



MAYOR OF LONDON  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

## Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews Pilot

MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Report by A/DCI Justin Howick on behalf of the Assistant Commissioner  
Frontline Policing

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

### *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

The Home Office have offered a Grant to MOPAC in 2024/25 to fund a post in the MPS Specialist Crime Review Group (SCRG) to co-ordinate the MPS response and information resulting from an 18-month pilot of Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews (OWHRs) which commenced in April 2023. The pilot is being run in five pilot Boroughs in London (Barnet, Brent, Harrow, Lambeth and Southwark), West Midlands (Birmingham and Coventry) and South Wales.

The HO have funded a post since 1 October 2023 to undertake this work and this paper seeks MOPAC approval to accept a further grant from the Home Office to continue supporting this function for a further 12 months to 31 March 2025.

The OWHR pilot commenced on 1 April 2023 and will end on 30 September 2024. The Home Office have confirmed that the funding is in place for a full 12 months in 2024/25 beyond the end of the pilot to ensure that MPS input into all reviews undertaken in London can be completed.

### **Recommendations**

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

- 1. Approve the acceptance of Home Office grant funding of £104,397.63 to support continuation of OWHR pilot in 2024/25.**

### **Time sensitivity**

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 20 March 2024 to enable arrangements to be formalised between the parties prior to commencement on 1 April 2024.

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

#### **Introduction and background**

1. The strategic and operational context for the funding proposal is the ongoing Home Office pilot of Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews (OWHRs).

2. There is also a legislative obligation on the MPS to support any OWHRs undertaken in the London pilot boroughs. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced a requirement on the police, local authorities in England and Wales, Integrated Care Boards in England and local health boards in Wales to review the circumstances of certain homicides where the victim was aged 18 or over, and the events surrounding their death involved, or were likely to have involved the use of an offensive weapon.
3. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure that where a qualifying homicide takes place that local partners identify the lessons to be learnt from the death, consider whether any actions should be taken as a result and to share the outcome. The intention of these reviews is to improve the national and local understanding of what causes homicide and serious violence, better equipping services to prevent weapons-enabled homicides.
4. As one of the Relevant Review Partners in London the MPS are required to input and support these reviews. Additional staffing resource was required due to the additional demands placed on the Specialist Crime Review Group in terms of the volume of OWHRs expected in the London pilot boroughs. Funding has been agreed with the Home Office for a total of 18 months for an OWHR Review Officer.

#### **Issues for consideration**

5. Home Office funding totalling £48,182.47 for the first 6 months of this pilot to 31 March 2024 was approved in 23/24 by the MPS under delegated approval thresholds.
6. The MPS member of staff has been in post since 1 October 2023. The Home Office have agreed to provide funding for a further 12-months in 2024/25 to ensure that all MPS input into the reviews in London is completed.

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

7. The continued funding of the post will contribute to the Mayor's first priority on reducing and preventing violence. As already stated the purpose of OWHRs is to identify what lessons can be learnt from homicides involving offensive weapons and what action can be taken and this in turn will help prevent future weapons-enabled homicides.

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

8. The cost of the Band L post for 2024/25 will be £104,317.88 and the HO have confirmed funding provision to this value.
9. The OWHR Review Officer was recruited in 2023 following an MPS recruitment processes and has been in post since 1 October 2023. It is accepted that at the conclusion of this funded post on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 there will remain a certain amount of residual OWHR review work to complete. The Home Office have stated that they do not intend to extend funding for the Review Officer post any

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

further and therefore the Review Officer employment will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. It is anticipated that the MPS SCRG will be able to cover the relatively small amount of residual work within its current structure and there will be no liability on the MPS to continue funding an additional post.

10. There are no value for money considerations attached to this funding proposal.
11. Funding arrangements between the HO and MOPAC will be formalised with a grant agreement, overseen by the MPS Grant Manager.
12. The MPS involvement in the OWHR pilot will contribute to delivering the London Anchor Institutions Charter, in so far as the learning and actions from any reviews undertaken will help to create safer communities in the five boroughs participating in the pilot.

### **Legal Comments**

13. MOPAC approval is sought pursuant to Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation which provides the DMPC with delegated powers to approve all offers made of grant funding.
14. The legal powers applicable to MOPAC acceptance of the Grant will be 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—  
(a) Entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not);
15. 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**

16. As this is a business case seeking approval to receive continued grant funding from the Home Office for the post this work does not change any aspects relating to equality or diversity.

### **Privacy Comments**

17. 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.
18. 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.

19. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the pilot meets its compliance requirements.
20. A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been completed for this pilot. The pilot will ensure a privacy by design approach, which will allow the MPS to find and fix problems at the early stages of any project, ensuring compliance with GDPR. DPIAs support the accountability principle, as they will ensure the MPS complies with the requirements of GDPR, and they demonstrate that appropriate measures have been taken to ensure compliance.
21. The Home Office has completed a DPIA and put in place memorandums of understanding on information sharing with all the relevant review partners involved in the pilot. They have also published a privacy information notice on the pilot on Gov.UK.

#### **Real Estate Implications**

22. There are no changes to the estate associated with this business case for continued funding of this post.

#### **Environmental Implications**

23. This business case has no impact.

#### **Background/supporting papers**

24. Not applicable.

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