

DMPC Decision – PCD 1612

Title: The VRU Additional Intensified Support Fund 2024-25

Executive Summary:

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) budget enables us to fund a range of ambitious and crucial programmes that are designed to improve the environments, relationships, or actions that, if unaddressed and unsupported, may otherwise lead to violence. The VRU approach to violence reduction means putting communities, young people and their families at the heart of tackling the issue; and particularly in those parts of London most affected – often taking a place-based approach to violence reduction. The VRU’s current research & feedback from community stakeholders elevates the need for long term sustainable funding.

The VRU would like to extend funding to boroughs experiencing significant volumes of serious violence in 2024/2025 through the Additional and Intensified Support funds. Boroughs will be able to utilise these additional funds to support the delivery of their serious violence duty strategy and violence and vulnerability reduction action plans.

The Mayor of London has allocated funding for the consecutive fiscal years 2022-2025 to support the VRU’s vital work. The VRU has taken the opportunity to extend many of its high-performing programmes of activity and this Decision sets out budget allocation including carry forward from 2023-2024 for ongoing funding across VRU Additional and Intensified Support Fund.

Recommendation:

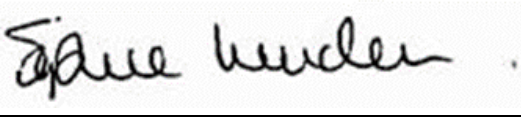
The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

1. To approve allocations of funding amounting to £1 million across the Additional Intensified Support Fund within the VRU, funded from £800,000 2024/25 Mayoral precept funding and £200,000 previously approved Q2 2023/24 carry forwards.
2. To approve allocating equal grants to up to 6 identified local authorities for the intensified support fund for 2024/2025.
3. Delegate award of final grant to the Director of the VRU

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 12/03/2024

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

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The VRU's budget enables us to fund a range of ambitious and crucial programmes that are designed to improve the environments, relationships, or surrounding professional networks that, if unaddressed and unsupported, may otherwise lead to violence.
- 1.2 The VRU's approach to violence reduction means putting communities, young people and their families at the heart of tackling the issue; and particularly in those parts of London most affected – often taking a place-based approach to violence reduction. This includes work programme interventions to support those neighbourhoods which have experienced sustained and high levels of violence.
- 1.3 The research which has been commissioned by the Violence Reduction Unit has been clear in recommendations around funding longer term projects. With funding grants received to cover a 3-year funding period the Violence Reduction Unit has taken the opportunity to extend and enhance existing programmes which are already showing benefit and outcomes for young Londoners, families and communities.
- 1.4 The VRU would like to extend funding to boroughs experiencing significant volumes of serious violence through the Additional and Intensified Support fund.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 Based on work with local authorities, the Met and our knowledge of boroughs we are developing supportive measures with both a focus on prevention and greater capacity to respond to emergencies and incidents. This funding will provide targeted investment in boroughs identified as having had higher risks of violence in past 12 months.
- 2.2 The funding is for locally designed interventions with a focus on boroughs where there are high and sustained levels of violence. The aim of the funding is to provide additional support to those effected and impacted by violence, through a robust partnership approach, including collaboration between statutory partners, local communities, young people, stakeholders and key local institutions. This funding is to help support and enhance additional partnership work and could include areas such as supporting and increasing detached youth outreach through organisations coming together, development of community champions, providing training to communities and young people on the impact of violence, as well as supporting strong and sustainable local networks of community members so that they are well placed to respond to local emerging needs and help advance and test new initiatives to tackle serious youth violence.
- 2.3 Additional Intensified Support Fund will be awarded to up to 6 boroughs most in need based on analysis of data of high harm offences across London. Boroughs who flag as experiencing significantly high levels of incident around violence offences including homicide, violence affecting under 25s and gun crime will be approached to receive funding to deliver additional interventions focused on these concerns.

2.4 Boroughs will also be able to utilise these additional funds to support the delivery of their serious violence duty strategy and violence and vulnerability reduction action plans.

3. Financial Comments

3.1 The total budget requirement is £1,000,000 and aligns to the 2024/25 budget assumptions, £800,000 is from Mayoral precept funding and £200,000 is funded from Q2 2023/24 approved carry forwards.

4. Legal Comments

4.1 Paragraph 4.8 (8) and 4.13 (1), (2) of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has delegated authority to:

- Approve bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding; and/or where appropriate a strategy for grant giving.
- Approve the strategy for the award of individual grants and/ or the award of all individual grants whether to secure or contribute to securing crime reduction in London or for other purposes.
- The procurement strategy for all revenue and capital contracts of a total value of £500,000 or above, such determination to include decisions on the criteria and methodology to be adopted in the tendering process, any exemptions from procurement requirements, and any necessary contract extensions.
- All requests to go out to tender for contracts of £500,000 or above, or where there is a particular public interest.

4.2 MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Chief Executive has delegated authority for;

- As per Paragraph 5.5, the approval of: Business cases for revenue or capital expenditure for MOPAC expenditure of £50,000 to £499,999
- As per Paragraph 5.12, The approval of: The procurement strategy for all MOPAC revenue and capital contracts of a total value of between £50,000 and £499,999.

5. Commercial Issues

5.1 Additional Intensified Support Fund will be awarded to boroughs most in need based on analysis of data of high harm offences across London. Boroughs who flag as experiencing significantly high levels of incident around violence offences including homicide, violence against the person and gun crime will be approached to receive funding to deliver additional interventions focused on these concerns. This funding will be grant awarded to boroughs as delegated to the Director of the VRU.

6. Public Health Approach

- 6.1 London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is taking a public health approach to violence reduction, that is contextual; looking at the context and influences that impact on individuals at significant points in their life.
- 6.2 Evidence-based practice is fundamental to the implementation of a public health approach to reducing violence. Therefore, more research including the delivery and gather of good practice and 'what works' is required to deepen and broaden the evidence base around violence reduction, diversion and prevention in London. The delivery to date for these programmes still requires further support to address the 'what works' question and support ongoing good practise.

7. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 7.1. MOPAC will adhere to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and ensure that any organisations who are commissioned to do work with or on behalf of MOPAC are fully compliant with the policy and understand their GDPR responsibilities.

8. Equality Comments

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. All programmes being extended have had initial screening around equality impact and it was established that a full EQIA was not required. Initial screening for new programmes will be undertaken to establish if a full EQIA is required.
- 8.3 The VRU, along with MOPAC, have commissioned EDI consultants to work with the teams to develop training, awareness and recommendations for future work programme and action plan developments to ensure the VRU are developing their equality, diversity and inclusion work practices as much as possible going forward. For both the team and stakeholders, as well as for the Londoners we serve.

9. Background/supporting papers

- 9.1. None

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
Financial Advice: The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Legal Advice: Legal advice is not required.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
Public Health Approach Due diligence has been given to determine whether the programme sits within the Violence Reduction Unit's public approach to reducing violence. This has been reviewed and supported by a senior manager within the VRU.	✓
Commercial Issues Commercial issues are not applicable	✓
GDPR/Data Privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report • A DPIA is not required. 	✓
Drafting Officer Lisa Hooper, Senior Manager Community Safety has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.	✓
Director/Head of Service: Gary Connors, Head of Community Safety and Prevention has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓

Chief Executive 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 12/03/2024