

## **Subject: Transitions Pilot Project**

**Originator: Assistant Director of Policy and Partnerships**

**Decision no. 30/2024**

**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 £35,000 of Serious Violence Duty Funding to Future Projects to provide dedicated pilot Transitional 1-2-1 Advocate ("Life Connector") Support for children and young people (CYP) identified as high risk and high harm from serious violence, including those at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation (CCE/CSE), aged 17.5 - 25yrs, transitioning to adulthood. This service aims to reduce serious violence by promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors that are known to be associated with or drivers of serious violence.

6. This initiative is nearing completion of its development phase in partnership with Serious Violence responsible authorities. This phase has enabled the reassurance that the service will provide for the needs of the CYP, identified by partner agencies who are at subject to wider risk factors increasing the likelihood of serious violence (both victim and offender) as they make the transition to adulthood. In addition, all referral and safeguarding mechanisms are subject to final approval by key stakeholders involved.
7. Future Projects will manage the Transitional 1-2-1 Advocate ("Life Connector") Support and will be piloted from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025.

### **Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner provides Serious Violence Duty grant funding to Future Projects to deliver Transitional 1-2-1 Advocate ("Life Connector") Support in response to the Serious Violence Duty.

**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 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 Duty requires the specified authorities in Norfolk to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- 1.3 Working in partnership with the Norfolk Children Social Care, Norfolk Youth Justice team, Norfolk Police, Norfolk Integrated Care Board, Norfolk Safeguarding Childrens Partnership, Norfolk County and Norwich City Council it was identified there was a need for provision of a dedicated 1-2-1 Advocate service for children and young people, identified as high risk and high harm from serious violence, including those at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation (CCE/CSE), aged 17.5 - 25yrs, which would support and assist them to transition into adulthood. This dedicated provision would assist them with a focus on transition points, for example, as Children's service support drops off and adult social care thresholds are unmet or transition from care, youth criminal justice, housing, education, finance or health related matters. By providing this service it is recognised there would be a promotion of protective factors and reducing risk factors that are known to be associated with or drivers of serious violence.
- 1.4 Support will include initial relationship building, needs and ambitions assessment, risk assessment, collaborative support planning, and navigating to services, support, resources and activity which reduce risk factors and promote protective factors. Risk factors being addressed will be:
  - a. Drug and alcohol use
  - b. Accommodation issues and homelessness
  - c. Benefit entitlements and financial resilience
  - d. NEET
  - e. Mental Health and Wellbeing
- 1.5 The specific objectives of the service are to assist and promote positive outcomes for CYP with providing assistance across themes such as:
  - a. Health
  - b. Confidence and wellbeing

- c. Welfare rights and benefits
- d. Accessing treatment for substance misuse/drug and alcohol
- e. Accommodation/Housing
- f. Jobs, Education, Training
- g. Finance/Debt management
- h. Criminal Justice
- i. Family/Safeguarding
- j. Social Capital/Community Connection
- k. Engagement with Services/Support
- l. Work experience/Volunteering.

1.6 The service will equip CYP with supported protective measures and attitudes in their transition to adulthood. It will assist to instil protective measures and knowledge of support mechanisms to prevent returning to previous exploitation connections and criminal activities.

## **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 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. Young people are particularly important in the prevention of serious violence. Recent trends indicate younger people are more likely to be affected by serious violence than any other age group. Violence affecting young people has a dramatic effect on the lives of children, families and the wider community.

2.11 Local information has identified there is a need to support CYP into adulthood at specific points of their transition from children into adult support services ensuring there is no barrier to accessing the help required preventing further risks or exposure to serious violence. Norfolk does not have a current transitional service such as this for those identified at high risk and high harm of serious violence, CCE and CSE out with any criminal justice management. This pilot will enable Norfolk to support CYP to develop life skills, independence and future employment opportunities but also

add to the understanding of the mechanisms needed to overcome any barriers CYP experience when transitioning to adulthood.

### **3. Areas for consideration:**

3.1 The benefits of this service 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 benefits of this service are:

- Local partners and multi-agency bodies have increased confidence in the local response to serious violence with regards to children and young people.
- Dedicated service provision is in place for CYP at risk of continued involvement in serious violence, assessments of the risk, and improved responses to vulnerability for children and young people.
- Young people are safeguarded by referral to appropriate support, based on an assessment of their need when transitioning to adulthood.

The outcomes of the pilot will be monitored, reviewed and reported through the grant monitoring process, SV Duty Group and the Home Office SV returns.

### **4. Other options considered:**

4.1 Do nothing: Without the service CYP, identified as high risk and high harm from serious violence, including those at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation (CCE/CSE), would have to navigate adult services as described above without a dedicated support agency when they transition into adulthood.

### **5. Strategic aims/objective supported:**

5.1 The pilot service 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.

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

- Reducing the threat of criminal exploitation:
  - People most at risk of criminal exploitation in Norfolk are identified and supported as early as possible
  - Victims of exploitation are made to feel safe
  - People are prevented from being drawn into Criminal exploitation and terrorism
- Safeguarding Communities from Abuse and Serious Violence
  - Reduce overall victimisation, risk, harm, perpetration and re-offending for: rape and sexual offences, domestic abuse and serious violence

5.3 This pilot service contributes to the achievement of the Government's Serious Violence Duty. The Serious Violence Duty encourages a Public Health approach, identifying and responds to risk and protective factors for Serious Violence.

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

- a. Serious Violence Strategy
- b. Beating Crime Plan
- c. Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan
- d. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

## 6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 To deliver the pilot service, the OPCCN will grant fund £35,000 of Serious Violence Duty Funding to Future Projects to provide dedicated Transitional 1-2-1 Advocate ("Life Connector") Support for the financial year 2024/25 funded by the Home Office Serious Violence Funding.

## 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 <sub>2</sub> | Saving in tCO <sub>2</sub> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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

| Originator checklist (must be completed)   | Please state 'yes' or 'no' |
|--|----------------------------|
| Has legal advice been sought on this submission?   | <b>No</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>                 |
| 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) | <b>No</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?**

**Yes**

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

This report is subject to a confidential decision due to key stakeholders working to complete the development phase of the service with the identified service provider.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Contractual arrangements cannot progress until the final meeting with partners for agreement and implementation to mobilise the service when all referral and safeguarding mechanism processes have been approved.

**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: 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