2 Secondary objectives of the SSFR₅ are to:

- Grow local capability, and increase community ownership, to undertake data driven problem solving and capture evidence and practical learning about how best to implement interventions to prevent crime and ASB.
- Understand secondary crime benefits associated with preventing and reducing neighbourhood crime, VAWG and ASB.
- Improve the national and local data picture regarding neighbourhood crime, ASB, and VAWG in public spaces.
- Improve awareness of the ASB tools and powers from the 2014 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act and the approaches in the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan 2023.

2. Background:

- 2.1 The Government is clear that everyone in this country should have the security and confidence that comes from having a safe street and a safe home, and this is central to the mission of levelling up. The Government's strategic approach to cutting crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), reducing the number of victims of crime, and making the country safer is set out in the Beating Crime Plan and the recently launched Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan. The Beating Crime plan shows how the Government will focus our efforts on 'hotspot' areas where crimes are disproportionately concentrated; the Safer Streets Fund forms a key part of this approach in supporting local areas.
- 2.2 Round 5, worth £35 million (reduced from the previously allotted £43 million in December 2023), will also run for 18 months from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025. This round will maintain the same focus as Round 4, aiming to reduce levels of neighbourhood crime, VAWG and ASB significantly in disproportionately and persistently affected areas of England and Wales, and develop the evidence base to inform future investment and commissioning decisions.
- 2.3 Tackling neighbourhood crime – robbery, burglary, vehicle crime and theft from the person – is core to the Safer Streets Fund as these crimes occur in high volumes and can be extremely intrusive and upsetting to victims. In addition, there is compelling evidence they can be prevented through simple, sustainable interventions.
- 2.4 This new round of funding will continue to retain its focus on VAWG. Tackling VAWG is a Government priority, and women are disproportionately more likely to experience certain crime types; for example, they are around five times more likely than men to experience a sexual assault. Round 5 is just one part of a wider Government effort to tackle VAWG. In July 2021, the Government published its cross-Government Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy to help ensure women and girls are safe everywhere – at home, online and on the streets. The Government has committed to radically changing how to end VAWG with a whole system approach focusing on prioritising prevention, supporting survivors, pursuing perpetrators, underpinned by a stronger system.
- 2.5 The Home Office hopes to build on previous rounds' successes and achieve a series of aims common amongst them. This includes increased feelings of safety and community ownership, increased community cohesion, increased community trust in police and local government, levelling up and crime prevention.
- 2.6 The Norfolk OPCC led a multi-agency bid development team to identify ASB, Neighbourhood Crime, and VAWG hotspots across Norfolk, undertake a public and key stakeholder consultation, and develop interventions to keep Norfolk safe.
- 2.7 The analysis told us that our larger towns and city experience higher levels of ASB, Neighbourhood Crime, and VAWG, particularly in the centres. The drivers for ASB

were varied, but primarily required a response of increased surveillance and community engagement. The drivers of VAWG were identified as the attitudes and behaviour of people towards women and girls. This also requires a response of increased surveillance and working with night-time economy venues to improve safeguarding within them, increasing certainty of perpetrators being caught. It also requires work with people locally to influence attitudes and behaviours.

2.8 Our consultation with the public and key stakeholders highlighted the ASB issues that were felt to be an issue and interventions that were wanted locally. The public consultation, which received over 500 responses, told us that:

a. Regarding ASB the following were issues in their local area:

- 77% said environmental crime, fly-tipping and litter
- 70% said vehicle-related (speeding, joyriding, abandoned vehicles etc.)
- 62% said vandalism and criminal damage
- 51% said drug dealing or use

b. Regarding interventions:

- 50% of respondents wanted to see neighbourhood watch schemes.
- 49% wanted communication campaigns on how to report anti-social behaviour and the available support.
- 48% targeted educational and outreach programmes to change the behaviours and attitudes of people committing anti-social behaviour.
- 47% wanted more CCTV.

2.9 Scanning and analysis of local crime data and other data sources highlighted:

- a. 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.
- b. Sexual harassment on the street was highlighted as a concern by residents in an Eastern Daily Press survey due to frequency.
- c. 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.

