

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 24 May 2021	Meeting Name: Cabinet member for Community Safety and Public Health
Report title:		Community Safety Initiatives Fund 2021-22	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Communities	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health approves the use of the Council held Community Safety Initiatives Fund to fund the following during financial year (FY) 21-22:
 - Agency member of staff to support the Community Harm and Exploitation Exclusion Advocacy Service = £46,000
 - Fulltime council officer post to support the development of the councils Community Harm and Exploitation Hub = £60,000

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Community Safety Initiatives (CSI) Fund is a historic council held Community Safety fund, awarded from savings arising from the purchase of Tooley Street in 2012. £750,000 was awarded to Community Safety to mitigate against the gaps in police accommodation, victim care provision and one-off community safety initiatives to reduce crime and the fear of crime.
3. A number of initiatives were funded through the programme delivered during FY 13/14 and FY 14/15 for which the total spend was £644,000. £106,000 of the original funding remains, this is mainly due to an underspend of £100,000 originally allocated to developing a neighbourhood policing point at Dulwich which after a time and motion study was conducted existing provision was deemed sufficient
4. The Senior Finance Manager for Environment and Leisure has confirmed that £106,000 remains in reserve.
5. Decision on spend of the remaining monies is delegated to the cabinet member who holds the community safety portfolio.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Approval is requested to utilise the remaining £106,000 of the Council Community Safety Initiatives fund during FY 21/22 to fund a full time agency worker to support the Exclusions Advocacy Service, and fulltime council officer to support the development of the councils Community Harm and Exploitation hub:
7. **Exclusion Advocacy Service** - this service is part of the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub offer. The Exclusion Service offers free, Independent, impartial,

confidential representation at point of school exclusion provided by a team of volunteer law students from 3 universities.

8. **Council Community Harm and Exploitation Development Officer** – this fulltime post currently oversees the Exclusion Advocacy Service and will also support the following during FY 21/22:
- Development of services and referral pathways to support young people and young adults with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) characteristics whom are disproportionately represented in Youth Offending Team (YOT) and Youth Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme caseloads (including transition to adult IOM), and in the criminal justice system as a whole; 37% of young people in the criminal justice system have undiagnosed ADHD.
 - Develop system change work with Fulfilling Lives organisation, as to how we work with young people and their families that are caught up in community harm and exploitation. This section should include all relevant information in support of the recommendation(s).
 - Support the operational work of the Community Harm and Exploitation Operational Group (CHEOG) as the co-chair of the group.
 - Strengthen the operational side of the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub (CHEH), monitoring and adjusting delivery during COVID lockdown where necessary for client and officer safety and wellbeing.
 - Continue to develop communications strategy as the hub continues to grow into new work areas. This will include working with young people and the community around their needs from the hub.
 - Support work linked to funding opportunities and bids for the Community Harm and Exploitation Hub (CHEH) and associated work.
 - Oversee Southwark Stands Together work in relation to the policing work stream. To include working in partnership with the MPS and other partners including the community. This will be supported by a dedicated member of staff who will also support delivery of the councils hate crime agenda.

Policy implications

9. Southwark Council is one of the statutory members of the Southwark Community Safety Partnership for which the statutory framework was set out through the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006. This introduced a statutory framework, which included six 'responsible authorities', which must by law work together to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, reoffending, substance misuse and any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment. Under the legislation, the 'responsible authorities' include the Local Authority, (joint lead) Police, (joint lead), Fire and Rescue Authority, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
10. The Safer Southwark Partnership was established as the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Southwark. In 2016 this was subsumed into the Southwark Safeguarding Adults' Board, which currently holds the statutory responsibility.
11. A new Borough Plan for 2018-2022 was agreed by cabinet in June 2018. It

includes a Safer Community as a key commitment. The plan sets out the council's ambition for a Southwark to be a great place to live with clean, green and safe communities. The council plan commits to "empower people, particularly young people, with the opportunities that they need to make positive choices and to stay away from crime and violence." It commits to "work with communities to find local solutions that help young people stay away from knives."

12. A Community Harm and Exploitation Reduction Plan (CHERP) was approved by the Cabinet in March 2020, this plan includes the recommendations of the Southwark Extended Learning Review (February 2019), Southwark Serious Youth Violence Panel Report to Cabinet (July 2019) and the Serious Youth Violence – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (October 2019). This plan brings together the partnership responses to a range of issues together under the umbrella Community Harm and Exploitation including knife crime, serious youth and gang violence, drug dealing and county lines, modern slavery etc.
13. The CHERP relates to national and London-wide work to address violence and exploitation and is aligned to the work of the London Violence Reduction Unit that reports to the Mayor. The aim of the unit is to tackle the root cause of crime, including domestic abuse, by bringing communities and partners from criminal justice, public health and education together as part of a public health approach to tackling violent crime.

Community impact statement

14. Community harm and exploitation including youth violence and knife crime is an issue of national importance and particularly impactful locally. As a result, it is important that Southwark Council effectively understands the community impact and works with the community to develop potential solutions.
15. The Community Harm and Exploitation Hub works with Southwark young people and their families caught up in community harm and exploitation. Support is open to all sectors of the community with no potential for discrimination.
16. Data suggests that some Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities are disproportionately impacted by community harm and exploration including youth violence and knife crime. Continued development of support available through the hub including the development of a communication strategy, and working with young peoples and the community around their needs from the hub will increase engagement with communities most at risk.
17. The hub will also develop services and referral pathways to support young people and young adults with SEND characteristics whom are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. This includes the YOT and Youth IOM programme (including transition to adult IOM), 37% of young people in the criminal justice system have undiagnosed ADHD.

Resource implications

18. No additional resource implications for the Council.

Legal Implications

19. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities

when carrying out its functions to give due regard to the likely effect of its work on and do all that it reasonably can to prevent: crime and disorder, misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and reoffending.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

20. This report seeks approval to fund an agency member of staff to support the Community Harm and Exploitation Exclusion Advocacy Service and a full time council officer post to support the development of the council's Community Harm and Exploitation Hub. Those posts are to be for the duration of the 2021-22 financial year and paid for from the Community Safety Initiatives Fund.
21. The recommendation in this report is consistent with the Council's relevant statutory duties and powers and the decision to approve that recommendation is one of a number of matters which are expressly reserved for decision to the relevant Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the Council Constitution.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

22. The report requests approval to allocate the remaining balance of the Community Safety Initiatives Fund to support the two posts noted in paragraph 1 for the 2021/22 financial year. Paragraphs 7 and 8 note the expected outcomes and developments associated with the requested roles.
23. The report notes the expected costs of £106k and confirmation has been obtained of the available funding figure held in reserve. As the funding is limited to the current financial year management should be mindful of the staffing consequences for subsequent financial years.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Community Safety Initiatives 2013/14 http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ie/DecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3761	Environment and Leisure, Community Safety & Partnerships 160 Tooley Street	Sharon Ogden 020 7525 4396
Community Safety Initiatives Funding Programme 2013/14 http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=22495&Opt=0	Environment and Leisure, Community Safety & Partnerships 160 Tooley Street	Sharon Ogden 020 7525 4396

APPENDICES

No	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	19 April 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Head of Procurement	Yes	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	24 May 2021	