

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – Decision Making Record

Report Title: Release of Drug and Alcohol Action Team Funds for Crime Prevention Projects
Decision number: 082/2015
Author and Job Role: Johanna Burne, Chief Executive
Protective Marking: Part One

Executive Summary:

To request release of the DAAT Funds to be used to fund drug and alcohol treatment and diversion projects and for cyber-enabled crime prevention activity.

Background

In the two years before the PCC took up office monies had been put aside by Surrey Police and Surrey Police Authority to fund the Surrey Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). The DAAT was responsible for commissioning treatment services for drug and alcohol in Surrey and was hosted by the Surrey Primary Care Trust (PCT). On closure of the PCT at the end of March 2013, the responsibilities for drug and alcohol abuse services passed to Public Health based at Surrey County Council.

On the PCC's accounts for Surrey Police there is a balance sheet item of £430,000 entitled "The DAAT fund". In 2014/15 the PCC requested that internal audit carry out an audit of this sum of money to look at the funding of the DAAT and to seek to establish what should happen to the £430,000 which is contained within the balance sheet of the PCC and appears to relate to grant funding that was to be paid over to the DAAT. This audit did not find any clear partnership arrangement in place or owner for the funds. They therefore have remained unspent on the Surrey Police Group Balance Sheet.

Following this audit, it is recommended that the PCC uses this £430,000 to fund activity aimed at reducing drug and alcohol misuse. In 2014/15 the OPCC funded the following projects out of its Community Safety Grant:

- £4,000 for the Bridge Project in Woking
- £54,000 to the Youth Support Service to support drug and alcohol intervention activity.

It is expected that a similar level will be spent on such projects in 2015/16.

Support systems in place in Surrey for drug and alcohol treatment through Public Health. The OPCC is also involved in the county wide Substance Misuse Strategy. Preventative work in this area is fairly established. A growing area of criminality is cyber-enabled crime. There is little national or local evidence based work on how to prevent this type of criminality. The OPCC has recently put in a bid to the Home Office Innovation Fund for a project to develop evidence based prevention work for cyber-enabled crime. The total cost of this project is estimated at £752,000 over two

years. Innovation funding has been sought for 50% of these costs with the remaining £376,000 to be sourced from the OPCC budget. If the innovation bid isn't successful, a small project will still be carried out by the OPCC (subject to costing and decision by the PCC).

It is recommended that the funds saved from the Community Safety Fund are directed towards funding the cyber prevention project. In addition, it is recommended any balance of the DAAT fund at the end of year also be directed towards this crime prevention effort.

Recommendations

- That the £58,000 spent in 2014/15 for drug and alcohol projects funded from the Community Safety fund be funded instead from the DAAT Fund.
- That drug and alcohol projects in 2015/16 be funded from the DAAT fund initially totalling £54,000
- That the balance of the DAAT Fund be used for cyber-enabled crime prevention activity.

Police and Crime Commissioner Approval

I approve the recommendation(s):

Signature:



Date: 10/03/2015

All decisions must be added to the decision register.

Areas of consideration

Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with the Deputy PCC, the OPCC's Chief Finance Officer and the OPCC's Partnership Policy Officer. The Surrey Police Treasurer is aware of the proposal.

Financial implications

There is no overall financial implication but a transfer of money originally designated for the DAAT but now to be used for OPCC drug and alcohol treatment/ diversion activity and for cyber enabled crime prevention activity.

Legal

An internal audit has been carried out to ensure that the DAAT fund is not money owed to other partners in Surrey.

Risks

The risk of not agreeing to these recommendations is a reduction in drug support activity and the opportunity costs to the Surrey public of not realising potential to prevent cyber enabled crime activity.

Equality and diversity

No implications.

Risks to human rights

No risks.