

**DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer: Daniel Diamond, VRU Principal  
James Carrick, VRU Project & Policy Officer**

<b>Subject: VRU Education Lead (Consultant) Variation of Existing Contract</b>			
<b>Type of decision: Budget/financial</b>			
<b>Deputy Mayor's decision</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>Chief Officer's decision</b>	

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

<p><b>The decision is that:</b> The VRU wishes to vary its existing contract with The College of Maths by adding a value of £49,000 to extend the current contract for the VRU's Education Lead beyond its current end date of July 2024 to 31st March 2025. The current value of the contact is £110,400 and the total new value of the varied contract will be £159,400.</p>
<p><b>The reasons for the decision are:</b></p> <p>Priority 6 of the 2020 GM Serious Violence Action Plan included a commitment to work with education settings (including primary, secondary, alternative provision, further education and pupil referral units) to keep pupils safe and reduce the likelihood of fixed term and permanent exclusions. The 12023 Greater Than Violence strategy contains multiple commitments to work across educational settings over the next decade, particularly concerning pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.</p> <p>In order to progress this work, the VRU needed to appoint an individual who could function at a senior level and invoke the necessary changes across the education system. As such, it appointed an independent education lead via the College of Maths. Since July 2022, the education lead has operated in a complex partnership environment, working with multiple stakeholders to identify best practice, implement strategy and effective intervention measures. The independent education lead was appointed as in order to succeed in this work, it was deemed necessary that the individual would need to have had extensive experience as a headteacher, and was both competent and fully conversant with the business landscape of education, including matters pertaining to national and local policy, through to direct operational delivery.</p> <p>Building resilience within the school community and general education</p>

setting is vital in order to reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in violence, but also addressing the outcomes and factors when violence does occur. This work covers all elements of primary and secondary and further education as well as other specialist education provision.

The current contract with the College of Maths is due to expire in July 2024, and we are seeking authorisation to extend it beyond July 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Once clarity on VRU funding beyond this date has been clarified, the VRU will need to work with GMCA commercial services to undertake a complaint procurement exercise to commission any further education lead role.

**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 5 strategic principles of the [Greater Than Violence Strategy](#).
- The [GM Integrated Health And Justice Strategy](#)

**Financial comments:**

The award will be funded from the VRU's 24/25 staffing budget, itself funded via the VRU's core grant funding from the Home Office.

**Legal comments:** The funding will be allocated according to existing procurement rules. A variation has been agreed in principle by procurement & legal. There are no known legal risks.

**Procurement comments:**

Due to the urgency and the highly specialist nature of the requirement, it is considered reasonable to appoint The College of Maths to fulfil this requirement. The total value of this contract as detailed in this Decision Notice remains below the threshold for full application of the Public Contracts Regulations (2015).

Should there be a requirement to continue this work going forward, a review of Procurement options should take place.

**Risk Assessment:**

Thematic risk – given the high profile nature of this work, and public commitment that has been made to working with education on this agenda (via the Greater Than Violence strategy), developing a robust solution with continuity is imperative to achieving success. It is therefore felt, that not appointing in this way would likely lead to a protracted and lengthy process which could put the programme at risk, with direct impact on users and GMCAs reputation. The College of Maths is leading on multiple projects for the VRU and chairs it's GM Education Strategy Board

and Post-16 Task and Finish group amongst other core functions, of which any interruption would bring instability to the work of the VRU.

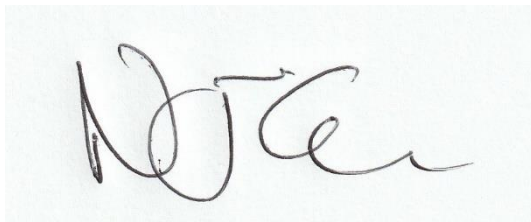
**Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:**

Safeguarding of children is paramount to all 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. The College of Maths Education Lead is a retired headteacher and satisfies all relevant safeguarding checks.

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

As above. The College of Maths Education Lead has not, and will not, be working with vulnerable adults on a 1:1 basis via this commission.

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



Signed:

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Agreed by GMCA Treasurer**



Signed:

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Agreed by Deputy Mayor**

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



Signed:

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Contact Officer:

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