

OVERVIEW OF COMMISSIONING ACTIVITY REPORT (Q1 2022 - 2023)

FUNDING – GRANTS and CONTRACTS

New Funding

1. The PCC was awarded an additional **£677,612.69** from the Ministry of Justice in new funding to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
2. In addition to the above the MOJ have allocated a further **£130,000** for core DA and SV services within the OPCC.
3. **£487,405.40** has been secured from the Home Office for programmes designed to tackle domestic abuse perpetrator behaviours whilst ensuring impacted victims receive support. The funding will support the provision of the *'My Time'* and *'Men & Masculinities'* programmes who work with standard to medium risk perpetrators across West Mercia. An additional amount of **£103,978.60** was awarded towards the rollout of the DRIVE programme in Herefordshire; designed for high risk DA perpetrators, total new award for DA perpetrator provision for 22/23 **£591,384**

£15,000 of this will fund completion of a Children and Young People's (CYP) consultation which will seek to identify gaps and develop service provision around domestic abuse and healthy relationships. Harmful sexual behaviour, teenage relationship abuse, child to parent violence and will engage with young people to ensure their voice is heard in what services work for them.

Putting Victims and Survivors First

Sexual Violence

4. **WMRASAC** have been awarded £1,530,959 for 22/23 to fund services covering sexual violence including **£100,000** to provide immediate crisis support to reduce and reopen the counselling waiting list that was closed on 30th June 2021. WMRASAC have had 408 referrals in Q1 of 2022/23.
5. **AXIS** have been awarded £222,609 of funding to provide 6 additional ISVA roles.

CSE

6. **WMRSASC** **£305,000 annually** for the provision of the **Branch** and **Purple Leaf** Early Intervention and Prevention services, offering support to those at risk of, or experiencing Child Sexual Exploitation.
7. **Branch CSE service** received 49 new victim referrals to support services in Q1 of 22/23 the majority from Shropshire; a notable increase on previous referral ratios. Of 143

currently in support, 107 have additional mental health needs, demonstrative of the provider narrative that they are holding increasing CYP mental health complexity, with clients experiencing difficulty receiving statutory support. The average time in service for a Branch client is just under a year.

8. **Purple Leaf** (Early intervention and prevention CSE service) also received significant increase in requests for schools' workshops and 1:1 from Shropshire during Q1 and delivered 215 sessions across West Mercia (Telford exception) to 605 children and 9 teacher awareness sessions to 106 people. The most popular sessions requested remain sexuality /gender expression and consent but pornography is raised by the CYP's in nearly every session, particularly when discussing sexual objectification. 2 staff will be working on developing a specific pornography related module over the summer which will be added to the available session catalogue. Emerging issues – 'Incel' ideology noted in sessions and impact of pornography. Youngest CYP referral for Purple Leaf 1:1 was aged 5 due to pornography access.
Purple Leaf Shropshire resource is currently 0.6 FTE; demand and Shropshire capacity for school bookings now full, further schools' requests to go on a waiting list. To be tracked this quarter as demand could outweigh capacity. Purple Leaf 1:1 support is in demand with a waiting list of 5 currently.
9. £155,161 of funding was provided to **NHS England** for the **Regional Paediatric Sexual Assault Service (SAS)** which is a region wide service providing expert care for children and young people who have disclosed sexual assault or who may have been subject to sexual abuse. The CYP Sexual Assault Referral Service in West Mercia is delivered by Mountain Healthcare with all cases being seen at Horizon SARC, Ida Rd, Walsall. There were 51 referrals from West Mercia in Qtr. 4 to the CYP SARS, of those 35 did not have a face to face appointment, 11 had a forensic examination and 5 were not examined forensically. All children and young people attending the SARS are offered counselling services and / or access to an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA).

