

REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION – PCD 27

Title: Approval of grant to the London Safer Future Communities VCSE Network

Executive Summary:

- It is proposed that MOPAC continues its relationship with the Safer Future Communities, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Network via the renewal of the grant agreement for 2016-17. The Network provides the infrastructure that facilitates MOPAC's work with over 550 VCSE organisations in London and provides a valuable conduit for consultation and service development and has a proven track record in supporting MOPAC's work with victims and offenders.

Recommendation:

The DMPC is asked to:

- approve a grant of £70,000 to the London Safer Future Communities VCSE network for the continuation of services; and
- delegate responsibility for the finalisation of planning and contractual/grant arrangements related to the conditional grant described below, including relevant terms and the signing of agreements, to the Chief Operating Officer.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Sybil Henderson

Date

29/06/2016

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Safer Future Communities (SFC) Network is a diverse network made up of organisations from right across the criminal justice sector and including organisations from all MOPAC's major work streams – Gangs and Serious Youth Violence, Reducing Reoffending, Victim's Services Alliance and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). It includes small, entirely voluntary grassroots groups through to nationwide charities that received significant government and statutory funding.
- 1.2. This sub-group of the London Voluntary Services Council includes over 550 organisations working with victims of crime; offenders; young people at risk of both offending and victimisation, and those working with people whose mental health puts them more at risk of victimisation.
- 1.3. The victims work is covered by a further sub-group of SFC, the Victim Service Alliance (VSA). This group alone is attended by organisations supporting victims of race hate crime; victims of faith hate crime; violence against women and girls; young victims and victims pursuing a Restorative Justice outcome.
- 1.4. Data from the Evidence and Insight team highlight that Criminal Justice agencies could do more to provide support for those who are vulnerable. Better identification of need and support to those victims and witnesses will lead to better outcomes for those victims and less attrition from criminal justice procedures. MOPAC is working with the relevant VCSE organisations, facilitated by the SFC network, to help identify changes to the way the Criminal Justice agencies address vulnerability as part of its victim's services redesign programme across the Criminal Justice System.
- 1.5. The SFC Network was funded by the Home Office between 2011 and 2013 to support the development of local networks of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations to engage with and influence Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and the new commissioning landscape in which they operate.
- 1.6. In London this has been an ongoing arrangement that adds value by:
 - (a) enabling VCSE engagement with the development of the Police and Crime Plan;
 - (b) engaging with the MOPAC and other local community safety commissioners to promote the role of the VCSE sector in local community safety activities and development of commissioned services;
 - (c) highlighting community safety concerns of VCSE organisations and the people they work with;
 - (d) influencing decisions and agendas set by MOPAC to ensure they are reflective of local needs; and
 - (e) helping to build capacity in the sector and supports VCSE organisations responding to MOPAC tenders.
- 1.7. SFC's workplan helps MOPAC achieve important objectives:
 - assists MOPAC's communications with the widest possible number of VCSE organisations delivering service in the above areas;
 - facilitates sub-groups relating to work with victims; Violence Against Women and Girls; Gangs and Serious Youth Violence; and Reducing Reoffending; and

- ensures MOPAC's victims commissioning strategy is current and takes account of provider and service-user perspectives, as well as identifying gaps in provision. This has led to increased coverage of vulnerabilities including health, mental health and learning disabilities.

2. Financial Comments

- 2.1. This decision paper will commit MOPAC to providing £70,000 from existing MOPAC budgets via a conditional grant agreement for the continuation of services delivered through the London Safer Future Communities VCSE Network.

3. Legal Comments

- 3.1. MOPAC's general powers are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). Section 3(6) of the 2011 Act provides that MOPAC must "secure the maintenance of the metropolitan police service and secure that the metropolitan police service is efficient and effective." Under Schedule 3, paragraph 7 MOPAC has wide incidental powers to "do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office." Paragraph 7(2) (a) provides that this includes entering into contracts and other agreements.
- 3.2. Section 143 (1) (b) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides an express power for MOPAC, as a local policing body, to provide or commission services "intended by the local policing body to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour." Section 143(3) specifically allows MOPAC to make grants in connection with such arrangements and any grant may be made subject to any conditions that MOPAC thinks appropriate.
- 3.3. Under MOPAC's Scheme of Delegation, approval of the strategy for the award of individual grants and the award of all individual grants (for crime reduction or other purposes) is a matter generally reserved to the DMPC. The release of funding in accordance with the proposals set out in this decision form is accordingly to be approved by the DMPC. The delegation of responsibility for the finalisation of planning and contractual/grant arrangements, including relevant terms and the signing of agreements, to the Chief Operating Officer is in accordance with the general power of delegation in paragraph 12.4 of DMPCD 2016 44.

