

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: James Carrick, VRU Project & Policy Officer

Subject: GMVRU Funding to St. Mary's High School Concerning West London Zone (Allchild) Programme

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

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 is seeking to award £4,950 via a grant agreement to St. Marys High School in Wigan to co-fund a contract a West London Zone to deliver their pilot programme in Wigan, the first time the programme has been brought to GM from London.

The reasons for the decision are:

West London Zone harnesses the collective power of the West London community, joining up the right support and opportunities for children at the right time. This includes partnering with schools and charities working locally, sharing their knowledge and insight, and bringing together the whole community- government, charities, schools, families and funders - to work together to support each child. By doing this, they aim to ensure everyone in the community is working towards a common end goal. As part of a vibrant community, they bring together the best of what is already available locally as well as finding and funding other charities to deliver programmes locally to West London Zone children and young people.

West London Zone have recently established a partnership with Wigan Council, bringing their approach to GM for the first time. This will see the organisation commencing a version of its model, tailored to local context, with communities across Leigh and Atherton. A new name/brand, informed by a consultation group from Wigan, will be used for the launch to ensure a local approach. St. Matry's High School in Astley, Wigan, are looking to pioneer an education strand of this programme in their school.

To deliver the programme, West London Zone will join with AllChild in order to improve the life chances and opportunities of the pupils and the local community. It will do this in 3 main ways:

1. Early and proactive identification of children (who would be deemed at risk of NEET by the time they get to Year 11)
2. The building of trusted relationships with key adults in school
3. Building up and procuring specialist and community support networks covering a range of areas.

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 Than Violence Strategy](#).
- The [Gender Based Violence Strategy](#)

Financial comments:

£4950.00 will be funded to St. Marys High School out of the GM VRU's 2024/25 Serious Violence core Home Office grant funding (Education Budget Line)

Legal comments:

As noted above, a GFA between St. Marys High School and the GMCA/GMVRU will be drafted with the support of the Manchester City Council Legal service to award the £4,950.

Grants are excluded from the definition of a Contract in the Contract Procurement Rules, and therefore are not subject to the same requirements, but are now affected by the Subsidy Control Act and as such, a subsidy analysis has been undertaken by the VRU Team.

Legal advice has been sought from the Shared Legal Service on the preparation of the Grant Agreement and the Agreement is being drafted currently by the Commercial Legal team.

The GM VRU/GMCA will need to seek further Legal and Procurement advice for any future funding to St. Marys High School.

Procurement comments:

No Procurement concerns. Small grant to LA maintained school (Wigan Council). The grant recipient will become the Contracting Authority for the purpose of administering the funds, and it is assumed that they will do so in a manner compliant with their own internal rules. Commissioners should ensure that relevant Subsidy Control processes are followed.

Risk Assessment:

The funding has been allocated according to existing procurement rules, with support from legal and Information Governance. Due diligence has been carried out by the VRU's Education Lead, who has scoped this with the school's headteacher. There are no known wider risks been identified.

Under the Subsidy Control Act, GMCA will need to demonstrate that they have considered whether this grant funding is considered a subsidy. To assist, in view of the nature of the project, it could be said that the recipient is not an enterprise, they do not offer goods and services on a market, funding is provided for St. Marys High School to take part in the West London Zone pilot, and the financial assistance will not have an effect on competition or investment that is more than incidental or hypothetical. Accordingly, the grant funding would not be considered to be a subsidy.

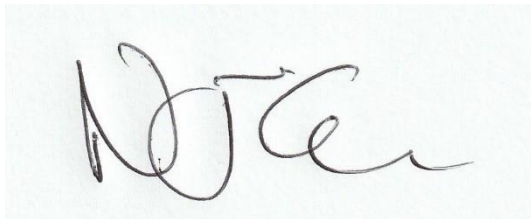
Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

Safeguarding of children is paramount to violence reduction work, both as potential victims and perpetrators of serious violence. St. Marys High is a school therefore all appropriate legal safeguarding procedures are in place and will remain so throughout the life of the programme.

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

As above.

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



Signed:

Date: 10th October 2024

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:

James Carrick- james.carrick@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk