



**Report of: Reducing Youth Violence Leader**

**Report to: Chief Officer, Safer Leeds**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Subject: Authority to establish the Youth Violence Reduction Community Grant Programme and enter into competitive application process.**

Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Armley Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Chapel Allerton Gipton & Harehills	
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	

**Summary**

**1. Main issues**

- Reducing the number of young people involved in violent crime is a priority for the city.
- The Home Office, through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, has awarded Leeds City Council funding of £172,840 to spend on community projects that aim to prevent and reduce youth violence in four priority wards.
- The new 'Reducing Youth Violence Community Grant Programme' will distribute funding through a competitive application process. All projects must be fully completed with measurable outcomes achieved by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 to comply with the government's funding requirements.

**2. Best Council Plan Implications**

- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable

- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Promoting community respect and resilience

### **3. Resource Implications**

- Grants of between £3,000 and £12,000 will be awarded to local organisations through a competitive application process.
- The £172,840 budget is from the Violence Reduction Unit Home Office grant allocated to Leeds City Council by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- All funding must be spent and evidenced by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

### **Recommendations**

- a) The Chief Officer, Safer Leeds is requested to:

Authorise the establishment of a Reducing Youth Violence Community Grant Programme through which grants of between £3,000 and £12,000 will be allocated following a competitive application process.

Approve the four month grant programme to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 up to a total potential value of £172,840.

#### **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority from the Chief Officer, Safer Leeds to establish the Reducing Youth Violence Community Grant Programme and award locality based grants of between £3,000 and £12,000 each through a competitive application process.

#### **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Funding to reduce youth violence has been allocated to Leeds City Council via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for 2019/20. The budget has been distributed to various projects across Leeds including deploying more resources into the Early Help and Front Door safeguarding hubs, providing peer advisors to young people vulnerable to exploitation and, creating a new youth hub in the Nowells area. The budget requires the local authority to seek to use the funding to reduce hospital admissions with a puncture wound, knife enabled serious youth violence and reducing non-domestic homicides.
- 2.3 Additional work in communities with the highest levels of youth violence is a priority for this funding.

#### **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The current funding from the OPCC must be spent before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Grants will be made available for projects delivering in wards with the highest knife crime prevalence: Gipton & Harehills, Burmantofts & Richmond Hill and Armley wards

plus Chapeltown due to low reporting and the recent murder during the carnival period.

- 3.2 A short term grant programme is the most effective way of investing in projects and organisations with close community ties that are able to mobilise and complete programmes of activity within the tight timescale.
- 3.3 A project team of officers from Safer Leeds, Children & Families, Public Health and Communities have developed a grant brief and evaluation process. Priority will be given to projects that have a legacy benefit beyond the grant term.
- 3.4 Organisations will be required to complete a grant application form and budget outline. Submissions will be assessed by a panel of officers from Project Team and a varied portfolio of projects that best fit the funding priorities in each of the four target areas will be offered grants.
- 3.5 Monitoring information will be submitted at the end of the programme along with quality assurance visits and regular informal updates.

## **4 Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 Consultation has taken place with the Executive Member for Communities, Ward Members from the affected wards and wider stakeholders through the Violence Reduction Strategic Partnership.
- 4.1.2 Projects delivered through the programme must evidence how they are based on previous consultation and are co-produced with local communities.

### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 All four target areas have ethnically diverse communities and some of the highest levels of deprivation in the city.
- 4.2.2 The grants will increase the capacity of community based organisations to engage with local residents and foster community cohesion through projects that bring people of different backgrounds together.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Promoting community respect and resilience

#### Climate Emergency

- 4.3.2 The grant recipients shall consider the impact of their proposals on the environment and take steps to mitigate their impact on climate change, in line with the Council's climate emergency declaration.

4.3.3 During mobilisation they will be asked to demonstrate how they will reduce their carbon footprint, including making best use of technology and sustainable transport in their day to day operations.

#### **4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

4.4.1 Funding for the grants programme is from the budget allocated to the Council by the OPCC and meets the priorities set out by the Home Office.

4.4.2 Value for money will be determined by an analysis of the budget form submitted by grant recipients and close monitoring of project delivery.

4.4.3 A report will be submitted to the OPCC on the success of the funded projects at the end of the financial year.

4.4.4 The allocation of funding through grants meets the criteria for grant funding under the Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules.

#### **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

4.5.1 This is a significant operational decision and will not be subject to call-in. There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential within the Council's access to information rules.

4.5.2 The grant application round and evaluation will be overseen by the Children and Families Commissioning and Market Management Team to ensure compliance with legislation and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules

4.5.3 Grants will be awarded through a grant agreement following the submission of viable, costed and fully scoped project proposals.

#### **4.6 Risk management**

4.6.1 The project team is working closely to manage the risks associated with the programme, and a risk register will be kept. As part of the application process, bidders are asked to identify risks and mitigating actions for their project.

### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 Funding for community led projects that aim to reduce knife enabled serious youth violence has been made available to Safer Leeds through the Home Office via the OPCC.

5.2 Due to the time constraints on the funding available, a competitive grants process that invests in community based projects is the most effective method of allocating the budget and ensuring measurable outcomes and benefits are achieved.

5.3 Funding will be allocated to the three wards of the city that currently have the highest level of knife crime and an area of low reporting but suspected high prevalence. Grants will be allocated by a panel of officers to ensure that there is a mix of high quality projects funded through this programme.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Chief Officer, Safer Leeds is requested to:

Authorise the establishment of a Reducing Youth Violence Community Grant Programme through which grants of between £3,000 and £12,000 will be allocated following a competitive application process

Approve the four month grant programme to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 up to a total potential value of £172,840.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

---

<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.