

DMPC Decision – PCD 634

Title: VRU Work Programme: Phase 1

Executive Summary:

Keeping Londoners safe is a top Mayoral priority. In addition to funding police officers as part of the Violence Crime Taskforce, the Mayor established the Violence Reduction Unit to adopt a public health approach towards tackling violence. The London Violence Reduction Unit had an original budget of £6.8m for 2019/20 to which the Mayor has added a further £1 million and will receive co-commissioning element of London Crime Prevention Fund Tranche 2 which is concentrated on tackling violence in collaboration with Local Authorities (£3.2m in 2020/21). The Home Office has confirmed the award of £7m for 2019/20. This brings the total VRU budget to £14.8m in 2019/20, and £5.0m in 2020/21.

The VRU has published a strategy and work programme with eight key objectives. In line with these objectives, a programme of spend has been developed. Annexe 1 lists the contracts and grants for which this decision is seeking DMPC approval. This Decision is Phase 1 of the spend plan based on mobilisation of existing arrangements and there will be subsequent decisions put forward in year to request approval against remaining programmes.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

- Accept the £7m of grant funding from the Home Office for the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) for 2019/20.
- Note the existing MOPAC funding allocation to be transferred to the VRU. This amounts to £1m in 2019/20 and £3.2m in 2020/21.
- In line with the VRU Strategy and work programme, approve the award of £7.2m in 2019/20, £7.6m in 2020/21 and £0.1m in 2021/22 of direct grants and contracts as well as enhancing contracts and grants, as per Annex 1.

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

Edue Warden

Date

6/9/2019

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

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) was created in September 2018 by the Mayor of London. The strategic aims of the VRU are:
- To stabilise and reduce violence
 - To increase feelings of safety
 - To place community at the heart of our work – only by doing so do we have a sustainable long-term approach towards reducing violence.
- 1.2. Adopting the contextual framework and aligning that with the journey of a child our work programme encompasses the following core objectives:
- Supporting individuals to be more resilient
 - Supporting stronger families
 - Young people leading change
 - Enabling communities to be strong, safe and resilient
 - Prioritising wellbeing and achievement in schools
 - Giving young people every chance to succeed
 - Making London a more compassionate and safer city
 - Increasing confidence in public institutions and changing the message around violence
- 1.3. The VRU will take a public health approach to tackling violence, which means looking at violence not as isolated incidents or solely a police enforcement problem. Instead, this approach looks at violence as a preventable consequence of a range of factors, such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community experiences and influences.
- 1.4. This 'Phase 1 decision' outlines and requests DMPC approval to start activity. There will be further decisions in the year as the spend plan continues to be finalised.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. In February 2019, the Mayor announced that the VRU would receive £6.8m of funding in 2019/20. The funding will primarily be allocated towards delivery of projects and programmes in the community, ensuring that investment is targeted where it will have greatest impact.
- 2.2. The VRU has been allocated £3.2m, the co-commissioning part of the London Crime Prevention Fund.
- 2.3. The Home Office sent confirmation of award of funding on £7m. The Home Office funding is to be spent on activity delivered in 2019/20 only and will be subject to quarterly grant returns.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. The financial implications of this decision are provided for within the 2019/20 budget and there will be further decisions allocating the remaining commissioning budget in 2019/20 against programmes, in line with the VRU Strategy.
- 3.2. A number of the programmes require extension into 2020/21 and 2021/22 to ensure the programme delivers impact and can be evaluated effectively. The financial implications of this will be dealt with through the 2020/21 budget process.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. MOPAC has powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (formerly under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011) to award grants to secure the reduction of crime and disorder in London.
- 4.2. Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC's Scheme of Consent and Delegation provides the DMPC with delegated power to approve bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding; and/or where appropriate a strategy for grant giving.

5. Commercial Issues

- 5.1. The approach for Phase 1 of the VRU total spend focuses primarily on awarding direct grants and enhancing contractual arrangements which support the public health approach to violence reduction. This enables delivery of activity in line with Home Office spend conditions, where spend and delivery of activity must take place by March 2020. The VRU is developing a commissioning framework which will underpin the commissioning of future provision.
- 5.2. This approach will also allow the VRU to begin effecting change at a rapid pace and further build the evidence base to enable continuous improvement of the VRU approach.

6. Public Health Approach

- 6.1. The spend plan takes a public health approach to tackling violence, which means looking at violence not as isolated incidents or solely a police enforcement problem. Instead, this approach looks at violence as a preventable consequence of a range of factors, such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community experiences and influences.

7. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 7.1. A full Data Protection Impact Assessment will be completed by all providers if required as part of the mobilisation for the services, to ensure that all delivery is fully compliant with the requirements of the GDPR.
- 7.2. All contracts and grant agreements will include clear provisions relating to compliance in this area, and in relation to the processing of personal data. These terms have been drafted following consultation with MOPAC's GDPR Project Manager.

8. Equality Comments

- 8.1. Under s149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Equality Act), as a public authority the Deputy Mayor/MOPAC must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and any conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics under the Equality Act are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (the duty in respect of this last characteristic is to eliminate unlawful discrimination only).
- 8.2. The Violence Reduction Unit has commissioned an Equality Impact Assessment which will be published in due course.

