

DMPC Decision – PCD 1282

Title: National County Lines Co-ordination Centre Home Office Funding

Executive Summary:

The Home Office have allocated further funding to tackle County Lines criminality. The Metropolitan Police is the recipient of some of these funds as the host force of the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre (NCLCC). This paper seeks approval to accept the allocated funding for 2022/23 of £4,600,000, and the provision of grants to other forces and law enforcement agencies who support the NCLCC.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

1. Approve the acceptance of £4.6m Home Office Grant as the host force and appointed budget holder for national activities relating to the continuation of the NCLCC. The grant supports expenditure for the financial year 2022-2023.
2. Approve the provision of Grants to Third Parties who provide resources to support the NCLCC formalised with Grant Agreements as required.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

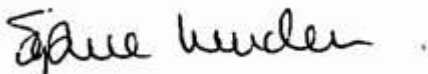
I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date

26/09/2022



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

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The National County Lines Co-ordination Centre (NCLCC) is funded by the Home Office and is focused around delivering an accurate analysis of the current threat posed by county lines, producing an effective operational response and developing and disseminating relevant strategy derived from best practice and from subject matter experts for national compliance.
- 1.2. The continuation of the NCLCC is reliant on funds to produce beneficial outputs and give additional support for policing and wider law enforcement given the enhanced priority of County Lines in recent times. This will assist with the objective set out in the Government's 10 Year Drugs Strategy 'From Harm to Hope'. This Drugs Strategy sets an ambitious target of closing over 2,000 more county lines by the end of 2024/2025
- 1.3. The NCLCC has maintained its current business design with some additional functionality to address operational gaps identified.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The NCLCC will enable the MPS across all boroughs (and other forces) to have an enhanced response to keeping children and young people safe through safeguarding strategies and best practice addressing Preventing and Reducing Violence Affecting Young People. In addition, locally and nationally NCLCC will continue to provide a wider prevent and protect support for those who are exploited through county lines criminality and through pursue by removing the most harmful offenders addressing Protecting People from being Exploited or Harmed.
- 2.2. The NCLCC will also enable the MPS to benefit from national collaboration to tackle and combat organised criminality and its impact on serious violence, use of weapons, drugs and trafficking.
- 2.3. The 2022/23 funding includes a £200,000 uplift from FY 21/22 and there will be 7 additional police staff roles to improve national analysis, business support and communications, the majority of which will be in the MPS.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. The grant offer from the Home Office for NCLCC is £4,600,000 for financial year 2022/2023.
- 3.2. The MPS hosts the majority of posts with national responsibility, and the Regional Organised Crime Units host the roles with regional responsibility. The MPS retains approximately £1.3m of this Grant to fund posts resourced by the MPS. The cost of the posts from other Agencies and Forces which are hosted and funded through the grant is approximately £2.6m.

- 3.3. The funds will be received by Lead Forces for ROCU, BTP and NCA by Grant Agreement where necessary.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. In accordance with paragraph 4.8 of MOPAC's Scheme of Consent and Delegation the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime may approve the bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding; and/or where appropriate a strategy for grant giving.
- 4.2. If approved, the terms of the grants will be formalised between the relevant parties overseen by MPS Commercial Services. MOPAC has the legal powers to enter into Grant arrangements with Third Parties under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which provides that,
 - 7(1) The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office.
 - (2) That includes—
 - (a) entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not);
- 4.3. MOPAC has an obligation to publish any grant agreement entered into pursuant to Schedule 1, Paragraph 3(g) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2012.

5. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 5.1. The MPS is subject to the requirements and conditions placed on it as a 'State' body to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both legislative requirements place an obligation on the MPS to process personal data fairly and lawfully in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
- 5.2. Under Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Section 57 of the DPA 2018, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) become mandatory for organisations with technologies and processes that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights of the data subjects.
- 5.3. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
- 5.4. The acceptance of the grant does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

6. Equality Comments

- 6.1. The design and implementation of the NCLCC has undergone initial equality screening. Due regard has been taken to the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty under Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Real consideration has been taken to assess equality

impact caused by the proposed business change including effective engagement and analysing relevant equality information. As a result no negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic and to those who are not. Further reviews will be conducted (if necessary) and process monitoring completed. If as a result of the continual development of the NCLCC Equality Impact is identified, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be initiated.

