

PCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: PCC/0013/17
(Please contact OPCC for reference number)

Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted): Not Protectively Marked

Title of report: Harlow Restorative Engagement Forum

Area of County/Stakeholders affected: Harlow

Report by : Emma Callaghan

Date of report: 07/02/2017

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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £1800 to commission the Restorative Engagement forum to work with the community in Harlow to undertake activity with the community in order to reduce anti-social behaviour and increase community confidence in Essex Police.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of the 2016-17 Victims' commissioning grant to the Restorative Engagement Forum to work with the community in Harlow to reduce tension and conflict.

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1. By addressing the issues in the area through a restorative forum, the local community (including business owners and local professionals such as Police) can begin to resolve and repair the harm that has been caused and decrease the risk of further incidents and escalation.
- 3.2. When the issues are resolved and a suitable way forward is found by the community, demand on the Police in that area will be reduced.
- 3.3. By working with individuals as well as the community as a whole, the process can decrease both the severity and frequency of offending and anti-social behaviour and can reduce escalation of lower-level offending.
- 3.4. By shadowing the work that is done, the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service can use similar techniques in other areas in the county to address community issues such as this one.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The community in some areas of Harlow are reporting a disconnect between different groups which manifests itself as crime and anti-social behaviour. Essex Police often come to the Essex Restorative and Mediation service for a restorative outcome on an individual basis (i.e. specific neighbour or business owner incidents). The issues could be dealt with through the whole community, which will increase community spirit and help the people in those areas feel better able to resolve issues themselves. This will reduce demand and increase community confidence with the Police and the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service.
- 4.2. The Restorative Engagement Forum will speak with different community factions and individuals and arrange a workshop or forum for them to attend together to discuss the issues and resolutions.
- 4.3. The Restorative Engagement Forum has won a Howard League award for similar work elsewhere in the country and is therefore best placed to work with these communities to find a positive way forward.
- 4.4. The Essex Restorative and Mediation Service will be able to learn from shadowing this process and will use existing skills to replicate this process elsewhere when it is needed.

5. Police and Crime Plan

- 5.1. This proposal supports the PCC's vision and delivery of the following key areas of focus:
 - More local, visible and accessible policing
 - Crack down on anti-social behaviour

6. Police Operational Implications

6.1 The forum will include Police Officers and PCSOs who have been involved in the conflicts in the area.

6.2 Superintendent Trevor Roe and Superintendent Andrew Mariner have approved this exercise.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The PCC would provide £1800 to the Restorative Engagement Forum

8. Legal Implications

8.1 The award of the grant is subject to the PCC's standard funding agreement

9. Staffing and other resource implications

9.1 There are no staffing issues

10. Equality and Diversity implications

10.1 There are no D&E implications

11. Background papers

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPCA Chief Executive and Treasurer, prior to review and sign off by the PCC / DPCC .

Asst. Director for Commissioning Sign: 

Print: G. MYDDELTON

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Sign:

Print:

Decision

I agree the recommendations to this report;

Sign: 

Print: Jane Brown

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed: 15/02/17

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

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Sign:

Print:

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed:

Publication

Report for publication

YES

NO

Reasons for non-publication (*state 'None' if applicable*)

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Sign:

Print:

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

