

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

REQUEST FOR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER DECISION 018/2020

TITLE: Women's Community Matters - Petals Programme 2020-2021

Summary:

The Petals programme will support the implementation of the 2 tier-framework in providing a quick and effective resolution by providing rehabilitation for women offenders. The programme will provide early intervention and reduce the number of women offenders who have committed less serious offences being sent to prison, reducing the risk of further criminal behaviours being learned. The programme will also address complex issues associated with offending, such as mental health problems, substance abuse problems and the impact of victimisation through offending.

The Petals programme will also support the Commissioner's priorities to reducing reoffending and supporting victims. Alongside enabling Women's Community Matters to sustain the intervention service for vulnerable women offenders and to ensure the PCC's vision for universal offer of support for women victims and offenders is embedded across Cumbria.

Recommendation:

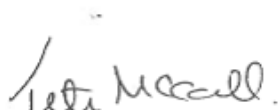
The commissioner approves funding of **£21,130.40** to allow Women's Community Matters to continue to deliver the Petals programme from **1st August 2020 to 31st March 2021** in South Cumbria. This will support the implementation of the 2 tier-framework by ensuring access to an effective intervention programme and will ensure that there is a universal core offer of support for women offenders and victims across Cumbria. Funding will be aligned for all three women centres up to March 2021. After which a further review will be conducted to determine the level of benefits realisation vs actual service delivery.

Police & Crime Commissioner

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner. Any such interests are recorded below.

I hereby approve/~~do not approve~~ the recommendation(s) above

Police & Crime Commissioner / ~~Chief Executive~~ (delete as appropriate)



Signature:

Date: 15 July 2020

PART 1 – NON CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC

1. Introduction & Background

The Petals Programme is an 8 week intervention programme offered to women offenders and women at risk of offending.

The purpose is to:

- Provide timely support to women and families where ever they live in the county.
- Reduce offending and re-offending amongst women,
- Offer support to vulnerable women who may be at particular risk of or be experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence,
- Contribute to the reduction in anti-social behaviour and alcohol related crime.

The Petals Programme developed by Women's Community Matters with funding from the Innovation Fund in 2017, has supported 219 women since it began in April 2017. The Petals programme has continued to be offered to women offenders of those at risk of offending during the Covid-19 restrictions and currently the programme is working with 20 women remotely through an online portal and a further 22 are being supported with telephone calls to ensure they remain engaged prior to commencing the Petals programme.

Research conducted on the Petals programme by Chole Boyle, a BSc (Hons) Criminology student suggests the programme is highly successful for women who are at risk of offending/re-offending. Self-evaluation findings have been positive, each issue or problem presented by the women at the start of the programme was reported to have improved by at least 60%.

The outcomes for the 219 women who attended the programme showed that the area of their lives which demonstrated the most significant improvement was safety, with 80% of them reporting a noticeable improvement; further improvements included 74% improvement in housing, 62% saw an improvement to mental health. The area of least improvement is health but that is to be expected considering the short amount of time they are on the programme.

Expected Outcomes and Critical Success Factors:

- The Women's Centres have valuable experience of delivering these types of programmes, are trusted within their communities, and are valuable in contributing towards the wider strategies of the PCC.
- This funding would allow women in the whole of Cumbria to access the programme with minimal delay between being referred and receiving support.
- The programme addresses the five underlying causes of female offending – domestic abuse, addiction, mental health, homelessness and debt, and also places simple structure into chaotic lifestyles.
- The programme focuses on long term sustainability and stabilisation for the women, supporting women as they form therapeutic relationships with other agencies, and strengthen community support.
- Women who engage with the programme are less likely to be involved in offending behaviour in the future, including benefit fraud.

- Children of the women who have accessed the programme are less likely to be involved in offending behaviour.
- Women who have engaged are more likely to seek support from services in the future before reaching crisis point.
- Preventative programmes like Petals are more cost effective to the public purse with wider reaching effects within the community and family.

2. Issues for Consideration

3. Implications

3.1 Financial

Total amount of funding requested from the commissioned services budget is **£21,130.40** for **1st August 2020 to 31st March 2021**.

3.2 Legal

There are no legal implications

3.3 Risk

Any potential reputational risks to the OPCC will be mitigated through robust contract management meetings.

3.4 HR/Equality

No risks have been identified at this stage.

3.5 ICT

No risks have been identified at this stage.

3.6 Procurement

This will be a grant agreement

3.7 Victims

Continued service provision will ensure support and intervention is available leading to a reduction in offences.

4. Backgrounds / supporting papers

(List any relevant business case, EIA, PID, Media Strategy and append to this form; list persons consulted during the preparation of the report)

1. Project ISLA – Cumbria Women Centre Evaluation Report 2020 (Attached) Internal review of Cumbria Women Centres and the impact of service provision on Community, cost benefits analysis and realisation.
2. 'How the Petals Intervention Programme helped to Prevent Women in Cumbria from Offending/Re-offending and entering the Criminal Justice System' [Year 2019/20];

Independent research conducted by Chloe Boyle, Northumbria University, BSc (Hons) Criminology.

<p>Public Access to Information</p> <p>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 PCC website within 3 working days 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 not compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.</p>
<p>Is the publication of this form to be deferred? <u>NO</u></p> <p>If yes, for what reason:</p> <p>Until what date (if known):</p>
<p>Is there a Part 2 form - NO</p> <p>(If Yes, please ensure Part 2 form is completed prior to submission)</p>

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

<p>I confirm that this report has been considered by the Executive Team and that relevant financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Signed: <i>Jo Woof</i> Date: 15 July 2020</p>
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OFFICER APPROVAL

<p>Chief Executive / <u>Deputy Chief Executive</u> (delete as appropriate)</p> <p>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 Police and Crime Commissioner / Chief Executive (delete as appropriate).</p> <p>Signature: Vivian Stafford Date: 15/07/2020</p>
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<p>Media Strategy</p> <p>The decision taken by the Police & Crime Commissioner may require a press announcement or media strategy.</p>
<p>Will a press release be required following the decision being considered? NO</p> <p>If yes, has a media strategy been formulated? NO</p> <p>Is the media strategy attached? NO</p> <p>What is the proposed date of the press release:</p>