

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
Date:	21 September 2021
Title:	Serious Violence Reduction Grant
Report From:	Director of Public Health

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval of a grant of £38,000 to be awarded to No Limits to deliver the second phase of a Teachable Moments service for young people under 26 years old in Basingstoke and Winchester Hospitals' Emergency Departments.
2. This project is part of a coordinated programme of work being implemented in Hampshire to tackle serious violence, funded by the Home Office. The budget for the grant is from the dedicated violence reduction funds received from the Home Office via Hampshire's Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for 2021/22. While the funding originates from the Home Office, it is paid by the Home Office to the OPCC and Hampshire County Council receives the funding from the OPCC.

Recommendation

3. To approve a grant to the value of £38,000 for No Limits to implement a second phase of a service tackling risk factors for serious violence in Emergency Departments, as part of a wider public health approach to reducing serious violence in Hampshire.

Executive Summary

4. This report seeks to set out the summary, purpose, and background to one of the projects in the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) programme (Reachable/Teachable Moments) that requires funding to be allocated via a grant. The funding for this project totals £38,000 in 2021/22; this will come

from the Home Office funding already received by Hampshire County Council.

5. The proposal is to enable implementation of a second phase of a Reachable/Teachable Moments project in Winchester and Basingstoke Hospitals by building on the model currently running at University Hospital Southampton (which is funded through Southampton budgets). This will support children and young people (up to the age of 25) who present to the Emergency Department with risk factors for serious violence, including exposure to violence or mental health and substance misuse issues.
6. There is a coordinated programme of work for the Hampshire VRU that is overseen and agreed by a multi-agency steering group, to ensure that this funding is used in line with an evidence based, public health approach.
7. Under the [NHS Act 2006 S2B\(4\)](#), each local authority must take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. This can include the providing of grants on such terms as the local authority considers appropriate.

Contextual Information

8. Hampshire County Council has received funding via the OPCC from the Home Office in 2021/22 to continue the work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). This is a national initiative to tackle serious violence, particularly affecting young people.
9. No Limits was awarded £36,744 in March 2021 through Executive Member approval of a grant to mobilise 'teachable moments' which show early indications of effectiveness in improving outcomes related to the risk of being involved in violence. Risk factors that are addressed through this project include mental health, substance misuse and exposure to violence. This work is targeted at young people up to the age of 25 by embedding youth workers within the Emergency Department team and social prescribers in the community to provide follow up support to the young people.
10. The initial grant in 2020/21 has enabled the project to establish; in order to collate meaningful evaluation data, a second phase is required in 2021/22 to embed the project and collect outcomes from more young people.
11. This project is part of a wider VRU partnership model. Hampshire's OPCC is one of 18 areas in England and Wales to receive Home Office funding to set up a VRU to tackle and prevent serious violence. Across the Hampshire Constabulary area, the OPCC adopted a devolved approach to delivery of its VRU, comprising four local VRUs across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton in line with local authority boundaries.

12. Each VRU is required to support a multi-agency, public health approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. In the Hampshire County Council area, the local VRU is led by the Director of Public Health.
13. The Hampshire VRU Strategy for 2021/22 includes a commitment to using the Reachable/Teachable Moments approach to engage with young people at moments when they have the opportunity to make changes to their lives, with appropriate support.
14. There is evidence that successfully embedding youth workers within the Emergency Department team provides opportunities for a public health approach to complex issues, such as violence, drug and alcohol abuse and mental health concerns.
15. Delivery in Basingstoke and Winchester Hospitals has been initiated and evaluation is being undertaken of the first phase of the project. However, an equivalent service in Southampton Emergency Department, which has been running for longer, has shown:
 - The percentage of young people returning to the Emergency Department after being seen by a No Limits worker was 30% compared to 64% of those not seen.
 - A wellbeing measurement tool was used to show that 68% of the young people, followed up after 6 weeks, experienced meaningful positive change during that time.
 - Young people identifying the need for help with substance misuse, crime and violence and personal safety had taken significant steps in their journey to tackle these within 6 weeks.
 - 85% of young people said they were helped to think about their options, 77% felt better about themselves, 77% had found new coping strategies and 70% felt more positive about the future. In terms of quality 77% of young people rated the service as very good or excellent and a further 17% as good.
 - 97% of staff were overwhelmingly positive about the service and rated the support to young people as very or extremely helpful.

