



# Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

**REQUEST FOR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER DECISION - (N° 001/2016)**

**TITLE: Evaluation for Turning the Spotlight and Integrated Sexual Violence Response Service [Home Office Innovation Bid Projects]**

## **Executive Summary:**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is looking to commission Brathay Trust to design and develop an independent academic evaluation for 'Turning the Spotlight' and for the 'Integrated Sexual Violence Response Service' (The Bridgeway and wider developments). Brathay Trust has been approached to evaluate the effectiveness of both projects. The evaluation findings will be presented as a mid-year monitoring report and a final evaluation report based on the projects outcomes and service provision.

- The evaluation will provide significant contribution to the evidence base around the successful outcomes of both projects.
- The design and methodology of the research will be conducted using Thematic Analysis; interviews and transcription. In addition participants will be asked to complete an online survey which will be built into the programme design.
- It will seek to critically evaluate service provision and programme design and specification; will highlight best practice and/or issues that might be impact on service users, beyond the service itself.
- It will reduce conflicts of interest and intellectual bias by providing an impartial and independent review; it will ensure openness and transparency.
- The evaluation will be regarded as credible and will be reviewed by an Ethics Panel in line with the British Psychological Society 'Ethical Principles for conducting research with Human Participants'
- It will provide learning that can be passed on to other partner agencies and commissioners that will live on beyond the life of the project.

## **Recommendation:**

The Commissioner is asked to approve a total of £31,344 to be allocated as described below:

- £18,540 to provide a mid-term and end project evaluation for 'Turning the Spotlight' – Domestic abuse and Hate crimes programmes.
- £12,804 for evaluation of the 'Integrated Sexual Violence Response Service' project

The funding will ensure a critical evaluation is conducted into the effectiveness of the projects in meeting the desired outcomes. It will support and enhance reports to the Home Office and will provide a credible evidence for 'What works'.

**Police & Crime Commissioner**

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner. Any such interests are recorded below.

I hereby approve/~~do not approve~~ the recommendation(s) above

**Police & Crime Commissioner**

Signature:



Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**PART 1 – NON CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC**

**1 Introduction & Background**

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner successfully applied for funding from the Home Office Innovation Fund for 2015-16 and 2016-17, on behalf of and working with a number of local partner organisations. This funding will enable a number of services to be developed to trial new ways of tackling on-going problems within the county to see whether they provide value for money and potential future ways of working.
- 1.2 Turning the Spotlight is a project that will provide a range of preventative and intervention services by taking a holistic approach to working with families and young people to prevent and reduce incidents of hate crime and domestic abuse.
- 1.3 The project will prevent domestic abuse and hate crime by intervening with the perpetrator during the early stages of emerging offending behaviour that has brought the offender to the attention of the police. Preventative and intervention services will be needs-led and offered as a comprehensive holistic programme designed to meet the specific needs of individual clients to assist and facilitate changes to unacceptable behaviours, using counselling, group, 1:1 and psychoanalytical therapies.
- 1.4 The project will focus on perpetrators and victims of:
  - Hate crime
  - Domestic abuse by adolescents in the home
  - Domestic abuse in adolescents relationships
  - Domestic abuse in families.

- 1.5** Partner organisations in the county, working with the Commissioner, have identified that these issues take up considerable resources for public agencies and have a significant impact on victims and their families. The projects provide an opportunity to pilot whether such preventative approaches have the desired impact and present a potential value for money solution.
- 1.6** Another area for development identified by partner organisations was the integration and comprehensiveness of services for victims of sexual assault and abuse across the county. With support of the Home Office Innovation Fund, Cumbrian organisations are developing an integrated response service for victims of sexual violence, to make available a holistic package of early support for victims. This was a collaborative bid on behalf of Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria (lead), Cumbria Constabulary, NHS England, NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group, Cumbria County Council and working with a range of other public, Third Sector and private organisations. The project is also bringing together strategy development, training and awareness raising work to generate a real focus on sexual violence within local agencies and communities, to increase reporting and challenge attitudes.
- 1.7** As well as enhancing the experience of getting support for someone who has been affected by sexual assault or abuse by developing a local facility to conduct forensic-medical examinations and commissioning support services under a single service, The Bridgeway, the project aims to develop a 'team' ethos and better connections between services. It is believed that this will encourage and make it easier for victims to access support more than in the past and that more people will choose to report their case to the police so that more cases can be seen through to prosecution. The increased confidence and awareness of professionals as a result of clearer referral pathway and training is expected to also lead to greater identification and referral to the right support.

