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COMISIYNYDD
HEDDLU A THROSEDDU
DYFED-POWYS
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER

REPORT / SUMMARY DECISION SHEET

PURPOSE: COMMISSIONER DECISION

Timing: Urgent / Pressing / Routine
(Specify date required and why, where possible)

Title: Research projects to inform future commissioning of victims' services

Category of Decision / Business Area Impact: Commissioning

Executive Summary: Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will from October 2014 be responsible for local commissioning of the majority of emotional and practical support services for victims of crime, currently provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

The Ministry of Justice provided one-off funding to PCCs in 2013/14, with Dyfed Powys being awarded £189,862. This funding was provided in order to enable PCCs to build the capacity and capability of potential providers of victims' services and restorative justice and to undertake background preparation for local commissioning.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner needs to obtain a clear understanding of the needs of victims, along with the current situation regarding funding and service provision, in order to inform the development of a specification to competitively commission the most appropriate and targeted services.

In order to achieve this, a variety of projects, pilot arrangements and research is being undertaken. These are outlined in Appendix 1.

Recommendation:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approve the proposed expenditure plan for the 2013/14 Victims' Services funding.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the NOLAN Principles for Conduct in Public Life.

The above has my approval.

Signature:

Date:

4/4/14

Appendix 1

Detail of expenditure against Victims' Funding

1. Partnership review of commissioning

A small project was commissioned to provide a review of the current partnership landscape in order to identify the basis of current projects being funded by the PCC and to develop an informed method of delivery for future commissioning.

2. Director of Commissioning

As a result of the above review, the post of Director of Commissioning was established. A small portion of the funding has contributed to the employment costs of this post, which will prepare the Commissioner's office for commissioning of services in 2014/15 and beyond.

3. Mediation pilots

Two voluntary organisations are each undertaking a 6 month pilot to enable the provision of mediation services to victims across the force area. The pilots will provide support, advocacy and mediation services directly to victims. They will ensure that the needs of victims, in particular those who are vulnerable, are identified and addressed within service provision and will help to inform the future commissioning of victims services by providing detailed information on the findings, challenges, outcomes and recommendations from the work.

The pilots will focus on a two-fold approach to mediation, with Victim Support offering mediation to individual victims whilst the Community and Voluntary Councils will work together across the force area to provide community mediation, utilising a range of methods including neighbourhood agreements, establishment of residents associations and intergenerational work.

4. Crime reporting pilots

A further 4 pilots are being run for a period of 3 months to increase confidence in crime reporting, in particular amongst vulnerable and priority groups. These pilots will focus on the key priority areas of domestic abuse, older people, vulnerable adults (including those with mental health concerns) and young victims. They will identify barriers to reporting; research the needs of victims; identify robust mechanisms for reporting; raise awareness of reporting services and available support and facilitate communication with the police. This will help to ensure that those who are vulnerable within the community feel safe and confident in reporting crime and disorder, that services provided to victims offer reassurance and support in order to encourage crime reporting and that the needs of victims are identified and addressed within service provision.

5. Directory of services and future website development

The OPCC is in the process of commissioning a piece of research to assist with the provision of a comprehensive directory/map of services currently available for victims at all points of the criminal justice system across Dyfed Powys. This research will enable identification of all services currently available to victims across the force; identify on what basis services are provided i.e. statutory, voluntary or community provision; provide a robust map of the network of services in the form of a pathway from point of referral through the system, including points of contact for referral into all services and any criteria or cost associated with accessing the service. It will also allow identification of any gaps and potential duplication in existing service provision.

This will assist the preparation for a fully informed victims' website in 2014/15, housing all the relevant information on one site. The content will consist of signposting information, useful advice, FAQ's and an interactive /chat facility.

6. Restorative Justice

A piece of research will be commissioned to assess provision and increase capacity around Restorative Justice (RJ) approaches. The provider will assess current provision of Restorative Justice across Dyfed Powys from a variety of Criminal Justice System partners. This will include a focus on best practice examples where RJ approaches are successfully embedded, with a consideration of the types of services that are transferable to the local area. The research will outline the issues, barriers and recommendations for service provision, including training implications for partners and developmental work with communities and volunteer networks to build the capacity for neighbourhood panels and similar structures to facilitate RJ. It will also highlight the views and needs of victims within the process. This tender will be advertised in early April with intention to award by late May. It is envisaged that this work may lead to the establishment of a restorative justice delivery partner for 2015/16.

The outcomes of the work outlined above will be delivered to the OPCC by mid-year 2014/15 and, along with other sources, will help to inform the detailed commissioning intentions for provision of services from April 2015 onwards.