



MAYOR OF LONDON  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

## Winter Homicide Prevention Initiative

### MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 10/01/2024

#### Report by Supt Brian Hobbs on behalf of the Chief People and Resources Officer

**Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC**

#### *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

Homicide is one of the most serious and violent offences in UK law. In line with MOPACs priority to reduce and prevent violence this funding will support Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) work in aiming to deliver this. Especially with the emphasis around young people and high-risk groups.

This paper seeks approval to accept Home Office (HO) grant funding to support the NPCC and HO led – Winter Homicide Campaign that will focus the policing system on preventing homicides of over 25-year-old males killed in a public space (\*Cluster 5) during December 23 to February 2024.

This follows analysis of homicides, showing that this group or cluster of homicides is the biggest cluster and the one which has not reduced significantly since 2019. The campaign will be a joint endeavour between the various parts of the homicide reduction system, at a time when this victim cohort is particularly at risk due to the prominence of the night-time economy (NTE) and the use of alcohol is prevalent.

Additional activity in relation to the campaign is being funded by the MPS separately (e.g. Licensing visits).

#### **Recommendations**

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

- **Approve** to accept HO grant of **£60,000** to implement and support existing winter homicide prevention initiatives.
- **Approve** to accept additional HO funding of **£20,000** to fund the winter homicide prevention initiative which would take the total up to **£80,000**.

#### **Time sensitivity**

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor as soon as possible. This is because

this funding is only for the winter period of end 2023 into 24. A swift decision would be appreciated to allow for the maximum time to utilise this funding.

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

### **Introduction and background**

1. Data shows that there are 2 clusters which are the largest impact on homicide. Cluster 5 is male, 25, non-domestic, public space & Cluster 3 is male, U25, Serious Youth Violence, public space.
  - a. Cluster 5 suggests drugs, alcohol and sharp objects are relevant factors as well as significant number of cases where suspects had a serious previous conviction.
  - b. Cluster 3 suggests organised crime groups, a high proportion of sharp instruments used and again significant number of cases having suspects with serious previous convictions.
  - c. Those grouped in cluster 5 are the highest levels in the MPS with evidence to show these increases over the Christmas period.
  - d. Limits to the data are that there is a low volume available to analyse, it is not possible to say what the main aggravating factor of those above contributed to the respective cases.
2. The MPS is already conducting work around these factors looking at open space violence, licencing and alcohol related violence.
3. There are restructuring initiatives to allow for more local accountability and targeting of these issues including the formation of new Basic Command Unit (BCU) proactive units and the violence harm index (VHI).
4. The plan discussed with and approved by the HO for the funding use would be to support the implementation of the new proactive teams and VHI.
5. There will also be funded support to the BCUs to arrest the most violent individuals and wanted offenders.

### **Issues for consideration**

The grant of £60,000 would be funded by the HO and would be used to facilitate the targeting of High Harm Offenders (HHO) &. This plan has been discussed with the Home Office and is agreed as an appropriate use of funding.

This will be implemented within the MPS as follows.

The MPS 'Winter Violence' campaign follows several themes including a Homicide Prevention Campaign. Research has determined that those involved in homicide are often known to police for offences involving violence & so the MPS developed a 'Violence Harm Index' to help focus resources on our highest harm offenders. The VHI itself operates as a 'prioritisation tool' for local police commanders &, in the case of wanted offenders, allows resources to focus on targeting those who have the potential to cause the most harm in our communities.

A snapshot of the VHI showed that 97 nominals on it were wanted, with 28 wanted for more than one offence. Additional HO funding will allow for new 'BCU Proactive teams' to enhance activity to locate & arrest these offenders & reduce the level of 'Cluster 5 homicides'.

We ask that MOPAC approve this funding to assist the MPS in making further improvements in the safeguarding of victims and targeting of offenders involved in the most serious of offences.

This funding aligns with MOPAC and MPS priorities for London.

### **Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2022-25<sup>1</sup>**

This funding will contribute to the MOPAC Police & Crime plan for 22-25 by aiming to reduce homicides which is compatible with the plans objectives of reducing and preventing violence. There is emphasis around young people and high-risk groups and the work within the MPS would target predominately under 25 males.

A summary of the assurance is as follows – Finance, Environmental, Diversion, inclusion and equalities & Legal Services noted no issues to address. Commercial services offered comment on monitoring of the activity which will be reviewed by the SRO.

### **Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments**

The £60,000 will be divided between the 12 MPS BCUs for their usage and tasking of staff. This will be overseen by a Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for governance. This funding has come from the Home Office and is a new grant agreement. It is due to be put in place shortly once they have received full commercial sign off. The Front Line Policing (FLP) business partners provide their assurance. No further implications/considerations highlighted.

Funding of £60,000 will allow the MPS to provide £5,000 to each BCU proactive team in the lead up to the winter period. Based on the average cost for overtime, this will allow an additional team of 4 officers to be deployed over 5 days on each BCU to specifically target our most prolific high harm offenders.

Delivering the London Anchor Institutions' Charter<sup>2</sup>.

- To reverse the pattern of rising unemployment and lost economic growth caused by the economic scarring of Covid-19
- Narrow social, economic and health inequalities
- Help young people to flourish with access to support and opportunities.
- Support our communities, including those most impacted by the virus.

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

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

Through our targeting of offenders the MPS will aim to make the community safer and provide an environment that members of society can feel safe in. This may create opportunities to signpost individuals to support agencies and partners who can support individuals with seeking employment. These will all contribute to delivering the charter.

### **Legal Comments**

- 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” and to approve “The strategy for the award of individual grants and/ or the award of all individual grants whether to secure or contribute to securing crime reduction in London or for other purposes.”
- The acceptance and provision of Grant Agreements to support this function are legal 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— entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not);
- MOPAC has an obligation to publish a grant agreement pursuant to Schedule 1, Paragraph 3(g) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2012.

### **Equality Comments**

There has been no equality or diversity issues identified through the assurance process.

On 27/11/23 assurance was received for Diversity, Inclusion and Equalities and confirmed the following

‘This business case has undergone an initial Equality screening. Due regard has been taken to ensure compliance with the Equality Act in particular the Public Sector Equality Duty. Real consideration has been taken to assess Equality impact caused by the proposed business case. 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 negating the requirement to document any mitigation.

As the intention of this document is to seek additional funding for an existing function, there is no real organisational change. Further reviews will be conducted and if any new Equality Impact is identified, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be initiated.’

No foreseen implications to the London Anchor Institutions Charter.

### **Privacy Comments**

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.

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.

The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements. The project does not use currently personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no current GDPR issues to be considered. If the project uses personally identifiable data of members of the public at a later date DPIAs will be completed as needed.

### **Real Estate Implications**

No real estate implications identified for this project.

### **Environmental Implications**

This project contributes to delivering the Mayor's London Environment Strategy by looking to reduce and prevent violent crime in public places. By making our communities safer we will encourage the use of open space and park areas to be utilised by the public to exercise and encourage commuting via foot or cycle.

No implications for the London Anchor Institutions' Charter identified.

### **Background/supporting papers**

No additional supporting papers to attach

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