## **2 Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1** Both Turning the Spotlight and the Integrated Sexual Assault Response Service projects involve new approaches which have not been used in the county previously. In order to fully understand the impact of these services and whether they have had the desired effect, a thorough and multi-faceted evaluation needs to be conducted. It was also a requirement of the Home Office Innovation Fund that external independent evaluation was part of all bids, given the importance of any learning being shared nationally.
- 2.2** An independent evaluation will be conducted of both projects. The provision of the evaluation will build on and enhance current partnership initiatives:
- Provide a strong evidence base for future commissioning of services through an integrated and shared accountability approach.
  - It will build on existing partnership working, increasing awareness and knowledge of solution based approaches.
  - It will potentially provide evidence of the effectiveness of disposal options with a conditional outcome for perpetrator-based intervention. i.e. 'What works'

- 2.3** The evaluation needs to be independent of the commissioning and delivery partners involved in the projects and impartial; it will reduce any conflicts of interest or intellectual bias. Ethical values will be upheld and will in turn ensure the end evaluation report is deemed creditable. Intensive projects such as those based on cognitive behavioural programmes (Turning the Spotlight) need dedicated project research time in order to evaluate appropriately. This requires qualitative analysis such as interviews and transcription which is lengthy in time and requires a knowledge base and expertise in research, as well as resources to complete them. The evaluation will also aim to capture the added value of the project beyond simply commissioning services, by capturing victims' feelings on how joined up services are and the reasons why they might have chosen to take a case through the criminal justice system. This would otherwise only be available anecdotally.
- 2.4** A final evaluation report will be produced which will highlight and evidence, 'lessons learned' and 'what works' that will support future commissioning ideas and solutions. It will seek to build on established services and will contribute to the sustainability of the programmes. This will be required to be submitted to the Home Office.
- 2.5** Brathay Research Hub is part of Brathay Trust, a charity based in Cumbria, and it is proposed to use their services to conduct the evaluation. The Research Hub provides an independent evaluation service focusing on process as well as outcome evaluation using theory of change framework. This enables bespoke evaluation work to be undertaken whilst using a framework to capture learning and understanding. The Brathay Research Hub has a strategic partnership agreement with University of Cumbria, which ensures any research conducted by the Hub is passed through the Ethics Panel process, including critical peer review by an independent specialist colleague who will review and comment on the research process undertaken. The involvement of a University as part of the evaluation was deemed to be of greater value by the Home Office.
- 2.6** The findings of the report will form an important part of discussions about future direction for approaches to domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime within commissioning partners and the wider partnerships of Safer Cumbria, Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board.
- 2.7** The external evaluation report will be shared through the North-West PCC's collaboration, both the North-West Chief Executives and officer networks, increasing knowledge and understanding amongst partners that will support future commissioning proposals and solutions.

## **Implications**

### **3.1 Financial**

Total amount of funding is £31,344 to be allocated from the commissioned services budget. The Home Office is providing funding towards this evaluation through the Innovation Fund for each bid. The evaluation reports will support future decision making on expenditure on these or similar services.

### **3.2 Legal**

There are no legal implications.

### 3.3 Risk

There are reputational and public confidence risks associated to the OPCC if the evaluation is not seen to be independent and free from manipulation. The evaluation proposed will evidence where objectives and resource reductions have been met or partially met. Continued drive and full commitment to reducing resource demands on the Constabulary and partner agencies can only be driven by a greater understanding and knowledge of best practice.

### 3.4 HR/Equality

The Office of Crime Commissioner and Cumbria Police are committed to providing the best possible service to our communities, ensuring everyone has fair access to all our services and treating everyone with respect at all times.

The independent evaluation conducted by Brathay Trust will ensure informed consent is sought and will work alongside the British Psychological Society 'Code of Ethics and Conduct'. The research will be critically evaluated by an Ethics Panel in association with the University of Cumbria.

### 3.5 I.T.

There are no I.T. implications due to the utilisation of existing systems and processes.

### 3.6 Procurement

There are no procurement implications due to direct commissioning. The rationale behind direct commissioning is a result of Brathay Trust being identified as having the specialist knowledge and skills to carry out this evaluation.

### 3.7 Victims

Focused on reaching the most vulnerable and protected groups, Turning the Spotlight will seek to reduce perpetrator behaviour by implementing holistic interventions working with the whole family. It will identify where possible any risk indicators or offending patterns in hate crime and domestic abuse perpetrators, to help prevent people becoming victims. The project will assist in identifying barriers to reporting and increase awareness and reporting around domestic abuse incidents and hate crimes. The Integrated Sexual Assault Support Service will enhance the experience of victims by addressing key issues which professionals and victims themselves have identified, including ease of access to services, not having to repeat their story unnecessarily and increasing awareness and confidence of professionals to deal with sexual assault. The evaluation will ensure that any learning about what works is identified for future service development for the benefit of victims.

#### Public Access to Information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would not compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of this form to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date (if known):

Is there a **Part 2** form - NO

(If Yes, please ensure Part 2 form is completed prior to submission)

**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

I confirm that this report has been considered by the Chief Executive and that relevant financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

**Signed: Vivian Stafford**

**Date: 15.01.16**

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Chief Executive / Deputy Chief Executive (delete as appropriate)**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner / Chief Executive (delete as appropriate).

**Signature: S.Edwards**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Media Strategy**

The decision taken by the Police & Crime Commissioner may require a press announcement or media strategy.

Will a press release be required following the decision being considered? YES

If yes, has a media strategy been formulated? NO

Is the media strategy attached? NO

What is the proposed date of the press release: