

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Dan Diamond, GM VRU Partnership Lead

Subject: VRU Community-Led Pilots Programme

Type of decision: Budget/financial			
Deputy Mayor's decision	X	Chief Officer's decision	

In all case this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

The decision is that:

The GM VRU will agree to devolve a further £300,000 to Bolton CVS by way of Grant Funding to Bolton Community and Voluntary Service (CVS) to support in the delivery and administration of the VRU's Community-Led Pilots Programme.

To date, the GM VRU have already devolved £480,000 to Bolton CVS for the delivery and administration of 5 out of 6 identified areas for the GM Community-Led Pilots programme (this was funded out of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 GM VRU Serious Violence funding years – previous decision notice attached) the further £300,000 will enable the programme to fund the 6th pilot area as well as identify a further 2 within Greater Manchester. A new Grant Funding Agreement between the GM VRU/GMCA and Bolton CVS will be issued for the additional £300,000 funding, which will be drafted with the support of the Manchester City Council Legal and GMCA procurement Teams.



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Community-Led Pilo

The reasons for the decision are:

In August 2019, the Mayor announced during the GM Reform Board that GM's approach to tackling violence would be "community-led" in line with our ambitious public service reform programme. The approach will be piloted in six areas within Bolton, Manchester, Salford, Oldham, Bury and Tameside which the MMU Big Data Center has identified as being particularly problematic.

The key focus of the programme is ensuring that young people and stakeholders in a specific locality or place come together, focussing on a strength based approach in the pilot sites to identify what work is already taking place , what gaps may exist and what the opportunities might be to address these gaps. Key to this approach is harnessing and building on existing strengths and capacity from within the community to develop projects and activities..

The programme is co-ordinated by a VCSE Sector Strategic Lead (Michael Phipps) who'll be working with Public Sector and VCSE sector partners to deliver the programme and is based within the GM VRU. The VCSE Sector Strategic Lead will be responsible for maximising the contribution of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in leading a series of place-based responses to violence affecting young people in those areas most in need of help and in achieving better outcomes for residents in those communities. The VRU Community-Led Delivery Group will oversee and scrutinise the overall programme of work, including this spending plan.

This programme will;

- Ensure that co-design with people and communities underpins and drives all activity and project development.
- Develop community-led approaches initiatives in 6 identified locations across Greater Manchester. *(the further funding will enable for an addition 2 pilot areas to be identified, totalling to 8 GM areas)*
- Connect VCSE sector partners in the locality to funding to enable delivery of locally defined project activity and support the partnerships with project and budget management.
- Act as a link between the VCSE sector to the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) developing relationships with a range of stakeholders.
- Collate community-led intelligence to inform strategic decision making within the VRU and within localities.
- Ensure that learning from the programme is shared with partners to develop stronger cross-sector relationships.

This programme is about working with communities to find solutions to problems that exist in their area. Investment is important and there is funding available to develop and deliver solutions that communities define and collectively agree on. The key priority is about building trust with communities and acting upon their challenges and ideas through prioritising a range of shared actions.

This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:

This programme of work will impact all three priorities in the Standing Together plan in addition to the 7 Priorities of the GM Serious Violence Action Plan.

Financial comments:

The funding is to be spent by November 2023. A Grant Funding Agreement between the GMCA and Bolton CVS will be in place for this funding. The programme will be funded out of the GM VRU's Serious Violence Funding 2021-22, "Community-led pilot" budget line (Decision Notice outlining the GM VRU's allocated budget lines attached below)



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Procurement comments:

As this process mirrors that for earlier stages of this grant funding arrangement, there are no specific procurement concerns.

However, it is recommended that Commercial Services should be consulted again, should any further extension to these arrangements be proposed.

Legal comments:

Any services or products procured through this programme will adhere to GMCA commissioning policy and EU rules on procurement. The GM VRU are seeking the support of Manchester City Council's Legal team to support with the drafting of a Grant Funding Agreement between the GM VRU and Bolton CVS

Risk Assessment:

Any amount not spent under this allocation will be returned to the GM VRU and will be lost to implementing effective interventions and activity within the pilot areas. The GM VRU will be seeking to ensure that key outcomes and outputs are achieved as part of this funding. In addition, the funding will be coordinated by the VCSE Lead for the GM VRU who is employed by Bolton CVS and overseen by the VRU Community-Led Delivery Group.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

Safeguarding of children is paramount to the violence reduction work, both as potential victims and perpetrators of serious violence. Many of the strands of work directly address this, particularly those included in CSP plans, and work related to health and education.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:

This programme of work is closely aligned to relevant programmes such as Challenger (Greater Manchester's partnership approach to tackling all forms of serious and organised crime) and as such the safeguarding of vulnerable adults is central to these plans, particularly in relation to violence through organised crime, gangs and criminal exploitation.

Agreed by Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire



Signed:

Date: ...17th Feb 2022.....

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer



Signed:

Date: 03/03/2022

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

Only required for a Deputy Mayor Decision on amounts of £50,000+



Signed:

Date: 3rd March 2022.....

