

Decision author and proposer: Melanie Garry, VRU Communications Manager

Subject: National Autism Society exploitation video

Type of decision: Budget/financial

Deputy Mayor's decision		Chief Officer's decision	X
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In all case this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

The decision is that:

The VRU is seeking to award £7,800 to the National Autistic Society (NAS) to produce a video related to the exploitation of young people who are autistic. The video will consist of a combination of animation (video game style) and talking heads of stakeholders from GM, as well as parental, lived experience and young persons' voice.

The NAS will use the video as a tool to communicate with their network.

The reasons for the decision are:

One of the key objectives of the VRU communications strategy is to raise awareness of how Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is working together with partners and the community to address serious violence and its underlying causes. This project is a partnership between the VRU and NAS, which aims to prevent exploitation amongst a specific group of young people.

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

This programme of work will impact the following GM Strategies

- All four priorities in the [Standing Together plan](#)
- All priorities of the [Greater Manchester Serious Violence Action Plan.](#)
- The [GM Integrated Health And Justice Strategy](#)

Financial comments:

The above services will be funded out of the GM VRU's 2022/23 Serious Violence fund, Communications and Engagement Budget Line.

Legal comments:

Any services or products procured through this programme will adhere to GMCA commissioning policy and EU rules on procurement with the support of the GMCA Procurement and Manchester City Council Legal Teams

Procurement comments:

A procurement exercise – proportionate to contract value - will be conducted to determine an appropriate provider to undertake this work. Therefore, no Procurement concerns.

Please revert to Commercial Services for any advice required on procurement processes.

Risk Assessment:

The funding has been allocated according to existing procurement rules, with support from legal and Information Governance. There are no known wider risks been identified.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

Safeguarding of children is paramount to our violence reduction work, both for potential victims and those who are perpetrators of serious violence. We will seek reassurance from organisations that their employees and volunteers are trained to the current [KCSIE expectations](#) and that they know the named person to go to if they have a safeguarding concern. There is high value if a young person knows who to go to, or speak with, if they have a safeguarding concern. For 24/7 concerns, they should know external contact details – e.g., Childline, NSPCC or the Local Authority Designated Officer, especially if their concern is about their boss. VRU staff will as make regular checks during the life of any project.

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

Whilst this programme is aimed at young people, we will ensure that (a safeguarding trained member of VRU staff) advises the project staff on the protocols required as set out in [government guidance](#) about empowerment, prevention and protection.

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

D. Daley

Signed:

Date: 20th Jan 2023

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer

Signed:

Date:

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

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

Signed:

Date:

Contact Officer:

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