Domestic Abuse

10. The **IDVA service** was recommissioned in partnership with Worcestershire County Council with the new contract commencing April 2022 for 3 years, awarded to West Mercia Women's Aid (WMWA) with funding of **£1,081,259 base contract over 3 years**. Q1 of 22/23 shows increasing year on year demand for the service with 563 referrals (hospital data included) compared to 484 for the comparable period 21/22. Hospital IDVA referrals have increased from last quarter as a result of being allowed on sites again. Some service exit outcomes around 'improved health and wellbeing' have decreased with provider expressing this is impacted by the client's ability to manage stress and mental health due to long waiting lists for mental health support.
The new specialist inclusive IDVA's have been improving service accessibility by working in partnership with Age Concern doing 'drop in clinic's', Army Welfare, and eating disorder clinics. The new YPIDVA roles are embedding, conducting awareness sessions

on new roles with partners and received a total of 25 referrals for Apr-Jun 22.

11. **£41,200** was awarded to West Mercia Women's Aid to run a **Children and Young People's project**. The funding is for Children and Young People's Workers to engage with 5 – 19-year olds identified as at risk of suffering significant negative outcomes as a result of domestic abuse within their family / home environment. The YPIDVA has seen 25 referrals from across West Mercia in Q1 of 22/23. The service was started in Q2 of 21/22 and saw 5 referrals and has grown steadily since.
12. **Drive** is run in both Herefordshire and Worcestershire – the total cost of the programme in its entirety is **£579,384.36**. (This is made up of contributions from the PCC and other partner agencies). DRIVE is a RESPECT accredited high-risk perpetrator programme (run in both Herefordshire and Worcestershire by Cranstoun) which aims to reduce the number of child and adult victims of Domestic Abuse. It is a whole system approach, which uses an intensive individual case management intervention alongside a multi-agency response. Drive challenges and supports perpetrators to change their behaviour and works with partner agencies (like the police and social services) to disrupt abuse. When looking at the referral data we see during Q1 of 22/23 referrals into DRIVE and IDVA where 37 and 38 respectively. When comparing this to Q1 of the previous year it is a moderate decline down from 49 and 53 respectively, but has been as a result of staff vacancies within the service.
13. The PCC has provided funding for two **DA support Officers**, one in Worcestershire and the other in Hereford at a cost of **£31,870** each the total cost being **£63,740**. These roles provided support to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panels in Worcestershire and Herefordshire as part of the DRIVE project.
14. The VAL were awarded **£33,250** in 2021-22 which was carried over into 2022-23 for the Domestic Abuse proactive intervention project, to enhance the existing VAL provision and increase the opportunities to proactively reach out to DA victims and survivors who have not been referred for support and provide them with a point of contact through their cope and recovery and criminal justice journeys.

Victim Advice Line & Victim Support

15. The **VAL** was awarded **£820,515** for 2022-23. During Q1 of 22/23 the VAL worked with 4441 victims of crime. This is slight increase on Q1 of 21/22 which saw the VAL work with 4164 victims of crime.
16. **Victim Support** have been awarded **£481,474** for the current financial year. Quarter 1 of 22/23 saw 393 victims referred into Victim Support. When comparing this data to Q1 of 21/22 it is a slight decrease down from 423 referrals.
17. Q1 also saw the launch of the PCCs **Hate Crime** grant round this was awarded to Victim Support an **£55,197** investment to deliver an engagement and awareness programme to increase public awareness of and confidence in reporting hate-related crimes and incidents. Due to the recent launch of the project data is not yet available.

18. Road Peace have been awarded **£73,518** for the provision of support to victims. **RoadPeace** is working within the Victim Advice Line, to deliver a new and innovative support and information service for victims of serious injury collisions, piloting in Shropshire, working closely with local police. Since the project launched there has been 109 referrals, which was up 1 since the previous month. Of these referrals, 48 have been bereaved, 38 have been injured (or carers for the injured), and 23 have been witnesses. In terms of support provided – 27 have been referred to a befriender, 19 to the local support group, 16 to the legal panel, 13 have been sent guides, 8 have received casework assistance and there are 3 people on the waiting list for next year's Resilience Building Programme. Regarding recurring themes and support.