4. Equality Comments

- 4.1. MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 4.2. As highlighted through the independent review of victims' services commissioned by MOPAC and through analysis of police crime data, there are some communities that are over-represented amongst victimisation data and/or who fall within the scope of the EU Directive, i.e. victims of more serious crimes, vulnerable victims, particularly those whose circumstances make it difficult for them to access support, and repeat or persistently targeted victims, who must receive a prioritised

service. In addition, the analysis indicates that those living in more deprived neighbourhoods are more likely to be targeted.

- 4.3. Service data from current grant arrangements shows that fewer than half of victims in London describe themselves as White British. Data from the MPS is shown in the table below and shows that victims' ethnicity generally follows the overall population ethnicity trends. However, compared to the general population there is a higher proportion of victims of Violence Against the Person who are of Black ethnicity relative to population

	Burglary	Criminal Damage	Robbery	Sexual Offences	Theft & Handling	Violence Against The Person	Population Ethnicity
White	66%	60%	56%	64%	65%	54%	60%
Asian	19%	18%	24%	13%	14%	19%	19%
Black	9%	16%	13%	16%	11%	19%	13%
Chinese/ Other	5%	4%	5%	4%	8%	5%	3%
Mixed	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	5%

- 4.4. Service data from current grant arrangements shows that over 19% of victims are under 25 years of age.
- 4.5. Service data from current grants also shows that 51.6% of victims self-identify as male and 48.4% as female. Also 26.72% of victims self-identify as having a disability.
- 4.6. MOPAC's service provision, commissioning intentions and work with SFC reflects and takes account of these findings. For example:
- SFC's extensive membership of over 550 organisations ensures that MOPAC can reach the broadest possible range of victims and offenders, with a particular focus on those more deprived areas where people may be more likely to be targeted;
 - MOPAC's work with SFC on gangs (see work plan at Annex 1) helps to support those affected by the disproportionate amount of victims and offenders of Violence Against the Person who are of Black ethnicity (52% of victims with a gangs flag are Black; 72% of offenders with a gangs flag are Black);
 - this work also address the disproportionate amount of victims who are young people (74% of victims with a gangs flag are under 25 years; 76% of victims of serious youth violence are aged 11 to 18 years); and
 - coverage of vulnerabilities including Health, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities issues in the wider context of victimisation and offending are covered through SFC work with NHS England, MH Trusts, Health and Wellbeing Boards and local Clinical Commissioning Groups.

5. Background/supporting papers

Annex 1: SFC proposed work plan for 2016-17.

Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the MOPAC website within 1 working day of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of **this** form to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date (if known):

Is there a **part 2** form – NO

If yes, for what reason:

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
Head of Unit: Head of Engagement has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓
Legal Advice: The TfL legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
Financial Advice: The Head of Strategic Finance and Resource Management has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report and the Workforce Development Officer has been consulted on the equalities and diversity issues within this report.	✓

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Operating Officer**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature 

Date 27/06/2016

Annex 1: SFC Proposed Work Plan 2016-17

Objective	Outputs	Outcomes
Supporting MOPAC's priorities and commissioning programme Assist MOPAC's communication with the widest possible number of VCSEs delivering services to victims	<p>Co-ordinate VCSE involvement in consultations on the commissioning process as the need arises.</p> <p>Provide feedback throughout the process, including working closely with key providers to respond in a timely manner.</p> <p>Work with MOPAC to build capacity in the VCSE sector, particularly with regard to responding to bidding opportunities for funding.</p> <p>Assist with VCSE consultation on the new Police and Crime Plan</p>	<p>A co-productive commissioning cycle which delivers high quality services for victims in London, and reduces unnecessary bureaucracy for VCSE organisations – maximising their ability to respond to opportunities, thus increasing the focus on supporting victims in the community.</p>
Facilitate MOPAC's communication with the widest possible number of VCSEs delivering services to victims	<p>Continue providing a conduit of information from MOPAC to the VCSE and vice versa through the SFC network, using the newsletter, meeting attendance and feedback on draft papers and strategies.</p> <p>Undertake promotion of the MOPAC victim portal, when it is developed, with VCSE organisations and assist due diligence of providers applying to be on the portal database.</p> <p>Maintain the pan-London directory of VCSE services supporting victims with brief descriptions of the services offered and contact details.</p>	<p>Improved understanding of VCSE victims' services landscape and capacity, plus increased ease of communication.</p> <p>An increase in the number of VCSEs engaging with MOPAC.</p> <p>Victim self-referral to VCSE providers of victim services increases.</p> <p>Increased knowledge emerging for MOPAC to inform future planning and ambitions.</p>
Develop a programme of organisational	<p>Specific support on the development</p>	<p>The widest possible range of VCSE organisations bidding</p>

