

DMPC Decision – PCD545

Title: Social Media Hub to tackle Serious Gang Violence**Executive Summary:**

This paper requests approval to draw down approved funding of £1.4m for a bid offered by the Home Office in October 2018 to set up and run a Social Media Hub proof of concept to tackle serious gang violence nationally. The Hub will bring together a dedicated team of police officers and staff to take action against online material, focusing on investigative, disruption and enforcement work against specific gang targets, as well as making referrals to social media companies so illegal and harmful content can be taken down.

It will have a London focus initially due to the volume of gangs and therefore content available, which in turn allows for full assessment of what works as best practice. It will introduce other forces content for Open Source assessment as the concept develops.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

- Approve a national Social Media Hub proof of concept that will allow more suitable resourcing dedicated to effectively tackling gang violence driven through inflammatory content, and tackle the linked serious criminality by exploiting technology and new approaches. This will start with a London focus before widening to other metropolitan forces.
- Approve that funding already offered for £1.4m from the Home Office can be drawn down, with mutually agreeable outcomes, that it is appropriate and will be sufficient to pay staffing and officer costs to those seconded to the hub.
- Approve that the exit strategy, on completion of the proof of concept, is delivered across Q4 FY 2019/20 to ensure no ongoing costs to the MPS or other UK Forces beyond that period.

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**Date**

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

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The funding is to enable the creation of a new hub under the NPCC banner that seeks to build on the lessons learnt of Operation Domain, and service wider demands across the MPS and larger UK metropolitan forces. It seeks to:
- Build capabilities, by integrating expertise cross agency and industry;
 - Develop innovations such as maximising use of machine learning and AI;
 - Suppress and prevent real life serious violence.
- 1.2. The social media hub will initially look to target the highest harm gangs in London using both Open Source intelligence and direct operational support using other tactics. It will quickly introduce processing of Open Source content for other forces if the AI options are successfully tested in a linked proof of concept. These tools will then be mirrored in the Hub.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The scale of the threat nationally is unclear as there are no joined up systems, processes or partnerships in place. This proof of concept seeks to answer the unknown and provide:
- Advice and guidance: law enforcement (forces, ROCUs) will gain access to the most effective ways of disrupting and dealing with online violent content;
 - Enhanced understanding of how gangs' on- and off-line activities interact, including with wider criminal networks;
 - The work of the social media hub is likely to be an important element in meeting expectations contained within the final version of the Online Harms White Paper.
 - Prevention and suppression of real violence.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. The cost of this work, £1.4m, covers staffing and support costs and will be funded through the approved bid to the Home Office.
- 3.2. A phased exit strategy in Q4 2020 will ensure no ongoing costs to any MPS or other forces funding, unless any such strategy is superseded by further Home Office funding to embed the concept for a further timescale.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. Paragraph 4.8 of the Scheme of Delegation and Consent grants DMPC 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'.

5. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 5.1. 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.

- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
- 5.4. The project does not currently use personally identifiable data of members of the public, as will not be in operational use (and therefore gathering data) until May 2019. Therefore, there are no current GDPR issues to be considered, however pre-launch a DPIA will be completed via the MPS Data Protection Officer.

6. Equality Comments

- 6.1. An equalities impact assessment (EIA) will be carried out as part of the proof of concept. Any impact will be fully assessed and any mitigation put in place before further roll out is considered

7. Background/supporting papers

- 7.1. Report

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form – YES

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION

	Tick to confirm statement (✓)
Financial Advice: The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Legal Advice: Legal advice is not required.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
Commercial Issues Commercial issues are not applicable.	✓
GDPR/Data Privacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report.A DPIA will be completed prior to launch.	✓
Director/Head of Service: The Chief Finance Officer has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Executive 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

R. Lawrence

Date

12/03/2019



MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

Social Media Hub to tackle Serious Gang Violence

MOPAC IAM (Investment, Advisory & Monitoring Meeting)

Report by DAC Duncan Ball on behalf of the Deputy Commissioner

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Business Justification concerns the approval to draw down approved funding of £1.4m for a bid offered by the Home Office in October 2018.

This funding is to set up and run a Social Media Hub proof of concept to tackle serious gang violence nationally. The MPS will be the host force of the proof of concept due to DAC Ball's oversight of it, as he holds the NPCC Gangs portfolio. The staffing of the Hub will come from across policing units for a period of 12 months from FY 2019 to 2020.