- 2.10 To respond to the issues identified above the OPCCN, in collaboration with Norfolk Constabulary, Norwich City Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Norfolk County Council, Breckland District Council, South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils, the Magdalene Group and Norwich Business Improvement District (BID) have developed and will deliver the following projects, responding directly to public opinion and identified needs on a localised basis across Norfolk:
- a. **Norwich ASB Officers and Wardens** - Pilot project to develop a physical presence in Norwich City centre and sub-urban hotspots to support public and businesses. High visibility approach boosting the confidence of local businesses, acting as a deterrent to those who commit criminal acts and who commit anti-social behaviour. Safer Streets wardens would engage with residents, businesses and visitors on community safety and crime prevention working closely with the Police and health/mental health/ambulance services and the Council's Antisocial Behaviour Team.
 - b. **GY Alleyway Cleansing, community engagement and bike tagging project.**
 - c. **Thetford ASB Officers** - Pilot project to develop a physical presence in Thetford Town centre and riverside area hotspots to support the public and businesses.
 - d. **South Norfolk and Broadland ASB Officers** - offering scanning and outreach problem-solving in response to new incidents and patterns of ASB.
 - e. **Community Empowerment Programme Research** - Undertake asset mapping of available upskilling programmes for grassroots organisations working across Norwich, Great Yarmouth and in the surrounding areas.
 - f. **Targeted Youth Outreach Project** - Youth support outreach workers will work in targeted areas to provide preventative informal education interventions that seek to address ASB & VAWG increasing feelings of safety and belonging for young people within their communities and relationships.
 - g. **CCTV** – covering locations identified in Norwich and Great Yarmouth
 - h. **Portable CCTV** – to be used in Fly-tipping hotspots to support enforcement activity arranged through the Norfolk Waste Partnership. South Norfolk and Broadland Councils will utilise trail cameras to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime in rural settings.
 - i. **Neighbourhood watch** – provide funding to support the expansion of the Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch.

- j. **Community Safety and ASB skills and capacity building** - Courses for staff across a range of Community Safety Partnership responsible authorities including local authorities, police, social housing providers and others to be identified.
- k. **Neighbourhood clean ups and anti-fly-tipping signs** - In identified fly tipping hot spots a regular clean up package will be delivered appropriate to making the area clean and safe. This will then be supplemented by the further interventions including signage and school visits and community liaison.
- l. **Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Advocate** - Specialist Advocate supporting time economy (NTE) businesses to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual and physical violence towards women.
- m. **Licensing SAVI** - Licensing SAVI is a Home Office backed security initiative for licensed venues. These venues will complete a self-assessment covering topics such as, VAWG, Drink Spiking, CSE, Violence, ASB, Theft and Burglary, all aimed at a prevention approach. Premises are accredited with a rating out of 5, and this can be displayed to show the measures they have undertaken to improve safety, security and vulnerability. This will create safer and more responsible environments in the NTE.
- n. **Crime Prevention assets:** purchasing bike marking kits to support public engagement and help tackle bike theft across Norfolk.
- o. **Expanding Good Night Norwich campaign:** adding additional assets to the Good Night Norwich, promoting safety messages relevant to the Night Time Economy
- p. **Noise monitoring equipment:** utilised in Norwich and Great Yarmouth Councils in response to nuisance noise.
- q. **Watton environmental improvement:** Additional street lighting, cutting back of vegetation, 2x additional CCTV cameras, removal/replacement of public benches, and increased signage

3. Areas for consideration:

- 3.1 The SSFR5 required PCCs to submit proposals tacking a defined geographic area which they have evidence is disproportionately impacted by the crime or issue type/s they are targeting with the proposal.
- 3.2 The Home Office provided a full list of interventions in scope for the SSFR5, along with a list of ineligible activity.
- 3.3 Consultation with relevant local and/or national organisations, including local authorities, to inform proposals was a mandatory requirement. The OPCCN undertook a public consultation over a two-week period, receiving over 500 responses.