development for VCSE organisations delivering or interested in delivering services to victims of crime	<p>of consortia, bidding, pitching and capacity building for relationships within the VCSE. Run 3 workshops relating to these areas.</p> <p>Consideration of consortia development events for the VCSE relating to MOPAC strategies.</p>	<p>to deliver high quality victim's services.</p> <p>VCSE more equipped to respond to tendering opportunities thus creating the most diverse range of services available.</p>
Develop capability for swift consultation response from VCSE as and when required by MOPAC.	<p>Agile sub-group adept at formulating quick responses/commentary on key MOPAC products.</p>	<p>VCSE voice is heard and MOPAC can take account when developing specifications</p>
Improve a co-ordination, partnership working and a wider understanding of victims' issues and needs		
Facilitate and service the SFC network and its sub-groups, including providing updates on changes within victims' policy to the wider SFC membership; dissemination of tender opportunities and gathering of feedback in response to draft strategies	<p>Facilitate and service quarterly meetings of sub-groups – VSA, Reducing Re-offending and Gangs & Youth Violence (see below) – and a monthly newsletter to members. Act as secretariat for the meetings.</p> <p>Increase organisations invited to participate.</p>	<p>Support the identification, development and dissemination of good practice, innovation and partnership working.</p>
Provision of VCSE organisational reports and updates	<p>Undertake research with VCSE organisations to provide summary of funding streams, activities, outputs and aspirations.</p> <p>Annual 'state of the sector' report on emerging trends, suggestions, barriers and areas of concern from the VCSE sector in our areas of work to be delivered in January 2017.</p>	<p>Better understanding of VCSE provision and victim needs across key delivery areas.</p>
Build SFC network and instil "community ethos"		<p>Members feel valued and value being a member.</p>

Sharing of good practice.	
Other	
Ensure coverage of vulnerabilities including Health, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities issues in the wider context of victimisation and offending.	<p>Work with NHS England, MH Trusts, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups to bring issues to meetings and forums;</p> <p>Liaise with LVSC health policy lead to include health and vulnerability issues in the criminal justice system in events and bulletins where relevant.</p> <p>Better understanding of vulnerabilities and health issues in the context of the criminal justice system and VCSE support available</p>
Reducing Re-offending	<p>Supporting MOPAC's engagement with VCSE organisations working to reduce reoffending, with a particular focus on supporting the quarterly MOPAC-chaired London Reducing Reoffending Board. This could include running sub-groups of the Board or other engagement channels, dependent on capacity.</p> <p>Two-way communication with a broad range of VCSE partners in the sector. Evidence of increased VCSE engagement. Demonstration of improvements to the process of engagement.</p> <p>4 Board meetings.</p> <p>Continuation of SFC's Reducing Reoffending Board on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>SFC is considered to have played a key role in this work.</p> <p>Contribute to the London Reducing Reoffending Board on undertaking a review of, or focus on, the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms from a VCSE perspective.</p> <p>LWC feel sufficiently supported to work with wider VCSE organisations on this issue.</p> <p>As part of the MOPAC-funded London Female Offenders' Service, provide support and advice to the London Women's Consortium (LWC).</p> <p>SFC considered to have played a key role in this work.</p> <p>Support MOPAC and the London Reducing Reoffending Board in the delivery of at</p>

	least one priority issue in 2016-17, for example transitions/young adults.	
Lead on the delivery of Strategic Ambition 16 from the London Crime Reduction Board's Strategic Ambitions for London: Gangs and Serious Youth Violence, which states that by 2017, "a London Gangs and Youth Violence Network will support the Voluntary and Community Sector to collaborate"	<p>Work with MOPAC and the Gangs and serious youth violence VCSE sector to coordinate and administer a London Gangs and Youth Violence sub-group. Ensure quarterly meetings are undertaken.</p> <p>Act as secretariat to this sub-group.</p>	<p>Engagement with wider MOPAC ambitions such as evidence-based services – e.g. encourage engagement with Project Oracle and a representative on the group to be included in the Crime Cohort.</p>
Violence Against Women and Girls Panel Reference Group	<p>Prior to each VAWG Board meeting, facilitate and manage quarterly meetings of the VAWG VCS Experts Reference Group.</p> <p>Act as a secretariat for this group and deal with all ad hoc enquiries in regards to the reference group meetings.</p> <p>Prepare quarterly agenda and reference group papers in consultation with the two co-chairs.</p> <p>Work with MOPAC to ensure that training and capacity building opportunities are provided to the reference group members.</p> <p>From August 2016, support MOPAC in the planning and facilitation of the VAWG strategy consultation.</p>	<p>Ensure that the Violence Against Women and Girls Experts Reference Group operate effectively and views are fed in a timely manner to the Violence Against Women and Girls Board and MOPAC's VAWG team.</p>