Finance

16. It is recommended that a non-recurrent grant of £38,000 should be awarded to No Limits to implement the second phase of a service tackling risk factors for serious violence in Emergency Departments.

17. The proposed sum will be funded from resources made available through funds received by Hampshire County Council from the Home Office in respect of VRU funding.

18. The proposed non-recurrent payment of £38,000 would be in addition to the £36,744 that No Limits received from the VRU to establish the project in the previous financial year. The funding would be allocated via a grant agreement.

19. The evaluation of the service will inform future decision making, with the aim of any continuation of the service beyond 2021/22 being part of a more sustainable model across the integrated care system footprint. Should further funding need approval this will be formally requested at the appropriate time.

Performance

20. An evaluation of the service in the second phase aims to determine the sustainability and effectiveness and add to empirical data in this new area of work. Evaluation process and impact measures include:

- The number of young people per month aged under 26 accessing reachable/teachable moments by age, sex, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, vulnerable and inclusion health groups.
- Presenting issues by individual e.g. self-harm, overdose, other substance misuse issues, alcohol misuse, violence engaged in (in home setting or in public place).
- Reason for attendance.
- Service type referred onto by individual case.
- District of residence by number accessing service and by type of presenting issue.
- Intended outcomes (risk reduction evidence) in case studies and feedback.
- Unintended outcomes in case studies and feedback.
- Duration of interaction in Emergency Department for service users in Emergency Department and those having social prescribing (average numbers).
- Staff feedback – quantitative and qualitative.
- Service user feedback – quantitative and qualitative (including 3,6,9,12-month follow-ups where feasible).
- % Reduction in re-admission rate with this same cohort within 3 months.
- % Reduction in serious violence risk and reduction in associated risky behaviours.

Consultation and Equalities

21. If funding is approved, this project will benefit young people in the locality of Basingstoke, Eastleigh and Andover which have been identified through the VRU Problem Profile (2020/21 and 2021/22 - public health and police analysis as areas of higher risk for serious violence).
22. The population targeted will be young people who are at risk of violence as victims and / or perpetrators.
23. The Hampshire response strategy to serious violence is being informed by the VRU Problem Profile (data and intelligence) about the populations and geographies most at risk of serious violence. This ongoing workstream to understand patterns of serious violence will enable resources to be targeted where they will have the greatest impact.
24. Stakeholders are being engaged throughout the life of the Violent Reduction Unit as part of the serious violence response strategy.
25. A full EIA statement has been completed for the first grant awarded in March 2021 which would still apply to this grant: EIA297385417

Conclusions

26. In order to implement and evaluate the second phase of the No Limits teachable moments work in Basingstoke and Winchester Hospitals, it is recommended that £38,000 is awarded (under grant agreement). This will provide evaluation evidence on which to base commissioning and procurement decisions for 2022/23 and beyond.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> 2021-03-16 Executive Member report - Serious Violence Grant	<u>Date</u> March 2021
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u> Home Office. Consultation on a new legal duty to support multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/41/section/2B	<u>Date</u> July 2019 2006

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 2.1 A full EIA statement has been completed for the first grant awarded in March 2021 which would still apply to this grant: EIA297385417
- 2.2 The grant to No Limits is to fund a secondary, and tertiary preventative project on violent crime. This project is part of a coordinated programme of work being implemented in Hampshire to tackle serious violence which has received funding from the Home Office.
- 2.3 Implementation of the project is to target young people at risk of violence and the risk factors for involvement with violence.
- 2.4 Stakeholders are being engaged on an ongoing basis as part of the serious violence response strategy.

2.5 There will be a positive impact on young people and age group who are most at risk of serious violence.

2.6 A serious violence response strategy is being informed by data and information about sections of the population and geographies at highest risk of serious violence.