

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

15th January 2014

Introduction

1. This report provides a summary of the second round of funding from the Commissioner's Innovation Fund.

Background

2. 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 makes use of some of the capital reserve that has accumulated over previous years. It does not diminish the revenue funding of the OPCC or the Constabulary.
3. The first round of funding of just under £385,000 was awarded in July 2013 and a second round of funding was awarded in November 2014. One final round of funding will take place in March 2014.

Second Round of Funding

4. Forty-seven applications requesting grants totalling nearly £1.5million were submitted for the second round of funding. As with the first round, the applications were considered by myself and an Advisory Panel (made up of the Chief Constable and representatives from Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council, and the Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon).
5. Eleven projects totalling nearly £327,000 were successful in their applications and details of these can be found below:
 - **C-Change Empowerment - £28,410 for empowerment sessions at Swindon Foyer**

This grant will be used to run interactive empowerment sessions for young people resident at the Swindon Foyer to help bring about a change in attitudes. The money will be used for staff and running costs. The project will run for a year and work with around 50 young people living at the Foyer, plus some offenders linked with Swindon Youth Offending Team. The aim is to inspire the young people with positive attitudes, enabling them to become more involved with the community and take action to benefit themselves and others. Residents at the Foyer often face a wide range of personal issues and challenges. The aim is by engaging young people in a positive programme, they will become empowered to become more involved with the community and engage in education, work, training or volunteering.
 - **Circles South West - £78,739 for training community volunteers to support sex offenders, returning from prison to the community**

A circle comprises of four or five community volunteers who are trained, supported and supervised by professionals. The sex offender is referred by their probation or police offender manager and they volunteer to join the circle. The circle meets frequently for 12 – 18 months, assisting the core member to establish an independent non-offending lifestyle. The aim is to provide social support, improve social and life skills and for the offender to be involved in suitable education, training,

employment or voluntary work in a bid to stop them re-offending. The Innovation Fund money will allow for Circles South West to run six Wiltshire circles a year, supporting 12 high risk sex offenders and the communities they live in. It will involve recruiting and training about 60 volunteers, who will be managed by a part-time coordinator.

- **Friends of Biss Meadows County Park, Trowbridge - £1,547 for young people to create a mural**

This project will see the production of a substantial mural designed and produced by year 12 art and design students from Clarendon Academy, Trowbridge, for Biss Meadows Country Park. The mural, a realisation of six months work, will reflect the county town of Trowbridge and the work of the Friends of Biss Meadows Country Park. The walls to be painted, currently an area that is visually and socially of concern, will be transformed to create a stimulating, engaging link between Biss Meadows and the adjacent Lavender Fields housing estate.

- **Sixth Sense Theatre for Young People - £17,500 for a preventative theatre teaching project**

This grant will be used towards a theatre tour (performance and workshops) teaching 16 and 17 year olds in secondary schools about healthy relationships and aiming to change attitudes. The project will work with schools in Wiltshire and Swindon, with ten due to take part in research and development activities. The performance will probably include a young woman, her friend and an older man. Areas covered will include how to identify what is not a healthy relationship, who to contact about the problem, support available, how to offer support and reasons for why perpetrators commit domestic abuse. There will be input from specialist bodies and consultation with young people about the performance. Sixth Sense Theatre for Young People is based at the Wyvern Theatre, Swindon.

- **SEQOL (Swindon-based community interest company) - £29,500 for an autism awareness project**

This project focuses on enhancing the skills of frontline staff in their relationships with offenders who have or may have autism. The project has a four level approach:

- 1) Autism awareness sessions run by specialist clinicians and people with autism for about 200 frontline staff across a wide range of probation linked services;
- 2) Specialist clinicians supporting monthly supervision groups for staff;
- 3) Befriending scheme delivered in partnership with the National Autistic Society focused on five socially isolated individuals linking in with Wiltshire Probation Trust mentors;
- 4) Wiltshire probation champion to ensure the sustainability of the project. The University of the West of England (Bristol) will be involved in evaluating of the project, with the potential to share knowledge and benefit larger groups.

