

**Title:** Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Funding for Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough 2014/15

**Submitted by:** Sarah Moore – Partnerships Manager

**Portfolios:** Safer Communities/Communications, Policy and Partnerships

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### **Purpose of the Report**

To update Cabinet on the funding received by the Newcastle Partnership from the Police & Crime Commissioner (P&CC) for Staffordshire (Matthew Ellis).

This funding has been provided to the Newcastle Partnership (of which the Council is the lead body) in order to deliver against a set of priorities and actions as set out in the local Police and Crime Plan 2014-2017 (see Appendix A).

The report is presented to Cabinet in order to ensure that Members are up to date with the process and also to illustrate the clear links between this funding and the work being done by a number of Council services, links which may need to be developed further in order to ensure that maximum value is realised from this funding in terms of partnership working and the delivery of positive outcomes for the community.

### **Recommendations**

- That Cabinet notes the contents of the report, in particular the funding received from the Staffordshire P&CC and the work areas/projects that have been identified as potentially benefitting from this funding
- That Cabinet agrees to develop the areas referred to in this report through their respective portfolios, in order to both raise awareness of the projects being funded and also to encourage working (where appropriate) across the Council to ensure successful delivery and completion of each of the projects listed

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Police and Crime Commissioners (P&CCs) were elected across England and Wales on the 15th November 2012. When Police Commissioners took office on the 22nd November 2012 they became responsible for a combined police force area budget nationally of £8 billion.
- 1.2 According to guidance issued by government, the role of the P&CCs is “to be the voice of the people and hold the Police to account”. The Commissioners are responsible for the totality of policing in their respective police areas. P&CCs aim primarily to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area.

- 1.3 The argument put forward in favour of the introduction of P&CCs is that they have been elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the police force to account by effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve.
- 1.4 According to Government guidance, P&CCs seek to ensure that community needs are met as effectively as possible, and also seek to improve local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust. They work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.
- 1.5 Under the terms of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, P&CCs must:
  - Secure an efficient and effective Police force for their area;
  - Appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismiss them;
  - Set the Police and crime objectives for their area through a Police and Crime Plan;
  - Set the force budget and determine the precept;
  - Contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and
  - Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up.
- 1.6 The Partnerships Team in the Chief Executive Directorate has responsibility for co-ordinating and delivering community safety and other related partnership activity activity for the Borough within the governance of the Newcastle Partnership and administer the role of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to discharge statutory obligations.

## **2. Issues**

- 2.1 The Local Police and Crime Plan (2014 – 2017), produced by the Partnership Team in consultation with the Office of the P&CC, forms the basis of the work of the P&CC in partnership with other agencies including (in this area) NULBC. Following feedback from partners through the Partnership Delivery Group (PDG) and Strategic Partnership Board (see structure diagram at Appendix B) over the last few months the Local Police and Crime Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme has been finalised and is available to view on the Borough Council's website – [www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/Documents/LSP%20documents/PoliceCrimePlan.pdf](http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/Documents/LSP%20documents/PoliceCrimePlan.pdf) - a copy is added as an appendix to this report (see Appendix B).
- 2.2 The P&CC provides a number of funding streams to deliver against the local Police and Crime Plan. The main area of funding provided by the P&CC is Locality Deal Funding. Confirmation has now been received from the P&CC that the Newcastle Partnership has been allocated £110,635 for the financial year 2014/15, together with a commitment to provide this funding for three years, subject to evidence based evaluation to ensure that funding rewards outcome, effort and activity.
- 2.3 The Locality Deal Funding replaces the former Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) which previously was received via the County Council from the Home Office

by being 'passported' through to each of the district/borough community safety partnerships in Staffordshire.