Early Intervention and Prevention

19. The Children's Society have been provided with **£601,979 annually** to provide the **CLIMB** service which supports children and young people at risk of criminal exploitation, now in year 3 of the contract, with ability to extend +1, +1. CLIMB 1st and 2nd year delivery and engagement were impacted by the pandemic, however they still managed to achieve their annual targets. The service is mostly accessed (by referral data) by young males 14-17years. Q1 22/23 data shows 43 appropriate referrals, with positive activities tailored to the individual which have included: puppy training classes, boxing, chess and drama. The Children's Society have also been provided with **£40,000** to fund a pilot project **Steer Clear Link Worker**, working closely with the Police to provide a trusted adult mentoring service for anyone at risk of or on the periphery of knife related activity seeking to offer intervention and tailored diversionary activity pathways to prevent and reduce youth knife crime in Telford & Wrekin.
20. The **Men and Masculinities** programme is delivered by Cranstoun for perpetrators (low to medium risk) of domestic abuse and covers Worcestershire and Herefordshire to work with 125 perpetrators for 12-month period Apr 22-March 23. The programme is delivered in partnership with West Mercia Women's Aid who deliver the victim support provision that supports linked / ex-partner(s) to those men accessing the service. The total cost of the programme is **£190,672**. (This is made up of contributions from the PCC and partner agencies.)
21. The **Richmond Fellowship** deliver My Time in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin which is also a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme for those assessed as low-medium risk. The programme also works with perpetrators from under represented and racialized communities – which includes, LGBTQ+ communities, BAME communities, and female perpetrators of abuse). The total cost of the programme in Telford is **£148,960** and **£251,752.03** in Shropshire. (This is made up of contributions from the PCC and partner agencies.)
22. Longlands care farm has been awarded **£30,000** for the current financial year and in the most recent reporting period has seen Student numbers increased considerably with 11 new starters in Spring Term 2 [6 weeks: 28 Feb-8 Apr] and an additional 4 new starters in Summer 1 [5 weeks] 25 Apr-27 May 2022] a total of 15 new students in Quarter 3.

Total overall: 27 students.

23. The PCC funds projects run by the force to provide early intervention and prevention programmes. These include:
- The We Don't Buy Crime was provided **£88,864** for 3 FTE **WDBC** officers and **£87,710** for non-pay costs. This funding seeks to reduce burglary throughout West Mercia. The Crime deterrent '**Smartwater**' is part of this and it is distributed across villages and towns to protect people's property. In the latest reporting data from May 2022 61,463 Smartwater packs have been registered since the project started in November 2015. £1,453 were registered in April 2022.
 - The PCC has provided **£186,474** to fund 5 **RABOs** (1 for each LPA). These officers will proactively engage and work with communities on crime prevention and awareness raising initiatives. Each officer has access to a rural and business crime fund to support their work and a vehicle to increase reach within their communities.
 - The PCC provides **£82,021** for **Exploitation and Vulnerability Trainers**. To coordinate and deliver a prevention package around Child Exploitation (CE) to professionals and community groups delivering services to children.

Building a More Secure West Mercia

Reduce Offending

24. The PCC provides funding to **Remember Veterans** to reduce offending among veterans and service personal through YSS who been awarded **£25,000**. YSS has recruited a Link Worker for Telford & Wrekin & Shropshire. The new RV Link Worker will start 19th July 2022 & after their induction will begin increasing our visibility for RV & veterans support across STW. Q1 for 22/23 saw 5 referrals made this is a decrease from 13 in the same quarter the previous year.
25. The PCC has provided **£360,671** of funding across West Mercia for **DIP** services delivered by four local authorities (Worcestershire, Shropshire, Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin). They work within the local criminal justice system the service supports the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme, provides arrest referral support in custody, manages a caseload and provides the treatment element of community sentences Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) and Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) order. Q1 22/23 performance data has not yet been received by the OPCC. £110,239 of this funding goes to WMYJS to provide timely and effective specialist substance misuse assessments and interventions to young people in the criminal justice system or who are at risk of entering the youth justice system with the intention of reducing the harm caused by substance misuse, assist young people to recovery and reduce the likelihood of offending and re-offending.
26. **£9,197** has been awarded to **Crimestoppers** (funding is through top-sliced the 5 CSPs). Funding contributes towards the salary of a Regional Manager who will deliver 3 anti-crime campaigns a year. At the end of Q1 a Telford Knife crime campaign had run and finished however Crimestoppers are just waiting on the statistics to review how

successful it was and make plans on how best to move forward with the issues in Telford. The focus next Q will be to run the County lines campaign successfully and support in any other activity requested by the force, it will also be to continue to improve the profile of the regional manager and Crimestoppers.

