

PCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 104/2017
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: Barnardo's Essex CAPI Service
Area of County/Stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by : Jane Dewitt Date of report: 25.10.2017 Enquiries to: Jane.dewitt@essex.pnn.police.uk

1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the allocation of £15,000 from the 2017-8 Community Safety Fund to offer a new family and child support service within Southend and Thurrock, and to continue the previously CSDF-funded course "Straight Talking" to other secondary schools both across Essex and Southend and Thurrock.

2. Recommendations

Approve the allocation of £15,000 to Barnardo's to continue their "Straight Talking" service in Essex and to expand the service into Southend and Thurrock.

3. Benefits of Proposal

Barnardo's Essex Children Affected by Parental Imprisonment (CAPI) service is a countywide project, enhancing the provision to children and families throughout the Criminal Justice System stages i.e. arrest, court, community or custodial sentence and resettlement. On 26 September 2017, the first regional Hidden Cost on Offender Families Conference was held at Kelvedon Park where participants heard 'The Child's Voice' (Liam) and three adult service users (Nicola, Elizabeth and Phillipa) highlighting the importance of the work that The Barnardo's Essex CAPI Service provide within their family support work

This grant would enable that work to continue, specifically the continuation of the girls' project "straight talking" and to expand the courses to new locations along with a new additional service to provide topical workshops to primary schools around key issues.

The Girls Inspired course looks at addressing the complexities of young girls' lives and that of their families who are affected by imprisonment and familial offending through a holistic intervention programme. To-date over 30 young students have taken part. Outcomes can be seen in a change in student's attitude and behaviour with an increase in confidence and self-esteem and a greater understanding of risky behaviours and the potential for this type of risk to involve agencies from CJS.

The course is aimed at girls within schools (11-15 years old) who are identified by their teachers, learning mentors and other professionals as exhibiting vulnerable and potential harmful behaviours. The course will increase their knowledge and understanding of potential outcomes when engaging with negative choices and equipping them with the tools to choose more positive pathways.

The programme will also cover key themes such as:

- The lack of respect for their bodies
- Raising their awareness of inappropriate sexuality exploitive behaviours,
- Self-harming
- Mental health issues
- Experimenting with illegal substances and binge drinking

This funding will deliver a minimum of four "Girls Inspired" courses in Essex and expand the course in both Southend and Thurrock. Each school will receive a 6-week programme consisting of 2 hour sessions. The programme will be fully evaluated and reviewed with each school lead at key points of the 6-week programme. We anticipate working with 7-10 targeted students within each school per programmes. The programme will have a multi-agency collaborative approach and work alongside agencies including Schools, YOT's, Voluntary sector, Police and Community Support Officers.

4. Background and proposal

The Essex CAPI Service was established to provide information and advice to professionals using an integrated approach to families of offenders, to ensure children achieve and realise their potential. The service has five key outcomes: Training to professionals, Steering Groups, Family support and partnership work with the Military Correction Training Centre (MCTC) Colchester and HMP prisons and other agencies to discuss support and services available for families in the community.

Shocking figures show over 200,000 children are affected by parental imprisonment each year and over 10,000 children visit a public prison every week. Things are even worse for children whose mothers are imprisoned with only 5% of children remaining in their family home.

While these statistics show the huge impact on some of the youngest and most vulnerable people in our society they remain unknown by most of us. Children are the forgotten victims of their parent's crimes and often their diverse needs and

vulnerabilities are hidden in society. Children of offenders can feel shamed by the crime committed and judged by others which leave them unable to share their worries and fears or get the specialist support they need. Children can also struggle with stigma; feel isolated from others and experience bullying. Some will also experience retaliation in the community and have negative experiences from social media.

Children of prisoners are twice as likely to experience mental health problems, turn to substance misuse and self-harm and fail to achieve their full potential in education. Children are also three times more likely to be involved in delinquent activity compared to their peers but often their individual needs are not met they are lost in the system or labelled as badly behaved.

Barnardo's Essex CAPI service understands the unique vulnerabilities and challenges faced by children and their families and provide specialists support and services across Essex. Over 216 children, young people and their families were referred to the service and offered support last year.

5. Police and Crime Plan

This proposal supports priority 4 from the Police and Crime plan; reversing the trend of serious crime by delivering community programmes to help prevent knife crime

6. Police Operational Implications

No police operational implications

7. Financial Implications

OPCC will fund a one off contribution of £15,000 to Barnardo's Essex CAPI Service from the 2017-2018 Community Safety Fund

8. Legal Implications

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

9. Staffing and other resource implications

There are no staffing or resource implications

10. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality and diversity implications

Report Approval

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

Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer Sign: 

Print: ... S. HANCOCK ...

Treasurer & Section 151 Officer Sign: 

Print: ... CHARLES A GARRETT ...

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (state 'None' if applicable)

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

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet YES
NO

2. Of Appendix YES
NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, Treasurer or Chief Executive are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report;

Sign: Jane Gardner

Print: JANE GARDNER

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed: 2 November 2017

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

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Sign:

Print:

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed:

