

## PART ONE

## ITEM 18

**To:** Joint Audit Committee

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**By:** Alison Bolton, Chief Executive

**Title:** PCC's Arrangements for Commissioning and the Award of Grants

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**Purpose of Report/Issue:**

At the last meeting of the Committee, members discussed the PCC's arrangements for commissioning and the award of grants. Members were informed about the PCC's recently published Commissioning Strategy that guides the work of the OPCC and about the revised grant-making process agreed by the PCC soon after his election. The Committee has asked for more detail about these arrangements. The Commissioning Strategy can be viewed [here](#).

Current commissioning activity and future intentions are structured around 11 themes of the Strategy, which are:

<b>Commissioning themes</b>	Hate crime
Antisocial behaviour	Mental health
Children, families and young people	Reducing re-offending
Child sexual exploitation	Restorative Justice
Domestic abuse	Sexual abuse and rape
Harmful traditional practices	Substance misuse

The commissioning strategy is a living document, evolving over the term of the PCC.

**Background**

Members will be aware that there are two funding streams from which the PCC commissions services.

*Victims Fund (VF)* - Following the MOJ consultation 'Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses' responsibility for commissioning the bulk of support services was devolved from central government to local PCCs. In 2017/18 £1,372k of funding was made available to the PCC for this purpose.

*Community Safety Fund (CSF)* - Each year the Commissioner sets aside a proportion of the Police Grant to fund initiatives aimed at making Surrey safer. In 2017/18, £750k was set aside for this purpose.

Services and activities are commissioned through a mixed model of procurement and grant-making.

### Commissioning process progress

In the PCC's Commissioning Strategy, we detail four priority areas for continual improvement in commissioning. Below is an update against each of these priority areas. In August 2017, internal auditors will be performing an audit of commissioning and we have asked them to review the changes we have made to ensure continual learning.

#### 1. Greater transparency

The OPCC wanted to ensure greater transparency around the commissioning budget, funding available and as much information as possible for those wishing to apply. The OPCC has achieved this through its online [Funding Hub](#), which provides real-time information on funding already committed, areas of investment and the services commissioned. Since April 2017 the Funding Hub has had 447 unique visitors, with 1,994 page views and average session duration of 3 minutes and 27 seconds, which shows a healthy performance.

#### 2. Improved application process

For organisations applying for sums under £5,000, the OPCC introduced a streamlined online application process proportionate to the smaller funding limit. This enabled applicants to apply at any point in the financial year, meaning the process is more flexible and decision-making is more dynamic. The table below provides an overview of grants approved through this mechanism:

Fund	2016/17	2017/18 FYTD
Victims Fund	14 applications totalling £45,920.79	Zero - (the fund for 2017/18 has not yet been opened for applications due to the level of funding available).
Community Safety Fund	24 applications totalling £80,607	17 applications totalling £55,571.20

#### 3. Multi-year funding

The PCC wished to identify core services to receive multi-year funding, to offer more financial certainty and assist in sustainable longer-term planning for tackling endemic issues and/or entrenched behaviour, which is recognised as commissioning best practice. The table below gives an overview of services commissioned in this way:

Fund	Multi-year services commissioned 2017/18 FYTD
Victims Fund	Services for: victims of child sexual exploitation and sexual violence.

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Community Safety Fund	Services for: supporting homeless people off the streets; victims of anti-social behaviour; road safety education; Black & Minority Ethnic (BAME) active community building
Community Safety Fund (ring-fenced for 'reducing re-offending' commissioning priority)	Services for: providing bed spaces and specialist support for young people at risk of re-offending; a youth diversion scheme 'Keep Out'; accommodation and support for ex-offenders.

An enhanced grant agreement is in place for each of these commissioned services. Continued funding across multiple years is dependent on performance against agreed outcomes, which is closely monitored by the responsible OPCC Policy Officer, working in partnership with the service provider.

#### 4. Joint commissioning

The OPCC is committed to maximising the use of existing governance structures and effective partnerships to identify needs and jointly commission services. To date, OPCC activity has included:

- Participating in the multi-agency Commissioning Network which includes senior representation from Surrey Police and Surrey County Council and is focused on implementing Family Hubs and developing a consistent mission vision and values across the workforce delivering services for children and young people.
- Participating in the re-commissioning of Surrey's domestic abuse services. SafeLives were commissioned to perform widespread consultation and research to underpin this work and their initial report has now been presented to the Domestic Abuse Management Board. The next step is to design a service specification and work to a timeline of re-commissioning services by March 2019.
- Research with children and young people (CYP) to explore their view of Surrey Police and the relationship they have with this service provider. This is informing the continual development of services, on-going engagement with CYPs and providing better support to CYP victims and witnesses.
- Working with Surrey Police Lead for Mental Health to affect commissioning improvement for those with multiple and complex needs to better serve this vulnerable cohort. This includes applying for Making Every Adult Matter area status for Surrey.
- Scoping the re-commissioning of a generalist support service which will assess victim needs and refer to appropriate support, in preparation for the end of contract with current provider Victim

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Support, which will expire in March 2019. Surrey OPCC is working in partnership with Sussex OPCC to jointly develop an options appraisal for the PCCs review in September 2017.

The above is a summary of major joint commissioning projects underway. However the OPCC commissioning principals which underpin all 'business as usual' activity are partnership focused. This promotes a culture within the OPCC where Policy Officers are encouraged to explore opportunities to lead across boundaries and different sectors, which is essential if we are to be successful in tackling the complex issues facing policing today.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Panel notes this report.

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**Recommendation(s)** - That the committee notes the report.

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**Equalities / Human Rights Implications – None arising.**

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**Risk- As discussed in the report.**

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**Background papers -**

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**Contact details –**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Alison Bolton</b>
<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>Telephone number:</b>	<b>01483 630 200</b>
<b>Email address:</b>	<b>Alison.bolton@surrey.pnn.police.uk</b>

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