27. **Willowdene** is a project which enables vulnerable women who are offending, or at risk of offending, or leaving the custodial estate to transform their thinking and behaviour to build a purposeful, stable and offending-free lifestyle through access to holistic gender-specific trauma-informed one-stop-shop provision delivering rehabilitative and diversionary pathways for timely access to support services. The PCC provides Willowdene with **£103,000** worth of funding in 22-23. Willowdene had 13 new referrals in Q1 with 69% engaging with the service.
28. The PCC has provided **£70,000** to the **West Mercia Youth Justice Service** To develop support and deliver the range of interventions to support youth caution and conditional cautions and support the joint decision model for young people committing offences. This includes contacting known victims, where appropriate, to provide them with information and invite them to become involved in restorative processes. 351 people were referred in 2021-22 which well exceeded the target of 180.
29. Cranstoun have developed an education programme that improves treatment pathways, diverts drug users from long-term drug use and reduces drug-related crime. The **DIVERT™** programme can be delivered remotely or in person and caters for anyone over 13 found in possession of an illicit substance. The PCC is funding **£43,791** towards this programme. In Q1 there has 128 referrals from West Mercia Police Officers.

Road Safety

30. The PCC provided £5,000 to support the **U17 Pathfinder programme** this volunteer run project is designed to reduce the number of road traffic collisions, casualties (KSIs) and convictions amongst vulnerable novice drivers, i.e. 17-24 year olds through pre-licence driver development. Pathfinder held their first event for 22-23 with 21 referrals just below the target figure of 22. Pathfinder are looking at holding 5 more events throughout the current financial year.
31. YSS have been provided with **£228,742** for the **#Morse** project. Road users committing motoring or criminal offences will be referred to YSS for mentoring support to get to the root cause of the offending behaviour and offer holistic support to prevent further offending. #MORSE will offer a combination of 1-1 intensive support and short specialised interventions delivered by the FRS. Morse has seen 60 referrals being made into the service for Q1 of 22/23 this is an increase from the same quarter the previous year which saw 45 referrals made into the service.
33. The PCC has provided funding available to the local policing Superintendents to fund projects designed to improve safety on roads. Currently **£13,568** has been allocated to road safety projects through the **CCF**.

Reassuring West Mercia

33. The PCC has awarded a total of **£100,000** over a two-year period (2021-22 and 2022-23) to developing a partnership response, working closely with all five Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), to properly tackle **fly-tipping** and identify ideas and proposals that can be implemented which will help eradicate this damaging criminal offence.
34. The PCC was successful in being awarded **£1.7 million** from the Government's fourth round of **safer streets** funding. The funding will be used to improve safety of women and girls across West Mercia. Furthermore, the funding will be invested to increase the number of StreetWatch schemes, provide a digital platform for volunteers to support victims, run an education programme for partners working in the night time economy and schools and colleges focused on healthy relationships and raise awareness in communities. The bids will also cover projects in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Telford & Wrekin.
35. The PCC has provided **£500,000** to Telford & Wrekin Council for a 2-year project called **'Telford Safer, Stronger Communities'**. The project is a partnership initiative between Telford & Wrekin Borough Council and the OPCC which seeks to address the root causes of crime within targeted areas, improving the lives of the communities within Telford & Wrekin.
36. The PCC provides **£29,785** to support the **Neighbourhood Watch** project. The project will provide the strategic link between partners, agencies and the Police to work together in relation to all forms of watch schemes.
37. The PCC has allocated **£100,000** worth of funding for **CCTV** through each of the 5 CSPs (an allocation of **£20,000** per CSP). Only North Worcestershire have submitted an application for this current financial year.
38. The PCC has provided **£20,000** to **WMSAR** and **£6,000** to **SARA** to work closely with West Mercia Police and other emergency services to provide an effective, sustainable and valuable team of unpaid professionals to search for missing persons, promote water safety, respond during flooding and civil-contingencies (the first report for 22-23 is due in Q2) The same funding has been allocated for 23-24 and 24-25. In addition, **£18,400** has been allocated to the **Royal Lifesaving Society** to facilitate a role within an expert water safety organisation, to develop the water safety education portfolio of the PCC and Home and Dry Campaign.