- 2.4 This funding has been provided to the Newcastle Partnership to deliver the ambitions set out in the local Police and Crime Plan and will be held by the Borough Council as the lead body of the Newcastle Partnership.
- 2.5 2.5 It has been made clear by the office of the P&CC that this funding cannot be used to make up shortfalls in salaries or other general council budgets, nor can it be used for projects/pieces of work which are not included in the local Police and Crime Plan.
- 2.6 A total of 80% (£88,508) of this funding was provided on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and there is a requirement for the Newcastle Partnership to submit an evaluation of activity undertaken using this funding by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014. Subject to successful delivery being achieved, the remaining 20% will be made available to the Newcastle Partnership in October 2014.
- 2.7 The Borough Council as lead partner for the Newcastle Partnership have produced a proposal for expenditure of the Locality Deal Funding for 2014/15.

**3. Proposal for expenditure of Locality Deal Funding for 2014/15**

- 3.1 The following proposal for initial expenditure of the Locality Deal Funding (2014/15) has been made for consideration and agreement by the Partnership Delivery Group (PDG) and Executive Management Team, and is now provided for Cabinet:

*General*

- £15,008 – Joint Operations Group (JOG) funding – revised funding criteria has been developed to include provision to enable LAPs to bid and access funding for targeted activity contributing to community safety and to assist in delivering the priorities of the Local Police & Crime Plan and the Borough Council's Stronger and Safer Communities Strategy 2012-2017. The JOG is attended by officers from a variety of partner organisations and staff from across the Borough Council and has a wide focus on environmental and cultural issues and activities (including diversionary activity) as well as crime prevention

*Alcohol harm reduction*

- £5,000 – CCTV camera – to be located on High Street to assist with visibility following the installation of market stall covers as part of the Public Realm works – as part of the drive to counter violence and criminal damage in the town centre and to provide additional reassurance
- £11,500 – Safer nights – to fund Street Pastors, door staff training and other schemes – activity that will improve community safety for the users of the night time economy (and avoid damage to the Borough's towns and facilities) and provide reassurance to encourage more people into the town centre and therefore to assist in boosting the local economy

- £5,000 – First Aid Triage – to provide an early intervention service directly in the town centre at night and to prevention unnecessary attendance at A & E
- £2,500 – Purple Flag application – to pay for the registration fee for the application to be submitted in late spring/early summer 2014 – this process has involved a number of Borough Council service areas already in its planning and will involve these service areas in the delivery of the application. Purple Flag is an important ‘badge’ to get for the town centre of Newcastle-under-Lyme, which will hopefully encourage more people to visit the town and surrounding areas (to the advantage of the local economy)
- £2,000 - Reducing the Strength project – to administer the publicity and launch of the campaign in the borough – designed to reduce the risk of drink-fuelled behaviour spilling over into violence and criminal damage, and therefore potentially protecting properties, people, public areas and other key facilities (facilities which are owned and operated, in some cases, by the Borough Council)

#### *Domestic Violence*

- £2,500 – World Cup campaigns – to administer an awareness campaign over the period of the 2014 World Cup aimed at tackling domestic abuse and assisting alcohol harm reduction – this is to discourage potentially violent and anti social behaviour with the potential benefits to the Borough Council and others in reducing incidents of criminal damage and violence against property and also people
- £2,000 – Deaflink Domestic Violence project – to instigate an innovative project focused on tackling domestic violence and enhancing awareness of the issue throughout the deaf community (highlighted in the recommendations of a recent Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) in the borough) – with the potential benefits as already outlined above
- £3,000 – Domestic Violence Safelink devices – to continue the provision of personal GPS security handsets to give reassurance to victims of serious domestic abuse in the borough
- £13,000 – Domestic Violence Early Intervention Project – to provide continuation of a direct support service to victims of domestic abuse in the Borough targeted at dealing with such violence at an early stage, so as to potentially avoid the more pronounced impact of domestic violence on families, including the impact on living conditions and victims’ ability to function as citizens (including securing and maintaining employment and pursuing other interests and activities such as leisure)
- £12,000 – Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) – to supplement the existing part-time provision facilitated by the County Council’s support contract (thereby helping more victims of domestic violence) and providing continuation of a vital service for high risk victims of domestic abuse. Support provided in this way allows victims to begin to navigate their way through legal and other processes and to start a new life away from the perpetrators of abuse – thereby

reducing the anti social and environmental impacts of domestic violence as well as the direct impact on individuals and families

