



Decision Reference:2022/202-0028

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For the Police and Crime Commissioner to approve funding for the Custody Navigator Scheme

Title: CURV Serious Violence Fund – Custody Navigator Scheme

Executive Summary:

In April 2022, Cleveland's OPCC was notified of its successful application for Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Funding from the Home Office over a 3-year period. This resulted in the establishment of the 'Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence' (CURV), which was tasked with the role of bringing together all partners and stakeholders to develop and deliver an intelligence and evidence led strategy aimed at reducing serious violence across Cleveland through a Public Health agenda.

The Home Office funding will establish a partnership through the creation of CURV, the core function of which is to provide leadership and strategic coordination of Cleveland's response to serious violence. CURV will deliver this by strengthening partnerships, working with communities, and ensuring specified authorities, partners and key stakeholders collaborate across the whole of Cleveland to achieve agreed objectives. The primary measures of success are for VRUs to deliver:

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction on all non-domestic homicides and especially among victims aged under 25 involving knives.

As Cleveland ranks among the top ten local areas for police recorded knife crime and hospital admissions for knife sharp object assault – and with rates continuing to rise - CURV will prioritise activity that seeks to reduce these metrics. Activities to be funded will be aligned with the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) toolkit of interventions, focussing on those deemed 'high impact' or 'moderate impact' with 'high evidence' in order to contribute to the reduction of serious violence.

Such interventions should:

- Effectively engage with under-25s but not excluding adults.
- Steer young people away from serious violence, crime, or potential harm.

Navigator programmes – specifically A&E Navigator programmes – are classified by the YEF toolkit as 'High Impact', and the Home Office accept that Custody Navigators meet the same

requirement.

The Custody Navigator Scheme aims to work primarily with young people (primarily 10-25) once they have entered the criminal justice system, adding a 'tertiary'¹ intervention to Cleveland's Youth Justice Services (YJS) suite of interventions, by complimenting the youth justice 'Turnaround' intervention, which has the aim of '*achieving positive outcomes for children (10 – 18) with the ultimate aim of preventing them from going on to offend*'.

With CURV already approaching the end of the first year of delivery, and with Cleveland experiencing some of the highest rates of Police recorded knife crime and hospital admissions for sharp object assaults, there is an urgency associated with the need to implement tried and tested, Home Office approved interventions that will seek to stem the continued rise in knife crime and admissions, and in the longer term contribute to their reduction as part of a wider suite of interventions, collaboratively developed through the CURV partnership.

The Custody Navigator Scheme is therefore a time critical priority, with the need to run the pilot for the duration of CURV's initial 3-year funding in order to ensure a robust evaluation framework can sufficiently justify long term funding of a contracted service beyond this period by partners. Cleveland's three (3) YJS services are able to mobilise at pace and establish in the current budget year, capitalising on the already established partnerships to ensure the service immediately delivers against the scope of practice and can work closely with CURV to ensure robust evaluation that will help shape the future commissioning intentions.

At a local level, preventing, reducing, and tackling serious violence is a key priority in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

The performance against any funding agreements will be monitored and evaluated by CURV and its contracted evaluation partner alongside the enhanced evaluation conducted by the Home Office. In addition, the Home Office has also chosen the Custody Navigator Scheme as one of its national 'enhanced evaluation' pilots.

¹ *Young people who are already involved with the justice system.*

Decision:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approves the allocation of funding from the CURV budget to the value of £47,897.00 for the budget year 2022/2023, with further funding, linked to the continuation of the pilot - subject to ongoing evaluation - as below:

2023/24: £177,668.00

2024/25: £177,668.00

Total: £403,233.00

OPCC Lead Officer: Simon Smart, CURV Project Manager

Contractor Details (if applicable):

South Tees Youth Justice Service, c/o Middlesbrough Borough Council

Implications:			
Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes please provide further details below)			

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC’s Chief Finance Officer where the decision has financial implications)

The funding available to implement this proposal is available from the CURV budget and has been included in the future year’s budgets too. This is therefore affordable to the PCC within the allocated 3-year VRU grant funding commitment.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

None arising

Equality and Diversity Implications:

The funding will support all young people from within Cleveland and external area who are presented within the custody suite

Human Rights Implications:

None arising

Sustainability Implications:

Successful projects will be monitored and reviewed by the OPCC to inform future commissioning/ grant funding opportunities.

Risk Management Implications:

Any risk minimised and mitigated by performance framework requirements in grant agreements.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer:

Signed



Date 06.03.2023

Police and Crime Commissioner:

Signed



Date 07.03.2023