Reforming West Mercia

CSP Partnership

34. The five CSPs of West Mercia covering the 5 different Policing areas were awarded a combined total of £636,541 for 22/23. This is split by:

Shropshire CSP = **£98,441** (Have currently spent **£50,200**)

Hereford CSP = **£100,666** (Have currently spent **£68,700**)

Telford CSP = **£158,934** (Have currently spent **£72,700**)

North Worcester CSP = **£139,250** (Have currently spent **£139,250**)

South Worcester CSP = **£139,250** (Have currently spent **£91,789**)

The CSPs fund a wide variety of projects that focus on community support, reducing offending, victim care and early intervention and prevention.

OTHER COMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES

39. Prevention bids

The Commissioning team have completed their joint proposals for the £1m prevention fund which the PCC allocated in his 22/23 budget. The proposals are due to be presented to the West Mercia Governance Board in August. One of the bids which has been submitted to the force PCC / Governance board is for funding towards a Harmful Sexual Behaviour prevention project. This need has arisen following the reporting of significant numbers of West Mercia schools on the 'Everyone's invited' web-site. We have also had anecdotal evidence from partners and service providers, specialist providers have also reported an increase in referrals for support for CYP who don't meet the AIM3 threshold

40. Needs Assessments

Needs assessments are currently being completed by the Force Strategic Planning and Insight Team. Lot 1 is a Domestic abuse Perpetrator Needs Assessment commissioned by the PCC to the West Mercia Police SPI team to complete. This piece of work is intended to be completed by August 2022. Lot 2 is a Children and Young People's Consultation aimed at informing the development of service provision in relation to domestic abuse and healthy relationships. A Commissioning Officer is also writing a Serious Violence needs assessment specification for the SPI team to complete.

41. Prevention Strategy

The joint Force and PCC Prevention Strategy has now been published following work completed by the Commissioning Manager and Force Head of Prevention and Strategy. As discussed in the previous report, key objectives of the strategy are fewer victims, less crime, increased public confidence in policing, and greater public involvement in preventing harm.

42. O OCD

There are Government reforms afoot to simplify the adult Out of Court Disposals (O OCDs) framework, to ensure consistency across police forces in the way low-level offences are dealt with out of court. The new framework will reduce the number of O OCDs from six to two in legislation, comprising an upper tier disposal titled 'Diversionary caution' and a lower tier disposal titled 'Community caution' and will come into effect in April 2023. The Force are arranging workshops inviting representatives

from Local Policing, Criminal Justice, OPCC, Change and L&D. The workshop would provide an opportunity for all parties to consider the impact of moving to a two-tier system and what the next steps should be to roll out the changes. One workshop has taken place so far and the Force were asked to do a needs assessment to see what the requirements are and where there are any gaps. We are waiting to hear how this is progressing and also for an invite to the second workshop.

43. Listening to the voice of victims and survivors of serious sexual abuse and assault conference

This conference took place on 23rd June. A date has been set for the West Mercia Sexual Assault and Abuse Partnership Board with the first meeting arranged for the 27th September 2022.

44. SARC West Road, Telford

A consultant has been appointed to undertake feasibility and concept design study. A number of work streams will be developed to manage consultation, re-location of service for the duration of any development of the site etc.

45. Establishment of a partnership commissioning group

Following the Mental Health Needs Assessment, commissioners from the Local Authority, Integrated Care Services and public health are working together to implement recommendations from the Needs Assessment.