- 3.4 There was a mandatory 50% matched funding requirement; this must be spent by 30 September 2025 and reported to the Home Office. This meant that if the OPCCN submitted a £1,000,000 proposal, there was a £500,000 match funding requirement. The OPCCN and partners have identified match funding meeting this requirement. The OPCCN's Match Funding has been found through existing funding, including the Bystander Intervention Programme and the SPACE Youth Fund.
- 3.5 PCCs must agree to work with the independent evaluator for the Fund to access this funding.
- 3.6 The Home Office reduced the amount of funding available through this fund to Norfolk by £180,000 for the financial year 2024/25 in December 2023.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 Do nothing: Without the funding provided through the SSFR5, this programme of interventions could not be delivered.
- 4.2 Developing a partnership-led proposal to the SSFR5 co-ordinated by the OPCCN was agreed as the preferred route because it increased the funding available to deliver the objective.

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:
- a. Pillar 3: Tackling Crime
 - i. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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. 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. Beating Crime Plan
- b. Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan
- c. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 To deliver the Norfolk SSFR5 Proposals, the OPCCN will manage the £756,303.14 award from the Home Office. This is made up of the budgets and grant awards set out in Table 1. The Home Office has only provided a grant agreement for the financial year 2023/24, for £424,202. The Home Office have confirmed they intend to provide funding for the financial year 2024/25 for £332,101 but have not yet provided a grant agreement covering this funding.

6.2 Table 1 includes updated figures from the Decision Notice 37/2023.

Table 1: Funding available for interventions being provided by delivery partners

| Organisation | Intervention Name | Nearest £1,000 |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Norwich City Council | 2. Norwich ASB Officer 3. CCTV 4. Community Safety and ASB skills and capacity building | £146,000 |

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| 1. Great Yarmouth Borough Council | 2. GY Alleyway Cleansing 3. CCTV 4. Noise monitoring equipment | £132,000 |
| 1. Breckland District Council | 2. Breckland ASB Officers 3. Watton environmental improvements | £66,000 |
| 1. South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils | 2. Trail cameras 3. Noise monitoring equipment | £21,000 |
| 1. Norfolk Community Foundation | 2. Community Empowerment Programme Research | £12,000 |
| 1. Norfolk County Council | 2. Targeted Youth Outreach Project | £160,000 |
| 1. Norfolk County Council | 2. Neighbourhood clean ups and anti-flytipping signs 3. CCTV | £15,000 |
| 1. Norfolk Police | 2. Local Neighbourhood Watch improvement 3. Licensing SAVI 4. Crime prevention assets | £89,000 |
| 1. The Magdalene Group | 2. Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Advocate | £37,000 |
| 3. Norwich BID | 4. Expanding Good Night Norwich campaign | £8,000 |
| 1. OPCCN | 2. Project management | £65,000 |

6.3 SSFR₅ will run from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025. HM Treasury rules on annual spending apply: Government funds awarded for the 2023/24 financial year must be spent by end March 2024 and those awarded for the 2024/25 financial year spent by end March 2025. The Home Office will not change the funding amounts for each financial year once agreed as per HM Treasury annularity regulations so please

consider this carefully when designing proposals. The OPCCN has been awarded £424,202 in 2023/24 and £512,101 in 2024/25.

6.4 Each PCC were provisionally allocated £1m of funding: up to £465,000 in financial year 2023/24 (from 1 October 2023 which must be spent by 31 March 2024) and up to £355,000 in financial year 2024/25 (to spend between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025). Funds cannot be transferred between financial years as per HMTreasury regulations. Bullet points if needed.

6.5 Currently, the Home Office has only provided a grant agreement for the financial year 2023/24. The Home Office have confirmed they intend to provide funding for the financial year 2024/25. Therefore, the OPCCN has confirmed with delivery partners that funding for 2024/25 is not guaranteed and that projects and monies committed is done so at their own risk. Should the funding from the Home Office for SSFR5 be reduced or removed, allocations to the projects in table 1 will be reduced.

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 If funding for financial year 2024/25 is not provided or is reduced by the Home Office, the projects will need to be scaled back accordingly.

| 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 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: 25/03/2024

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: 25/03/2024

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.*

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED