



Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence Interventions Fund 2022/23

Budget: £500,000

Total amount bidded for: £1,972,884

Total amount allocated: £460,277.35

Enhancing social skills

Chris Cave Foundation - £12,500

The Chris Cave Foundation will use the funding to deliver Point 7 - a powerful interactive programme showing the consequences and the ripple effect of knife/gun crime. The delivery of Point 7 includes a presentation of real life stories, pictures and information regarding laws and sentencing, carrying weapons, gang violence and cyber bullying and gives young people the opportunity to interact and enter debates.

Funding will be used to facilitate delivery of the project across educational establishments and youth organisations, including sourcing and providing stab packs to attendees.

Arch ED - £21,298

Arch Teesside will deliver a bespoke sexual violence prevention programme – Arch ED - to young people aged between 11-25 years.

The content can be delivered as stand-alone sessions or as a full programme and covers issues which young people find difficult to navigate, including gender stereotypes, consent (including sexting, photos, videos), what is sexual violence (including sexual exploitation and grooming), sexualisation (including stereotypes, media, peer pressure), impacts and support (including support services available), social media and how to prevent sexual violence.

Community Ventures - £7,000

Community Ventures have been awarded funding to deliver the SHEROES project, which is a play on words SHE and HEROS, for girls aged 10-16 living in East Middlesbrough.

The project aims to increase young people's understanding of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and its impact on their local community, with a particular focus on ASB within the community - including noise nuisance, bullying and criminal damage. With ASB seen as a precursor to violence, the project enables young people to develop new skills, make long lasting friendships and improve their mental health.

Three 13 - £28,087

Using a 'theory of change' approach, Three 13's aim is to contribute to the reduction of knife carrying and violent crime amongst young people in Teesside and provide a supported route away from violent crime for those young people at risk of re-offending.

Over six months, Three 13 will deliver a preventative 'No More Knives' campaign in schools to reach 8,000 young people aged 11-17 years, either already engaged in, or potentially being drawn into, anti-social behaviour in areas identified with high levels of knife crime.

Youth Focus North East - £27,064.74

This initiative involves having a youth worker based in a local school. The youth worker will employ a range of techniques and interventions to enable young people to become more aware of negative thoughts and learn to change or manage them, better understand other people's behaviour and use problem-solving skills to cope with difficult situations.

The youth worker will provide a programme of Social Skills Training to enable the young people to think before they act, understand other people's perceptions, communicate effectively and use strategies for managing impulsiveness or aggression. It is hoped this approach would seek to reduce exclusion rates by providing holistic support to those students that specifically need it.

Youth Focus North East will provide an interim evaluation to support future discussions in relation to this approach.

Strength to Succeed - Elevate - £35,502

Strength to Succeed's sole purpose is to empower people from any walk of life to become the best versions of themselves through motivational, real-life experiences and support. Through the funding a bespoke social skills, training programme will be created and delivered to schools most in need. The programme will be known as *Elevate*.

The strategy will be to deliver a programme of five lessons to 60 pupils from the same school, spread across five weeks. Each lesson will be one hour in duration and be delivered to a maximum of 30 pupils per lesson, from upper Key Stage 2 (Year 3-6).

Barnardo's Bystander Project - £30,873,44

"Beyond the Blade - Tees Valley Bystander Intervention" is a school-based programme focusing on reducing serious youth violence (knife crime) and the contributory factors towards violent behaviour which interconnects between the school and wider community, including parents.

A team of students will be trained, who within their role will be bystanders throughout school, and will raise awareness of knife crime with their peers and provide education around choice and empowerment. The intervention will take staff and parents on an educative journey by enhancing knowledge and a call to action for professional curiosity and a trauma informed response.

Trauma-informed approaches

Daisy Chain Project - £ 7,424.20

The 'Be Safe: Be You' initiative is an early intervention pilot designed to mitigate the high propensity that disenfranchised autistic children and young people (aged between 11–16) become of a victim or perpetrator of violent crime.

This pilot programme will take referrals from Stockton's Youth Justice Team where they have identified individuals at enhanced risk, including those who are struggling to engage at school, those engaging in anti-social or risk-taking behaviour, those who are at risk of becoming groomed/exploited or coerced and those who have engaged in low-level theft.

The pilot will fund a wellbeing lead and support worker to provide a package of specialist, bespoke and intensive support delivering 1:1 and group work interventions. Interventions will be focused on supporting autistic and neuro-divergent children and young people to understand their autism, manage emotions, improve decision making skills, keep themselves safe and establish safe boundaries.

Hazel Rockingham Neuro Linguistic Programming Practitioner - £5,000

Using the Mercedes Model and other Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) framework models. NLP will explore thoughts, feelings and behaviours of young people engaged in anti-knife crime programmes.

