



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

Decision Application WPCC20148

Application Date:	19 August 2020	Name of Applicant:	A.Simkin DPL for Grants, & Commissioning
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Application Decision Reference: WPCC20148

1. Summary of the application

Due to the Covid19 pandemic emerging early in 2020 and the increasing severity of impact both on Warwickshire's communities and organisations providing important services, the decision was made in June 2020 to launch a Covid19 Recovery Fund. The Fund was created using money from an earmarked PCC reserve, and represented just one part of a multifaceted Covid19 response by Warwickshire OPCC.

The Fund was designed to support organisations providing important services before and/or as a result of the pandemic to Warwickshire's communities, in order to ensure that those communities continued to be appropriately supported in matters regarding Police and Crime. It was also designed to enable organisations to evolve and respond fluidly to the emerging challenges caused by the pandemic. Finally, it is hoped that it will support organisations at a time when funding availability from other avenues is reduced or non-existent in order to preserve continuing service provision and the longer-term survival of organisations relevant to Policing and Crime.

24 organisations and projects have been allocated funding either through a small donation or grant. The total sum allocated following a rigorous review process, totalled approximately £51,000. This funding will be paid in August 2020 and remains available to recipients for work up until the end of the financial year (31st March 2021).

This decision's notice documents the relevant background to the fund, process and results.

2. Background information:

In June 2020 up to £100, 000 was made available for bids by public, private and third sector organisations seeking financial support in recovering from Covid19 for one of the following reasons:

- They have experienced an increase in demand for pre-existing projects and services as a direct result of the pandemic
- A service has been commenced by them to support communities or vulnerable groups as a direct result of Covid19
- The organisation has demonstrably lost funding as a direct result of the pandemic
- Additional costs have been incurred as a result of adapting to working from home or social distancing guidelines.

Projects funded by this grant scheme had to fulfil at least one of the above criteria and the fund was not intended to support the commencement of new projects or expansion of business as usual, not as a result of Covid19.

The PCC funds projects that will deliver “**A safer, more secure Warwickshire**”. In addition to the above criteria, all applicants needed to detail and provide evidence as to how their projects would address at least one of the four main priorities of the Warwickshire Police and Crime Plan:-

- Put Victims and Survivors (of crime) First;
- Ensure Efficient and Effective Policing;
- Protect People From Harm;
- Prevent and Reduce Crime.

29 applications were received to the Covid19 Recovery Fund before the deadline. Every application was subject to a stringent evaluation process in which each was scored according to 1) Relevance to the Police and Crime Plan, 2) Need according to the Covid19 Recovery Fund criteria, 3) Value for money, 4) How tangible and achievable the project was illustrated to be.

The evaluation process led to recommendations made on whether to fund each applicant, and whether to fund to the full amount requested or in part. A decision panel including the evaluating Policy Leads and the OPCC Chief Exec, led by the Police and Crime Commissioner, made final decisions on all applications.

The process resulted in a total of 24 applications being funded to some degree. The majority of these organisations are new recipients of PCC funding. The total value of awarded Covid19 Recovery Fund grants and donations is £50, 917.58.

A full list of organisations and projects being funded is attached to this Decision’s Notice.

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

YES

List of additional information/report

- a) Original Covid19 Fund guidance notes
- b) List of awarded Covid19 Fund grants and donations.

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 the application was denied. Furthermore the aimed-for benefits of supporting communities with emerging challenges caused by Covid19 and lockdown/restrictions, and of supporting organisations to respond to these challenges with important service provision whilst also surviving a financially uncertain time, would not materialise either.

6. Costs

Revenue: Up to £100,000 has been made available to fund a grants round for Covid-19 relief. £50,917.58 has been allocated following the evaluation process of applications received.

Capital: N/a

7. Savings:

No savings are directly attributable to this.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications:

All relevant policies apply.

9. Treasurer's comments

£100,000 of the PCC grants and Initiatives earmarked reserve will be allocated towards funding awarded Covid-19 relief grants and donations in 2020/21. These payments will be made in a timely fashion to assist organisations providing services to meet Police and Crime Plan objectives. As approximately £51,000 of grants have been awarded, the balance of the unallocated reserve will remain in the earmarked reserve, and be used to fund future police and crime related initiatives. The required reserve transfer will be undertaken at the end of the financial year.

10. Legal/Monitoring Officer comments

Due to the Covid19 pandemic emerging early in 2020 and the increasing severity of impact both on Warwickshire's communities and organisations providing important services, the decision was made in June 2020 to launch a Covid19

Recovery Fund. The Fund was created using money from an earmarked PCC reserve, and represented just one part of a multifaceted Covid19 response by Warwickshire OPCC.

Every funding application received was subject to a stringent evaluation process in which each was scored according to 1) Relevance to the Police and Crime Plan, 2) Need according to the Covid19 Recovery Fund criteria, 3) Value for money, 4) How tangible and achievable the project was illustrated to be.

The Evaluation Panel led by the PCC approved the applications to be funded. Overall the process has been transparent, fair and will provide much needed additional financial support to organisations carrying out important work on crime and community safety in the County.

Decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner

To approve the awarded Covid-19 relief grants and their funding of up to £100,000 from a transfer from the PCC grants and initiatives earmarked reserve.



PCC Signature:

Date of Decision: 24th September 2020