It seeks to bring together a dedicated team of police officers and staff to take action against online material, focusing on investigative, disruption and enforcement work against specific gang targets, as well as making referrals to social media companies so illegal and harmful content can be taken down.

It will have a London focus initially due to the volume of gangs and therefore content available, which in turn allows for full assessment of what works as best practice. It will introduce other forces content for Open Source assessment as the concept develops.

Key strategy and best practice is to be developed in partnership with other agencies and third sector to enhance the law enforcement response. The Hub is necessary to ensure that a dedicated resource with adequate skills and knowledge is maintained for upmost progression in this arena, and build digital solutions to improve capability across the UK.

Part 1 of this document provides an overview of the proof of concept, the full justification paper is available and referred to in Part 2.

Recommendations

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory Board (IAB), is asked to:

1. Approve a national Social Media Hub proof of concept that will allow more suitable resourcing dedicated to effectively tackling gang violence driven through inflammatory content, and tackle the linked serious criminality by exploiting technology and new approaches. This will start with a London focus before widening to other metropolitan forces.
2. Approve that funding already offered for £1.4m from the Home Office can be drawn down, with mutually agreeable outcomes, that it is appropriate and will be sufficient to pay staffing and officer costs to those seconded to the hub.
3. Approve that the exit strategy, on completion of the proof of concept, is delivered across Q4 FY 2019/20 to ensure no ongoing costs to the MPS or other UK Forces beyond that period.

Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor as soon as practicable. This is because the funding is sought to start up the Hub with project management support

In addition, the work planned for the Hub is of an urgent nature and it would be of great benefit to start immediately, allowing for an immediate impact on serious gang violence.

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

Introduction and background

- The funding is to enable the creation of a new hub under the NPCC banner that seeks to build on the lessons learnt of Operation Domain, and service wider demands across the MPS and larger UK metropolitan forces. It seeks to:
 - Build capabilities, by integrating expertise cross agency and industry;
 - Develop innovations such as maximising use of machine learning and AI;
 - Suppress and prevent real life serious violence.
- The social media hub will initially look to target the highest harm gangs in London using both Open Source intelligence and direct operational support using other tactics. It will quickly introduce processing of Open Source content for other forces if AI options are successfully tested in a linked proof of concept. These tools will then be mirrored in the Hub.

- The scale of the threat nationally is unclear as there are no joined up systems, processes or partnerships in place. This proof of concept seeks to answer the unknown and provide:

Advice and guidance: law enforcement (forces, ROCUs) will gain access to the most effective ways of disrupting and dealing with online violent content;

Enhanced understanding of how gangs' on- and off-line activities interact, including with wider criminal networks;

The work of the social media hub is likely to be an important element in meeting expectations contained within the final version of the Online Harms White Paper.

Prevention and suppression of real violence.

Issues for consideration

This information is contained in the restricted section of the report via the full justification document.

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2017-2021¹

The project is linked to the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 through the action of "Comprehensively address the problem of gang violence in London"

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

Costs are for staffing and support costs for £1.4m to be funded through the approved bid to the Home Office. A phased exit strategy in Q4 2020 will ensure no ongoing costs to any MPS or other forces funding, unless any such strategy is superseded by further Home Office funding to embed the concept for a further timescale.

Legal Comments

Paragraph 4.8 of the Scheme of Delegation and Consent grants DMPC 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.

Equality Comments

An equalities impact assessment (EIA) will be carried out as part of the proof of concept. Any impact will be fully assessed and any mitigation put in place before further roll out is considered

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

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

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 currently use personally identifiable data of members of the public, as will not be in operational use (and therefore gathering data) until May 2019. Therefore there are no current GDPR issues to be considered, however pre-launch a DPIA will be completed via the MPS Data Protection Officer.

Real Estate Implications

There are no changes to real estate arrangements and therefore no issues arising from current assessments.

Environmental Implications

There will be no impact on the Mayor's Environment Strategy.

Background/supporting papers

Please see supporting documents in part 2 (business justification)

Part 2 – This section refers to the details of the Part 2 business case, which is NOT SUITABLE for MOPAC Publication.

The Government Security Classification marking for Part 2 is:

Secret

Part 2 refers to the full Social Media Hub paper and is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

- It is exempt under Article 2(2)(a) (b) and (c) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011
- It is also exempt from disclosure under the FOIA sections:
 - Commercial Interest Section 43
 - Legal Professional Privilege Section 42