The aim is to understand that young people can choose the thoughts they put into their heads, which in turn creates a feeling that can result in a certain behaviour. Choosing positive thoughts, to create positive feelings, which enables good behaviour patterns. This will help reduce negative behavioural changes in the children.

NLP fits in line with social skills training to help individuals self-regulate their behaviour and communicate more effectively.

Safer Communities - £34,485

The 'Seen, Heard, Believed Project' uses Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) when working with children, young people and their families. The project will utilise trained, skilled and experienced practitioners to target those young people at-risk of involvement in serious youth violence, are on the periphery of being exploited and those already identified as 'influencers' in youth violence in communities.

Safer Communities have commissioned an independent evaluation from Teesside University of which an interim report on impact is due imminently.

Barnardo's – Reach Project - £51,481

REACH is Barnardo's established music project – a trauma informed recording studio and highly skilled practitioners able to use music as a therapeutic tool to engage children in harm/risk reduction interventions.

REACH music will support children and young people and their families in four targeted secondary schools across the Cleveland area. It is recognised that school communities

need support in improving safety against sexual harassment as this is what staff, parents and children are telling us. In order to change the culture in a school community, Barnardo's intend to reach all staff (teaching and non-teaching) and children at the school (whether currently in attendance or not) parents, carers and wider families.

Children identified by school staff and REACH practitioners as those who sexually harm other children or are at risk of harming would receive up to 12 x 1:1 sessions using a cognitive behavioural therapeutic approach. Mobile provision would also be offered to enable children who have been excluded or who are not accessing education can also benefit from 1-2-1 support if needed.

My Sisters Place – Trauma Informed Training to Police Officer - £19,600

Police are an essential part of a system-wide response to addressing the impact of trauma and are well placed within communities to identify trauma, vulnerable adults, children and families. They also play a role in intervening to build resilience, break generational cycles and enable more informed referrals to partners. My Sisters Place seek to support Cleveland Police on a journey to become a trauma-informed service. Being trauma-informed is about prioritising safety and trust and is an aspect of safeguarding that HMICFRS actively seeks forces to provide evidence of.

Trauma-informed policing practices enhances understanding of trauma and its effects, improves criminal investigations through a greater awareness of a victim's needs, reduces the potential reoccurrence of criminal behaviour through early intervention and connects traumatised individuals to appropriate services and support.

The training will be delivered to between 150 – 300 frontline police officers from identified departments, including safeguarding and control room. Measureable learning outcomes are in the process of being developed and the desired outcomes of the training will be independently evaluated by Barefoot Research.

My Sisters Place – Healing Together - £11,695

Funding will be used to provide Healing Together groups for 11-16 year olds and increase the opportunity for young people to learn the tools and skills to be able to regulate their emotions and behaviour. Domestic abuse creates a range of problem outcomes for young people. Experiences of trauma can result in low self-control, self-regulation, impulsivity control and hyperactivity – attention, often associated with involvement in crime and violence.

Four Healing Together Trauma Group Programmes will be offered to up to twenty young people and aims to provide opportunity to build social skills by providing tools that support them to increase self-control and self-regulation, improve their behavioural responses and communicate effectively by attending the group.

This six-week trauma-informed group programme (max five per programme) is grounded in evidence-based practice and neuroscience. The programme is suitable for young people who may be presenting more complex stress behaviours and emotions, because of their experiences of being impacted by trauma from experiences of living within/witnessing traumatic abusive and/or violent situations.

Focused deterrence

Project Connect (Get Connected) - £30,000

The Get Connected Programme is a bespoke model that aims to safeguard young people aged 11-25 against violence and exploitation, with a core aim of tackling serious organised crime, through the formulation of a multi-agency approach to address the issues of serious youth violence and serious organised crime in a specific locality.

Specific to the Hemlington area of Middlesbrough, Get Connected aims to address gang and knife crime, engage with young people and tackle social exclusion through a series of events which bring professionals together to develop a shared understanding of the issues and develop a joint action plan with the tangible outcomes to tackle the issues. The programme is robust, high quality and evidence-based.

Get Connected is a two-part programme that challenges, develops and supports participants through a series of five workshops and five events underpinned by a steering group comprised of cross-sector senior management.

Corner House Youth Project - £13,056

Based on the focussed deterrence approach, the Corner House Youth Project plan to extend their targeted outreach work to include the ward of Newtown, Stockton. Newtown is a particularly challenging area of Stockton with high levels of anti-behaviour and community concerns. The funding will enable weekly provision of two sessions per week for 28 weeks. The work will include providing young people with both the knowledge and consequences of serious violence and a positive route way from it via the variety of youth engagement activities on offer. Community engagement is also a key part of the providers approach. For those deemed to be at heightened risk small group or 1:1 mentoring will be available.