9. Background/supporting papers

- 9.1. Annex 1.

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: to enable time to

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

Tick to confirm statement (✓)

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.

✓

Commercial Issues

The Contract Management Team has been consulted on the commercial issues within this report. The proposal is in keeping with the GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy.

✓

GDPR/Data Privacy

A DPIA is not required at this stage.

✓

Director/Head of Service

The Director of VRU has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.

✓

Interim 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

6/9/19

Annex 1: Part 1				
Objectives	Proposal	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000
Supporting individuals to be more resilient Reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences and build resilience	The VRU wants to ensure there is specialist support for young people affected by domestic violence. Through enhancing the Children and Young Peoples Victim Support Service, the Unit will fund a new provision of a dedicated team of specialists to work directly with young people who are experiencing domestic abuse. The funding will be provided over a two year period to ensure the service can be delivered sustainably.	350	600	
	The VRU will fund a new caseworker approach to working with young people from families where there has been a bereavement as a result of violent crime, providing an intensive model of support for children within these homes. This new casework model, will align to the national homicide service, and requires agencies to collaborate and share data to improve frontline early intervention work with affected families. The additional provision will provide further resource to support children and families who have witnessed and experienced violence in the home.	400	740	
	The VRU will support young people involved in serious violence from a mental health and well-being perspective through the Safer London pilot.	62		
Supporting stronger families Supporting parent and carers to nurture and protect	The VRU will invest in two programmes that provide parenting support to vulnerable women who are victims of crime and being supported in the rape crisis centres across London; and women within female offending centres to deliver much needed family focused programmes including advocacy and counselling services.	493		
	IRIS Programme IRIS is a general practice-based domestic violence and abuse (DVA) training support and referral programme that has been evaluated in a randomised controlled trial. Core areas of the programme are training and education, clinical enquiry, care pathways and an enhanced referral pathway to specialist domestic violence services. It is aimed at women who are experiencing DVA from a current partner, ex-partner or adult family member. IRIS also provides information and signposting for male victims and for perpetrators. The programme is currently operating in two areas and the VRU will extend activity to additional locations in London.	500	500	
Giving young people every chance to succeed Institutions providing responsible leadership; London partners having a mutual accountability to invest in what works	The VRU aims to support initiatives across the criminal justice system to reduce violence and provide support to offenders. Due to the significant increases in violence in the secure estate the VRU will extend the current prison pathfinder programme to a further prison. This will enable a more comprehensive pilot and evaluation of the pathfinder programme to take place. Specific activities will focus on the use of mediators, groups work intervention, gang identification and mindfulness programmes.	75	175	

	<p>The VRU is working with the business community to expand London's offer in training, mentoring and work placements for young people building on successful summer programmes in the sport, culture and creative sectors.</p> <p>The Unit will extend the existing summer activities sports programme for young people funded by City Hall into other school holidays throughout the year and provide further after school provision, following data showing that violent incidents involving young people aged 10-16 are more likely to happen at the end of the school day. This will be administered through Groundworks.</p>	500		
<p>Making London a more compassionate and safer city Building a London that is safe, united and inclusive.</p>	<p>The VRU will fund an uplift in youth worker provision in 12 of London's Major Trauma Centres and A&Es - supporting young victims of violence. The funding increases the number of youth workers in these hospitals, enabling greater hours of coverage for intervention with young people at a critical reachable moment. It will also provide for training of clinical staff in trauma-informed principles and improved identification of vulnerable young people.</p>	422	1,100	
	<p>The VRU is working at a neighbourhood level and with local Community Safety Partnerships to continue developing best practice and multi-agency action plans to address violence and knife crime in local areas.</p> <p>Additional funding will be provided to all 32 London Community Safety Partnerships to support local violence reduction focused on three strategic outcomes, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Addressing the drug related drivers of violence •Supporting young offenders and reducing violent recidivism •Minimising school exclusions and supporting young people back into education, employment and training <p>This will be administered through the London Crime Prevention Fund.</p>	4,400	4,400	
<p>Research and Capability</p>	<p>The VRU has adopted a contextual violence reduction approach recognising that to genuinely change behaviour we need to look at the context and influences that impact on individuals at significant points in their life; acknowledging that no individual operates in a vacuum but is both part of and influenced by a huge range of other contexts.</p> <p>This funding will enable a pilot roll-out of the contextual safeguarding approach in four boroughs, by the University of Bedfordshire. In doing so it will test good practice and share it with practitioners who are members of the Contextual Safeguarding network – membership currently stands at just under 5,000 practitioners – who are actively testing and developing Contextual Safeguarding approaches.</p> <p>This funding will also provide strategic and methodological advice to the VRU, drawing upon the learning from test sites, so as to advise the VRU on a range of matters, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioning of contextual interventions in London - Approaches to profiling and measuring safety/success in a contextual way - Key challenges faced by London in safeguarding young people which require policy reform at either a regional or national level 		125	129
		7,202	7,640	129