*Anti social behaviour*

- £10,000 – Home Security Initiative (previously a similar scheme had been delivered via the Revival organisation) – to provide home security measures and reassurance to vulnerable members of the community who have experienced crime or ASB – designed to both tackle crime and also to deter criminal activity and also to aid in the protection of people and property to the benefit of local areas and communities in the borough
- £5,000 – ASB match funding pot for targeted diversionary activity – to assist in attracting match funding and to facilitate diversionary activity to prevent incidents of ASB – as with other diversionary activity covered in this report, this will assist in both halting existing ASB behaviour and also preventing further incidents. This will help in protecting property, housing, local facilities and green spaces – all of which are at risk from this kind of behaviour, and will assist in providing leisure, cultural and other activities for people who otherwise would be involved in ASB

3.2 The above projects will be co-ordinated and administered by members of the NULBC Partnerships Team. These projects seek to enhance the existing offer of services to residents of the Borough affected by crime to deliver those priorities identified by the Newcastle Partnership in the Local Police and Crime Plan (2014 – 2017)

**4. Additional information**

4.1 In addition to the above information, the P&CC also launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 two further funding streams;

- Proceeds of Crime Fund – available to key partner agencies for grants between £3,000-£15,000
- People Power Fund – available to community based organisations for grants between £100-£3,000.

4.2 Further information is available via a link from the Borough Council website Community Safety page [www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk](http://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk) or the P&CC's website [www.staffordshire-pcc.gov/fund](http://www.staffordshire-pcc.gov/fund)

4.3 The closing date for both funding streams was 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and another round is anticipated to be launched in September 2014. The Partnerships Team at Newcastle Borough Council are currently working with partners on a number of projects ideas for submission to the first and second round of the Proceeds of Crime funding and would welcome involvement and contribution to any further ideas that colleagues across the Borough Council may have.

4.4 The People Power Fund is administered on behalf of the P&CC by the Staffordshire Community Foundation and the Newcastle Partnership has been approached by the

P&CC's office to assist with the assessment process of this funding. A small sub group of the JOG is being co-ordinated to take this forward and will consist of the JOG Chair and officers from the Borough Council, the Fire Service, Police and Aspire Housing.

**5. Outcomes Linked to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 Delivery of the projects proposed in Section 3 (above) contribute to meeting the Council's Corporate Priorities of Creating Healthy and Active Communities, Creating a Cleaner, Safer and Sustainable Borough and Delivering a Co-operative Council.

**6. Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 There are no specific legal or statutory implications for consideration within this report.

**7. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is being developed for this area of work.

**8. Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 There are no specific additional financial implications or commitments required for the delivery of the proposed projects.
- 8.2 There are resource implications for Council Officers and Members who are involved in and will co-ordinate delivery and subsequent evaluation of the projects, but this will be undertaken as part of their substantive duties.

**9. Major Risks**

- 9.1 Failure to deliver the proposed projects successfully may jeopardise future funding contributions to the Newcastle Partnership from the P&CC.
- 9.2 There is also a risk of reputational damage to the Council if it does not deliver the projects effectively and efficiently.

**10. Key Decision Information**

- 10.1 This report can be considered key in the following ways: -
- It requires the Borough Council commit existing resources for the function to which the decision relates and;
  - To be significant in terms of its impact on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards in the Borough

**11. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- 11.1 None

**12. List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Local Police and Crime Plan for Newcastle-under-Lyme – 2014 -2017.

Appendix B – Newcastle Partnership Structure Diagram

**13. Background Papers**

13.1 None