

**Response from Inspector Jack Rowlands, DIVERT Programme, to questions raised following the Police and Crime Committee meeting on 24 May 2018**

1. DIVERT is currently only in a small number of custody suites. What facilities and conditions do you need at each location to make the service work, and how many could the service expand to?

Response: In terms of an environment to operate DIVERT you need a modern police custody suite that has sufficient resources for consultation meetings. All custody suites in London have this.

2. What is the current budget for the programme and what would it cost to cover all the practicable locations?

Response: Our budget for two sites inc Brixton and Bethnal Green is £140k per year. A six sites plan has a budget of £620k per annum.

3. What is the timescale for expanding the programme and to where?

Response: We are currently expanding to six sites by July as a pilot however we will require sustainable funding to embed it indefinitely

4. If the service had enough resources, could DIVERT be expanded to support 16-25 year olds? If not, what would be the additional challenges?

Response: DIVERT has been established to fill a gap in statutory provision. Ideally I'd like YOS to fill the 10-18 gap. The challenges for DIVERT dealing with under 18 is that you will need an Appropriate Adult consent and even have them present whilst the consultation occurs, this starts slowing DIVERT down, the risks are that we get in the way of what already is a busy environment and coordinating AAs effectively at the times we need to speak to a young person.