Sports projects

Teesside Lions - £30,000

The Role Model project uses professional players and basketball as a vehicle to engage with the community and deliver education on target modules via classroom and sports sessions. These sessions are supported by community sessions on evenings and weekends to provide a positive outlet for young people under 25 to enjoy activity, progress, and focus on a positive lifestyle as opposed to negative influences that may be apparent in the community or home.

Billingham Boxing Club - £10,000

Billingham Boxing Club will take a holistic approach to coaching and mentoring young people, so that they don't fall into a life of crime through association and poor role models. They will look to offer mentoring through the boxing classes on offer where there will be a strong involvement from boxers that have benefitted from mentoring in the past.

The project also aims to provide mentors to individuals that need support, offering 1:1 support and to create Personal Development Plans and pathways to develop positive routes away from violence and crime.

Lords Taveners - Wicketz Cricket - £19,597

Wicketz is a community cohesion project that uses cricket to change the lives of disadvantaged young people in Hartlepool aged 8-19 and protects them from the threat of violence.

Through cricket, it addresses local issues around violent behaviour and offending affecting young people (e.g., knife crime, arson, and gang activity), in the community

Hartlepool Huskies - £15,028.97

Hoops NOT Hate: This is a programme based around secondary school delivery in the areas of Stockton and Hartlepool. This would target a total of 18 secondary schools and would address issues surrounding crime, including knife-related crimes, violent crime and discrimination using basketball as a medium.

Basketball in its approach is a very simple game with a maximum of five people playing on a team any one point. Pupils are forced to go through the entire spectrum of emotions while playing a game. Every secondary school would get a total of eight hours on court and four hours classroom/hall teaching.

The classroom-based activities would include education on violent crime, de-escalation techniques, laws and legislation surrounding this and who to notify if they are worried about a particular friend and how to approach this. It will also cover wellbeing strategies to reach out to others.

Night-time economy

Hartlepool Council – Night Time Economy Project - £30,585

Hartlepool Council has partnered with Hartlepool Licensee Association and Hartlepool Town Pastors to design and implement a program of mutually supporting crime prevention messages/measures to prevent, deter, protect from, and reduce serious violence and knife crime.

These are based on case studies and theories of change developed by the College of Policing, Local Government Association, and Nottingham's NTE Safety Review.

Women's Street Watch Boro - £20,000

Women's Street Watch Middlesbrough aims to:

- Reduce strain on emergency services by reducing the number of non-emergency calls to 999 by providing first aid and safe routes home from the night time economy
- Provide training and qualifications, particularly prioritising women from marginalised groups
- Reducing instances of sexual violence and harassment against women by offering a physical presence on the streets, acting in a both a support capacity (pastoral care) and as a deterrent for potential offenders.

Funding will be used to support WSW with essential supplies to enable them to continue their patrols in the night time economy.

Glossary

“Trauma-informed therapies or training”

Trauma occurs when an event or set of circumstances causes physical or emotional harm which leads to lasting adverse effects on health and wellbeing. Research suggests a link between experiencing trauma and increased risk of involvement in crime and violence.

Therapies

Trauma-specific therapies, also known as trauma-focused interventions, aim to support children to recover from trauma. They typically involve forms of psychological therapy where a therapist provides support to individuals or small groups.

Therapies may include:

- Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (TF-CBT), which aims to modify thoughts, behaviours, and emotions.
- Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), a specific form of CBT that focuses on modifying unhelpful and faulty beliefs related to a traumatic event.
- Various other psychotherapies, such as humanistic therapy, psychodynamic therapy and safety seeking therapy.
- Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR), which aims to reduce the vividness and the emotional response associated with memories of trauma.

Training

Trauma-informed training and service redesign involves workforce changes where the primary aim is to improve staff understanding and response to trauma.

Typically, the activity supports organisations and their staff to:

- Realise the impact that trauma can have on children;
- Recognise the signs and symptoms of trauma;
- Respond to trauma by integrating knowledge and research on trauma into policies, procedures and practices; and
- Prevent retraumatisation by avoiding practices that could inadvertently trigger painful and traumatic memories.

“Focused deterrence”

Focused deterrence is an approach to violence reduction that was developed in Boston (USA) in the mid-1990s. It recognises that most serious violence is associated with a small group of people who are themselves very likely to be victims of violence, trauma, and extremely challenging circumstances.

Focused deterrence attempts to identify the people most likely to be involved in violence and support them to desist. The age of the people involved depends on the context and the crime problem identified but projects have worked with children as young as 14 or 15.

It combines several core strategies.

- **Support.** Help for people involved in violence to access positive support and social services.

- **Community engagement.** Engaging the wider community to communicate that they want violence to stop and those involved to be safe, provide support, and encourage reintegration in the community. Projects will often arrange engagement between the people who are the focus of the intervention and victims' family members, reformed former group members, and faith leaders.
- **Deterrence.** Clear communication of the consequences of violence and swift and certain enforcement if violence occurs.

More information about focused deterrence can be found here:

<https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/toolkit/focused-deterrence/>