



**Philip Seccombe  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
for Warwickshire**

## **Decision Application WPC20135**

### **2020-21 PCC Grants**

<b>Application Date:</b>	13/05/2020	<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	Abigail Simkin (DPL)
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#### **Application Decision Reference: WPC20135**

#### **1. Summary of the application**

This is an application for a PCC decision on the annual funding allocations for 2020-21 PCC Grants across several different categories. A spreadsheet is attached detailing a breakdown of this request, along with a more thorough explanation below.

#### **2. Background information:**

The following grants were made available to bid for in 2020/21:

- £50,000 in small grants was made available for new small grant projects, with organisations able to bid for up to £10,000 per project.
- £15,000 for a Reducing Reoffending project.
- £68,000 for a countywide Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme.
- £25,000 for a countywide Victims Counselling service for domestic abuse victims.
- Up to £500,000 for Road Safety projects.

In total, we received 71 new applications in December 2019 and January 2020. Split across the various categories - 30 were for Small Grants, 6 for Reducing Reoffending, 10 for the two Domestic Abuse categories, and 25 for the Road Safety Fund. Some were automatically excluded from the evaluation process because they were not Warwickshire projects and because they did not meet the selection criteria such as geographical reach, or because they breached the top-end value limit.

A thorough evaluation process consisting of several stages and level of evaluation were executed before final decisions were made. Consideration included whether projects would support the Police and Crime Plan in one or more of its four key aims (Putting Victims and Survivors First, Ensuring Efficient and Effective Policing, Protecting People from Harm, and Preventing and Reducing Crime). The evaluation also included whether a project represented value for money and if there was a need for the project in Warwickshire and if so would the project meet that need. Policies such as safeguarding, insurance and data protection were also

checked, as was the financial resilience of each organisation. This due diligence was conducted in order to best ensure the safety of the public and the volunteers and employees involved in delivering the projects, and to safeguard public money.

In the case of the Reducing Offending grant, the decision was taken to reallocate a portion of the £15,000 available as the successful project was significantly below this full amount; the remaining funds were reallocated to Small Grants in order to fund additional projects. Furthermore, due to the strength and number of many of the applications, some additional funding was drawn into the Small Grants fund from the PCC budget and which may also utilise some of the PCC initiatives and grants reserve if necessary at the year-end following a full reconciliation of actual spending in 2020/21.

Additionally, due to a number of existing projects running successfully and recipient organisations submitting satisfactory quarterly returns, and the time constraints posed by two periods of scheduled purdah in both December and late-March, their 2019-20 awards were rolled-over and awarded again for 2020-21. This occurred following a rigorous evaluation of each proposed award.

Finally, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, an additional risk assessment of every proposed awarded grant was undertaken in late March and early April in order to establish whether any organisations faced significant financial challenges, and whether projects were able to either adapt to remote working or “catch up” when lockdown restrictions eventually ease. The risk assessment and its outcome was intended to balance our desire as a funder to support partner organisations through the uncertain times ahead with the duty incumbent upon us to safeguard public funds by being responsive to the changing environment in which we operate. After careful consideration and lengthy consultation with those highlighted by the risk assessment, a small number of grant recipients agreed to contract variations as a result of this process. These contract variations have not altered the total value of each grant but have broken the total award into quarterly or six-monthly instalments. This is for a variety of reasons which differ in each case but included some of the following issues: any perceived concerns over the intended recipient’s financial resilience during these particularly challenging times, the recipient’s potential inability to deliver the project in full or as intended during lockdown, and/or medium to high value grant awards, where staged payments would mitigate any financial risks.

A full breakdown of the projects we have chosen to award and how they are expected to contribute to the Police and Crime Plan can be seen in the attached spreadsheet. For those bids which were not successful, information on why they were not successful has been retained as part of the evaluation process.

**3. Whether additional information/report is attached to support this decision application**

**YES**

**List of additional information/report**

- a) Original guidance for applicants detailing categories of grant available for bidding
- b) List of awarded grants including roll-over and newly allocated projects for 2020-21.

#### **4. Expected benefits (non financial)**

See attached spreadsheet for Police and Crime Plan impact.

#### **5. Impact of not approving the application**

See attached spreadsheet on awarded grants. The expected benefits from these projects would not happen if this application is denied.

#### **6. Costs**

Full breakdown of costs can be found in the applications financial breakdown section.

**Revenue:** All the costs can be met within the 20/21 budget and grant recipients must comply with the grant terms and conditions.

**Capital:** n/a

#### **7. Savings:**

There are no direct cashable savings to the Police and Crime Commissioner's office as a result of the grants being awarded, however, they will help to deliver the Police and Crime Plan aims and objectives, which may deliver longer term benefits.

#### **8. Equality and Diversity Implications:**

All relevant policies apply.

#### **9. Treasurer's comments**

The 2020/21 PCC budget includes a total of £2.3m for grant and commissioned services to support victims and deliver the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan. The £2.3m budget includes £0.667 from the Ministry of Justice to specifically deliver victims services, but the remaining balance is from the PCC's own local resources. A thorough and robust evaluation process is undertaken to establish successful grant applications, and all the approved expenditure can be met from within the budget and resources available.

Grant recipients and commissioned service providers are required to submit regular financial and performance monitoring returns to assess and monitor outcomes, and areas of underspending are challenged, recovered and re-allocated if appropriate. This process is developed through building strong working relationships with service providers and will be particularly important during

2020/21 to manage the outputs and spending on approved schemes, due to the specific challenges posed by the Covid19 crisis and to ensure that projects and services are delivered safely, effectively and respond to any changing needs.

**10. Legal/Monitoring Officer comments**

The process followed to award these grants is clearly set out in this decision notice. A rigorous, open and fair evaluation process was followed to ensure that the grants allocated provided value for money and delivered outcomes required to contribute to the key objectives of the police and crime plan.

**Decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

To fund successful applications according to the decisions notice spreadsheet.



**PCC Signature:**

**Date of Decision:** 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020