7. Background/supporting papers

- MPS Reports - Home Office Funding for National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC)

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: The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
Commercial Issues Commercial issues are not applicable	✓
GDPR/Data Privacy GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
Director/Head of Service: The interim MOPAC Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services 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: 21/09/2022

Signed by MOPAC Chief Finance Officer, on behalf of Chief Executive Officer via delegated authority

Home Office Funding for National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC)**MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 7th September 2022,****Report by Detective Superintendent Neil Ballard on behalf of the Chief of Corporate Services****Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is the host force of the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC). The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) lead for County Lines is DAC McNulty (MPS). NCLCC has been funded by the HO since its inception in September 2018, with MOPAC approval.

£4.6M funding has been allocated by the Home office for the NCLCC for the financial year 2022/23.

There is clear direction from the new 10 Year Drugs Strategy 'From harm to Hope' that 'rolling up' county lines is a priority for the whole of government and the police. This Drugs Strategy sets an ambitious target of closing over 2,000 more county lines by the end of 2024/2025. The NCLCC will continue this FY 22/23 to contribute to this strategic aim, working with the Home Office, MPS, Forces, Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) and partners, across all 4 Ps (Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare), to coordinate a national, joined up, strategic and tactical response to county lines.

Following confirmation of continued funding from the Home Office (HO), this paper seeks authority to accept a £4.6m Grant to fund the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) in FY 2022/23. The 2022/23 funding includes a £200k uplift from FY 21/22 and there will be 7 additional police staff roles to improve national analysis, business support and communications, the majority of which will be in the MPS.

Further funding of a similar amount is expected for FY 2023/24 and FY 2024/25 as 3 year funding has been agreed.

The Home Office have received other bids from other police forces and partners which will, in their entirety deliver a holistic and wide ranging operational response over and above what is currently delivered in existing budgets.

MOPAC approval is sought to accept the Grant from the HO.

Recommendations

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory and Monitoring meeting (IAM), is asked to:

- 1. Approve the acceptance of £4.6m Home Office Grant as the host force and appointed budget holder for national activities relating to the continuation of the NCLCC. The grant supports expenditure for the financial year 2022-2023.**
- 2. Approve the provision of Grants to Third Parties who provide resources to support the NCLCC formalised with Grant Agreements as required.**

Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 21/09/2022. This is because the previous Grant Agreement ceased on 31/03/2022 and the NCLCC now has written confirmation of continued funding from the HO for this financial year 22/23.

Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Introduction and background

1. All of the funding and activity described in this paper is as a result of the funding that the HO have allocated after the Home Secretary's announcement to combat County Lines, and recently reinforced by the new HM Government 10 Year Drugs Strategy 'From Harm to Hope'. This Drugs Strategy sets an ambitious target of closing over 2,000 more county lines by the end of 2024/2025
2. The NCLCC is funded by the HO and is focused around delivering an accurate analysis of the current threat posed by county lines, producing an effective national operational response and developing and disseminating relevant strategy derived from best practice and Subject Matter Experts for national compliance.
3. The NCLCC has maintained its current business design with some additional functionality to address identified operational gaps.
4. The separate "surge" funding provision which was previously administered by the MPS will not be financially administered by the MPS in FY 22/23, but surge funding will still be available through other processes and under the governance of the NCLCC.
5. The NCLCC has developed since inception to provide support and outcomes across all 4Ps, working closely with the Home Office, NCA, Forces, ROCUs, Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and partners. It has expanded its services to include training, peer reviews, the sharing of best practice, dissemination of intelligence and analysis, and reporting to HO.
6. NCLCC will continue to provide coordination of operational efforts against county line threats, whilst delivering a national overview of analysis and intelligence shared amongst law enforcement and partners, coordinating the county lines activity and informing the national law enforcement response. This includes monitoring and evaluating outcomes of intelligence packages, and providing quarterly and annual strategic reviews on county lines to the HO.
7. Protecting children and the vulnerable is an NCLCC core capability, supporting forces with implementation of a vulnerability tool (case management system where all vulnerable persons brought to the attention of multiple agencies are documented) to manage the identification of exploitation.

