

REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION – DMPCD 2015 92

Title: Proposals for the delivery of key actions within the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy

Executive Summary:

In line with the Police and Crime Plan 2013/16, MOPAC has developed a Hate Crime Reduction Strategy (HCRS) for London. The Strategy identifies a number of key actions to be taken forward with partners and where appropriate these have been aligned to MOPAC's victims' commissioning strategy. As such, a total of £600,000 has been approved by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime from within the victims' budget to support the delivery of the related Hate Crime Reduction Strategy actions (see DMPCD 2015 46). This decision seeks approval for the delivery of two pilot schemes: the hate crime victims advocates and the hate crime reporting app (as detailed in the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy) against £275,000 of the agreed budget as detailed below.

Recommendation:

That the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is asked to:

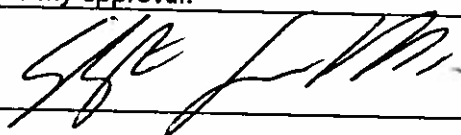
1. approve £100,000 for delivery of the hate crime app pilot to be awarded through a direct award of grant as described in section 2;
2. approve £175,000 for the delivery of the hate crime advocates pilot scheme as described in section 3; and
3. delegate authority to sign the individual grant agreements related to the work described in sections 3 and 4 to the Chief Operating Officer.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

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 Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date

24/8/15.

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

1. Introduction and background

1.1. In line with the Police and Crime Plan 2013/16, following extensive consultation MOPAC has developed a Hate Crime Reduction Strategy for London. The strategy contains three clear objectives. They are to:

- Boost confidence and increase the reporting of hate crime
- Prevent hate crime and reduce repeat victimisation, and
- Ensure swift and sure justice for hate crime victims

1.2. The Strategy identifies 29 key actions to be taken forward with partners to deliver these objectives, and where appropriate these have been aligned to MOPAC's victims' commissioning strategy. As such, £600,000 has been approved by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime from within the victims' budget to support the delivery of the related Hate Crime Reduction Strategy actions (see DMPCD 2015 46). This decision seeks approval for the delivery two of the key actions against the agreed budget as detailed below.

1.3. The three key actions from the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy, which require the commissioning of new and pilot services for hate crime victims are detailed below:

Action	
3	MOPAC will develop a smartphone crime reporting app and pilot the use of that app for hate crime by 2015
4	MOPAC will work with criminal justice system partners to develop and pilot a scheme of Hate Crime Victim Advocates to support those who have been targeted and to help them to cope and recover

The proposed mechanisms for the delivery of these actions are discussed in more detail below in sections 2 and 3.

- 1.4. MOPAC's wider approach to commissioning victims' services is to utilise both contract and grant awards as appropriate, to continue to support Voluntary and Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector capacity by offering appropriate funding opportunities, and to work with partners and stakeholders to develop effective pathways into victims' services, and to use our commissioning responsibility to inform ongoing service development. Given the nature of hate crime and the provision of support to victims, it is proposed that all of the activities detailed within this decision are delivered through VCSE sector grants. In order to meet our commissioning objective of maximising VCSE engagement in MOPAC's programmes of work, it is also proposed that this process is underpinned by a process of sector engagement supported by Safer Future Communities who have been commissioned by MOPAC to support VCSE engagement in our work programmes.
- 1.5. The overarching commissioning strategy and the commitments detailed below have been developed and aligned to MOPAC's outcome-based approach. As such, all grant agreements developed within this programme will contain clearly defined outcomes, and will be managed on that basis. Data

gathered through the monitoring processes will also be used to iteratively inform service development and delivery.

2. Hate Crime Reporting App

- 2.1. The strategy calls for the development and pilot of a crime reporting app for hate crime. The purpose of the app will be to help increase the reporting of hate crime and to contribute to reducing repeat victimisation by providing:
- a simple and accessible means of recording and reporting hate crimes and incidents;
 - a simple means of capturing and retaining related photographic and videographic evidence; and
 - immediate access to information on available support services.
- 2.2. Officers have been scoping the options for a hate crime reporting app, which has revealed a number of existing crime reporting and hate crime apps on the market. A review of those 'apps' has indicated that for the most part these apps provide either information and support services or a generic crime reporting function. However, stakeholder feedback would suggest that something of a more specialist nature is required for a hate crime reporting app.
- 2.3. In order to deliver the Strategy action in the most cost and time efficient way, developing a specialised app from scratch for the purposes of a pilot exercise would be impractical. It is proposed therefore to work with Witness Confident, a social enterprise that has developed a crime reporting app that provides a number of specific and immediate benefits. Firstly, this app has the facility to store photographic and video evidence. Secondly, the app also enables user reports containing photographic and video evidence to be directed to the police, and the protocols for doing so are already in place with the Metropolitan Police Service. This facility provides a further potential benefit in the hate crime context since it would enable those with language or disability requirements to submit video reports, which would increase the accessibility of the reporting process. It should also be noted that Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner has expressed an interest in pursuing a similar course of action and MOPAC will be engaging with them to consider what synergies might be achieved through collaboration.
- 2.4. Given the above considerations, it is proposed that the hate crime reporting app is secured through a direct award of grant, and for the pilot to run for a period of 12 months. In addition to the provision of a specialised app the agreement will also require Witness Confident' to provide support, advice and briefing sessions for users and relevant service providers, and to also fully participate in the pilot evaluation. This procurement falls within the exception set out in MOPAC's contract regulations, which applies where there is no acceptable alternative provider.
- 2.5. The DMPC is therefore asked to approve a direct award of grant to Witness Confident for the purposes of the pilot up to the value of £100 000.

