



# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 8 April 2014

<b>Report title</b>	Police & Crime Commissioner Victims Services Grant 2013/14	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Elias Mattu Leisure and Communities	
<b>Key decision</b>	No	
<b>In forward plan</b>	No	
<b>Wards affected</b>	N/A	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
<b>Originating service</b>	Community Safety Team	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Karen Samuels	Head of Community Safety
	Tel	01902 551341
	Email	Karen.samuels@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	N/A	

---

### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve delegation of the 2013/14 ring-fenced allocation from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP), which includes provision for carry forward of the resources into 2014/15.
2. To note that use of the grant is ringfenced for the purposes of building capacity within voluntary and community sector organisations which deliver services to victims of crime.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To seek delegation of the ring-fenced 2013/14 Victims' Services Grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to Safer Wolverhampton Partnership (SWP).
- 1.2 To agree carry forward of this resource for use within 2014/15, in line with PCC conditions of funding.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Since the introduction of elected PCC's in November 2012, the Home Office has diverted a number of funding streams from both local statutory organisations and from nationally awarded contracts to PCC's. Across the West Midlands Police Force Area (WMPFA), the PCC has opted to passport funding to local areas, subject to establishment of Local Police and Crime Boards (LPCB). SWP Board extended its membership in July 2013 to include voluntary, community sector and resident representation to fulfil these requirements.
- 2.2 Monies previously paid to organisations that support victims of crime will be transferred to the PCC with effect from 1 October 2014. The responsibility for commissioning locally most of the emotional and practical support services for victims of crime that are provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector takes effect from April 2015. These services help victims to cope with and recover from the impacts of crime.
- 2.3 In preparation for the changes, the Ministry of Justice have provided one-off funding to PCC's to enable capacity and capability of potential providers of services for victims from the VCSE sector to be developed. As the funding has been provided late in the financial year, and in order to ensure that the funding is spent working locally with the VCSE sector, the PCC has opted to passport the funding to LPCBs.
- 2.4 The PCC has stipulated that although the grant is part of the allocation for 2013-14, there will be the flexibility to spend the funding during the 2014-15 financial year, with the majority of it to be spent by September. It is further required that work with the voluntary and community sector is undertaken to determine what capacity and capability building is needed by organisations working with victims of crime in the local area. A plan must then be developed which reflects the needs to be addressed which should include details of spend; this plan must be agreed by the LPCB and spend reported to the PCC by 30 November 2014.

## **3.0 Programme Proposals**

- 3.1 SWP Board will be asked to consider options for developing a plan in line with the ring fenced grant detailing spend proposals. It is anticipated that as use of the grant is specifically for capacity and capability building within the voluntary and community sector, third sector representatives on SWP LPCB will be asked to lead on the development of these proposals.

#### **4.0 Future Victims' Services Commissioning**

4.1 In the West Midlands the PCC is exploring modelling options for development of a Victims' Commission. This will consider its functions, such as an advisory role, acting as an IAG, options for allocation and monitoring of funding, satisfaction with victims and police services, identification of priorities to feed into the Commissioner's planning processes and advise on provision of services regionally and locally.

#### **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 The PCC has confirmed an allocation of £67,000 to support capacity and capability building of those voluntary and community organisations that are working with victims of crime. The PCC has also confirmed that although the allocation has been received in 2013/14, the resource can be carried forward for spend into 2014/15, with spend against the majority of the resource expected by September 2014. There is no revenue contribution from the Council required. [CF/24032014/E]

#### **6.0 Legal implications**

6.1 Sections five and six of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 require the Council and other responsible authorities to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder in the area.

6.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced elected Police and Crime Commissioners from November 2012; a commissioning function was introduced to PCC's as part of this role. The West Midlands PCC has opted to discharge this function through the passporting of grant allocations to Local Police and Crime Boards. [RB/21032014/E]

#### **7.0 Equalities implications**

7.1 The allocated resource is to be used to build capacity in third sector organisations that are working with victims of crime. There are likely to be positive implications for those agencies working with clients with protected characteristics. An equalities analysis will be undertaken as delivery proposals for use of this resource are developed.

#### **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the content of this report.

#### **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the content of this report.