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2022-251

8. The NCLCC will enable the MPS across all boroughs (and other forces) to have an

¹ [Police and crime plan: a safer city for all Londoners | London City Hall](#)

enhanced response to keeping children and young people safe through safeguarding strategies and best practice, Preventing and Reducing Violence Affecting Young People. The NCLCC will also enable the MPS to benefit from national collaboration to tackle and combat organised criminality and its impact on serious violence, use of weapons, drugs and trafficking.

9. Protecting People from being Exploited or Harmed, locally and nationally - NCLCC will continue to provide a wider prevent and protect support for those who are exploited through county lines criminality and through pursue by removing the most harmful offenders.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

10. The £4.6m HO Grant will be used for NCLCC staff, officer and support costs within the MPS and the Forces and Regions nationally.

NCLCC Cost breakdown	£
Police Officer Pay (MPS)	698,498
Police Staff Pay (MPS)	627,935
Conferences /Seminar fees	25,000
Transport Costs (Travel costs)	6000
National events, communications and training	690,275
Supplies & Services (includes other forces and support costs)	2,552,292
Total	4,600,000

This is an estimated budget, discussions are in place nationally to decide where uplift posts will sit and then recruitment will follow. Budget lines as listed are subject to change based on forecasts provided and further development of communication and training opportunities.

11. A legally binding Grant Agreement will be supplied by the HO to formalise arrangements with terms reviewed by Commercial Services prior to completion.
12. The MPS hosts the majority of posts with national responsibility, and the ROCUs host the roles with regional responsibility. The MPS retains a proportion of this Grant to fund posts resourced by the MPS. The posts from other Forces are hosted and funded through the grant and reimbursed.
13. Regional Grants will be paid by the MPS as appointed budget holder to Lead Forces for ROCUs and BTP, supported with Grant Agreements as appropriate.
14. The processes for the recovery of the HO Grant will be unchanged from previous years.
15. As an extension to an existing service this work does not change any aspects relating to responsible procurement.
16. This Grant contributes to delivering the London Anchor Institutions' Charter² by helping to restore confidence in the city and helping young people to flourish with access to support.

Legal Comments

17. Under paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation the 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".

²<https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/londons-recovery-coronavirus-crisis/anchor-institutions-charter>

18. If approved, the terms of the grants will be formalised between the relevant parties overseen by MPS Commercial Services. MOPAC has the legal powers to enter into Grant arrangements with Third Parties under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which provides that,
7(1) The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office.
(2) That includes—
(a) entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not);
19. This would include the onward distribution of Home Office funding to partners participating in the NCLCC programme of activities by means of grant agreements.
20. MOPAC has an obligation to publish any grant agreement entered into pursuant to Schedule 1, Paragraph 3(g) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2012.

Equality Comments

17. The design and implementation of the NCLCC has undergone initial equality screening. Due regard has been taken to the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty under Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Real consideration has been taken to assess equality impact caused by the proposed business change including effective engagement and analysing relevant equality information. As a result no negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic and to those who are not. Further reviews will be conducted (if necessary) and process monitoring completed. If as a result of the continual development of the NCLCC Equality Impact is identified, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be initiated.
18. As this is an extension of an existing service this work does not change any aspects relating to equality or diversity.
19. There are no implications to the London Anchor Institutions' Charter³.

Privacy Comments

20. The MPS is subject to the requirements and conditions placed on it as a 'State' body to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both legislative requirements place an obligation on the MPS to process personal data fairly and lawfully in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
21. Under Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Section 57 of the DPA 2018, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) become mandatory for organisations with technologies and processes that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights of the data subjects
22. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the projects meets its compliance requirements.
23. The acceptance of the grant does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

Real Estate Implications

³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/londons-recovery-coronavirus-crisis/anchor-institutions-charter>

24. There are no changes to real estate arrangements and therefore no issues arising from current assessments. NCLCC does not have a physical base and operates virtually.

Environmental Implications

25. There will be no impact on the Mayor's London Environment Strategy.

Background/supporting papers

26. 'From Harm to Hope' – HM Government 10 Year Drugs Plan To Cut Crime and Save Lives

Report author: (Detective Superintendent Neil Ballard, Head of National County Lines Co-ordination Centre)