- **Swindon 105.5 - £11,840 to support a meadow garden project in Penhill, work with young people and develop community broadcasting**

The project is to support a group of residents, Swindon Youth Offending Team and Swindon Academy in Penhill. Penhill is an area where there are problems with anti-social behaviour. The radio station has links with this community and wishes to help them develop a meadow garden. The station will work with at least ten young people training them to record stories and programmes for the station about this

meadow garden project. Young people will also work with Mike Buss, who left the army after a car exploded near him while serving in Northern Ireland. He became deaf in one ear, homeless and has now turned his life around. Mike will work with at least four young people developing their personal, team work, first aid and life skills, these young people will also be shown how to record radio shows, producing four programmes.

- **Swindon Borough Council – East Locality - £11,000 to create a youth cafe**
This funding is to run a youth cafe in Sussex Square, Walcot, Swindon. It is part of work on-going to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area, which has included engagement with residents and businesses. The cafe will be set up in an empty shop unit, been made ready for this new use by the borough council. A youth offending team youth worker will be involved to provide targeted early interventions with the young people to support them away from potentially criminal behaviour. The youth cafe will be open for two sessions per week. During the past year, about 25 young people have been involved with planning the project. It is anticipated that the project will work with 20-30 young people each session. The plan is to set up a local management group so the local community owns the project and is involved with running it.
- **Threshold Housing Link – £20,865 to coordinate activities and life skills programme for residents to enable them to start training or employment**
Threshold Housing Link is a charity that provides supported accommodation with a resettlement programme and complementary services for single homeless people in Swindon. The funding will be used to employ a coordinator to work closely with hostel residents to help them undertake positive activities including volunteering, learning new skills and improving their health and wellbeing. The pilot programme also aims to benefit the wider community and reduce offending - as a structured programme for residents should turn them away from anti-social behaviour and committing petty crime.
- **Warminster Street Pastors - £600 to help train new Street Pastors; pay for training, buy uniforms and running costs**
Street Pastors is a nationwide initiative that seeks to provide a team to care, listen and help anyone who is out in pubs, clubs and food outlets during the night. It is being a listening ear and a helping hand, defusing tensions and supporting vulnerable people to get home safely. Warminster Street Pastors currently runs every Friday evening and one Saturday a month. The money will be used to help train new Street Pastors; pay for training, buy their uniforms and to cover running costs, with the aim of providing more regular Saturday evening patrols.
- **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Food Champions - £91,958 for horticultural community payback training**
This funding will help to further develop a Wiltshire and Swindon Food Champions project which has been running since 2011. This new scheme will focus on addressing the need for improved nutrition and wellbeing in Swindon communities, with those carrying out community payback receiving horticultural and nutritional training through gardening and cookery sessions within social deprived areas of Swindon. This will include them working in a cafe, selling food they have grown and cooked. The aim is to improve community cohesion and provide training for offenders to help break cycles of reoffending. The cafe will be on a walkthrough to Swindon football stadium so it is hoped match days will generate income.

- **Youth Adventure Trust - £34,870 for a development programme for disadvantaged children**

Youth Adventure Trust runs a free development programme for disadvantaged and vulnerable children aged between 11 and 14 in Wiltshire and Swindon. Every year it works with 240 children. The programme includes outdoor residential camps and day activities over a three year period and is largely run by volunteers. It aims to help break cycles of crime and anti-social behaviour and improve the lives of local communities. The trust works closely with referral agencies – schools, social services, youth services and other charities to identify those who would most benefit. Reasons for referral include parents with drug and alcohol dependency problems and being at risk of becoming involved with crime. The Innovation Fund grant will be used to recruit a volunteer manager to free up the operations manager, who currently undertakes these duties, to allow for them to provide more personal support to children and their families.

Funding and Future Rounds

As the total is above the funding allocation for this round (£315,000), I will be meeting the shortfall by an additional call of £11,829 from reserves.

One more funding round will take place in March 2014 with an allocation of £330,000. The deadline for receipt of applications is 3rd March. Information on the criteria and how to apply can be found on my website: www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk.

Angus Macpherson
Police and Crime Commissioner
For Wiltshire and Swindon