

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

16th September 2013

Introduction

This report provides a summary of the Commissioner's Innovation Fund and an update on Community Safety Partnership Funding.

Innovation Fund

Background

The Innovation Fund is a one-off £1million fund I have established to help fund community and voluntary initiatives throughout Wiltshire and Swindon helping to achieve the six priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan. The Fund is funded from my reserves.

The first round of funding was awarded in July 2013. Two further rounds will take place in November 2013 and March 2014.

First Award of Funding

Twenty-six applications requesting grants totalling more than £1million were submitted for this first round of funding. The applications were considered by myself and an Advisory Panel (made up of the Chief Constable and representatives from Wiltshire Council and the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon).

The following twelve organisations were successful in their application:

- **BIOS – Settings for Life - £63,500 towards a mobile youth club van in Swindon**
BIOS is a sub-project of youth work charity, Swindon Youth for Christ, which runs youth clubs in parks and open spaces, meeting young people where they are gathering. The vehicle, a converted supermarket delivery van, will be used to meet young people out and about 12 times a week and be staffed by a trained youth worker and community volunteers. It will include internet access, a mobile graffiti wall and sporting activities. Its focus will be on providing safe spaces for young people to be positively engaged, make positive life choices and help to reduce reports of anti-social behaviour in the areas it targets.
- **Centre for Justice Innovation - £72,600 to extend Neighbourhood Justice Panels**
This project will expand a Ministry of Justice Neighbourhood Justice Panel pilot taking place in Swindon. The project aims to increase the use of restorative justice as a way to tackle anti-social behaviour and low level crime. It sees offenders meeting face to face those who have been affected by their actions, with community volunteers involved in the process. The Swindon pilot model will be rolled out throughout Wiltshire during the next two years.
- **Doorway Wiltshire - £9,000 to support homeless and vulnerable people in Chippenham**
This funding will support drop-in sessions for homeless people, and those at risk of becoming homeless, in the Chippenham area. The sessions offer practical and immediate support for basic needs as well as help on where people can go to for

specialist assistance. Representatives from various agencies attend, allowing people to meet them in one place in a safe environment.

- **Salisbury Street Pastors - £10,000 to be out on Thursday nights**
The grant will be put towards training and equipment costs to enable Salisbury Street Pastors to start a service on Thursday nights. Street Pastors hand out bottles of water and flip-flops to those getting home after a night out. It is about helping people in potentially vulnerable situations, phoning friends or medical services if needed, defusing arguments that might otherwise escalate as well as supporting people with mental health problems.
- **Splash - £38,448 to further develop its holiday activities for young people**
Splash, based in Melksham, helps reduce anti-social and negative behaviour through providing inspiring activities for young people during school holidays. The funding will mainly be put towards recruiting two part time employees - a fundraising and volunteer co-ordinator. This will help them to raise more funds and recruit more volunteers, in turn allowing them to run more activities, and a broader range, to help meet current demand.
- **Swindon Advocacy Movement - £25,598 for training people with learning difficulties to keep themselves safe**
This project is about organising forums with vulnerable adults throughout the county. It will also provide safeguarding training for people with learning disabilities and autism to help them become less susceptible to crime, and support vulnerable adults who are victims, witnesses or have been involved with criminal activity. The aim is to help give people with learning disabilities more confidence, especially around reporting any instances of disability hate crime.
- **Swindon Women's Aid - £35,000 to provide outreach support to teenage victims of abuse**
This funding will help fund a pilot project to provide outreach support to teenage victims of abuse (both genders). It will involve taking support directly to young people in the community, particularly in schools. The money will help pay for a specialist worker, with a main part of their role to help those who may be at risk of domestic abuse and supporting them so they can prevent themselves from being further at risk.
- **Trowbridge Community Area Future - £7,500 to further support the Polish community**
This project is being co-ordinated via a community partnership, made up of residents, voluntary groups, the business sector and public agencies. It says that a project revealed a lack of knowledge among the Trowbridge Polish community about services available. Events will take place for the Polish community to meet service providers, including volunteer interpreters. It will also update a services directory published in Polish.
- **Unchosen Swindon - £660 to organise a human trafficking awareness event**
The group Unchosen Swindon will use this money for an awareness event about human trafficking, with a range of specialist advisors attending. They will give out

information to those who attend, including about where victims can turn for support. At the event films showing a range of examples of trafficking will be shown, which the group believe to be an effective way to engage with the public and local professionals who may come into contact with victims of trafficking.

- **Victim Support – £7,333 towards a community safe places scheme**
The Safe Places initiative aims to encourage establishments to become Safe Places and help anyone who is out and about and has an immediate need for low-level support. For example, a vulnerable elderly person has her handbag stolen. She goes to a Safe Place where her daughter and the police are contacted. The Safe Place representative waits with her until they arrive. Pilot projects are taking place in Salisbury and Devizes. The funding will help to extend this community-owned scheme county-wide.
- **Wiltshire Police Outbox scheme - £22,200 for a boxing referral scheme for young people**
The funding will go towards start up and running costs for a multi-agency scheme to refer young people to boxing clubs and to support, guide and mentor them. The aim is that the scheme will give individuals a positive focus, reducing their anti-social and/or criminal behaviour. The first areas to be covered will be Swindon, Devizes, Trowbridge and Marlborough.
- **Wiltshire Probation Trust - £92,805 towards an offender rehabilitation scheme**
This is a partnership programme to support those on short term custodial sentences leaving prison and returning to Wiltshire. It is about helping to break cycles of re-offending. It will see prisoners being met at the gates on release and supported in their re-settlement in the county. The Probation Trust will be match-funding this initiative. It will extend current provisions to offenders who have received prison sentences of less than a year.

Community Safety Partnership

Details of amount of funding and allocation for Community Safety Partnerships has previously been shared with the Police and Crime Panel. It is intended to provide a further update to the November meeting on spend in this area.

Angus Macpherson
Police and Crime Commissioner
For Wiltshire and Swindon