3. Hate Crime Victim Advocates Pilot

- 3.1. Key action four of the strategy calls for the development of a hate crime victim advocates pilot scheme. The specification for the pilot is being developed in partnership with criminal justice partners, as well as VCSE sector engagement, and draws upon the good practice established through independent domestic violence advocate schemes. The role and purpose of the pilot scheme will be to work with vulnerable and high risk victims of hate crime to:
- provide emotional and practical support;
 - help them to cope and recover from the effects of the crime;
 - help them to navigate their journey to a positive outcome within or outside of the criminal justice process as appropriate to the victim; and
 - establish what impact such a scheme might have upon the levels of reported hate crime and of harm and repeat victimisation.
- 3.2. On the basis of the activities described above, it is therefore proposed that the DMPC approve up to £175,000 of funding for the delivery of pilot hate crime victim advocates scheme to be secured through a competitive grant award process.
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4. Financial Comments

- 4.1. This paper seeks approval for the activities detailed, which are mechanisms for the delivery of the relevant key actions in the Hate Crime Reduction Strategy. A budget of £600,000 has already been earmarked for the purpose of the commissioning of hate crime services in support of the hate crime reduction strategy from within the MOPAC Victims' Fund. The activities identified within this decision will be funded from within that budget to the value of £275,000. The remaining £325,000 will be allocated to the delivery of the third party reporting mechanism and the MOPAC small grants fund as approved in DMPCD 2015 46.
- 4.2. As discussed in section 2, the hate crime reporting app will be secured through a direct award of grant in accordance with MOPAC's Procurement Code, and subject to compliance with the requirements set out within it.
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5. Legal Comments

- 5.1. MOPAC's general powers are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). Section 3(6) of the 2011 Act provides that MOPAC must "secure the maintenance of the metropolitan police service and secure that the metropolitan police service is efficient and effective." Under Schedule 3, paragraph 7 MOPAC has wide incidental powers to "do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office." Paragraph 7(2) (a) provides that this includes entering into contracts and other agreements.
- 5.2. Section 143 (1) (b) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides an express power for MOPAC, as a local policing body, to provide or commission services "intended by the local policing body to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour." Section 143(3) specifically allows MOPAC to make grants in connection with such

arrangements and any grant may be made subject to any conditions that MOPAC thinks appropriate.

- 5.3. The powers in section 143 were given to MOPAC following the Government's response to the consultation *Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses* (2 July 2012) in which it set out a package of reforms to the way in which support services for victims of crime are to be provided. Section 143 creates a clear statutory basis for the proposals set out in this decision form, namely to award a range of grants as set out above for the provision of hate crime services and pilots in line with the hate crime reduction strategy.
 - 5.4. Under MOPAC's Scheme of Delegation, approval of the strategy for the award of individual grants and the award of all individual grants (for crime reduction or other purposes) is a matter generally reserved to the DMPC (paragraph 5.6). The release of funding in accordance with the proposals set out in this decision form is accordingly to be approved by the DMPC. The delegation of responsibility for the finalisation of planning and contractual/grant arrangements, including relevant terms and the signing of agreements, to the Chief Operating Officer is in accordance with the general power of delegation in paragraph 1.7.
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6. Equality Comments

- 6.1. MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
 - 6.2. As highlighted through the independent review of victims' services commissioned by MOPAC and through analysis of police crime data, there are some communities that are over-represented amongst victimisation data and/or who fall within the scope of the EU Directive, i.e. victims of more serious crimes, vulnerable victims, particularly those whose circumstances make it difficult for them to access support, and repeat or persistently targeted victims, who must receive a prioritised service. In addition, the analysis indicates that those living in more deprived neighbourhoods are more likely to be targeted.
 - 6.3. The proposals detailed in this decision will target victims of hate crime (across the protected characteristics disability, faith, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, and race), which will go some way to addressing a gap in service provision identified through MOPAC's Independent Review of Victims Services. In addition, many hate crime victims will fall within the scope of the EU Directive as detailed above in section 7.2, and the proposed services discussed in the decision will augment MOPAC's existing commissioned universal and specialised support services for victims of crime. As such, our commissioning approach will support vulnerable and repeat victims, and particular sections of the community who are over-represented amongst victims of crime.
 - 6.4. In line with our over-arching approach to the commissioning and delivery of victims' services, the additional information and data gathered through the activities described above will inform the future development and delivery of services to address the range of victim needs across London.
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7. Background/supporting papers – No papers

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 MOPAC website within 1 working day 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 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, for what reason:

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

	Tick to confirm statement (✓)
Head of Unit: Head of Engagement has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓
Legal Advice: The TfL legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
Financial Advice: The Head of Strategic Finance and Resource Management has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report and the Workforce Development Officer has been consulted on the equalities and diversity issues within this report.	✓

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Operating Officer**

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 Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature 

Date 24/08/15