



Leading from the Front

'We Don't Buy Crime' – Crime Reduction Opportunity

Aim

Councillors have access to financial support for reducing acquisitive crime. The PCC is offering a 25% contribution to Smartwater and free signage increasing the 'We Don't Buy Crime' (WDBC) areas across West Mercia.

Policy

- John Campion has ring-fenced funding for local authority councillors and their partners to make applications to him for a 25% contribution to the purchasing of Smartwater for an area. He will also support by procuring the appropriate number of village road signs.
- Upon receipt of the evidenced 75% from the council, the PCC's offer will be activated, releasing the 25% of kits as part of the total order. NB: Larger applications may require specific additional conditions detailing the staged release of the PCC's 25% of kits to manage natural wastage.
- The Smartwater contribution for each grant will be logged and processed by the PCC. A minimum of 80% of an area must be purchased (there is no upper limit) and a minimum of 70% of the area must be registered with Smartwater to assure the saturation rate evidenced to prevent and reduce burglary. The 70% registration of houses will also trigger the installation of the free signage.
- There will be the option for the councillor/partner to provide some personalisation with the name of the area on the A1 signs which are required at all main entry and exit points. Smaller signs are pre-formatted and standardised.
- The offer requires the West Mercia 'We Don't Buy Crime Co-ordinator' to be the single point of contact for councillors and/or their partners to co-ordinate the initiative scheme but it is expected that the councillors and/or their partners provide local volunteers/colleagues in addition to this.
- The timescale during which initial funding must be spent is 01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021.
- Applications should be sent to John Campion's office for approval. No spend should be incurred before this.
- There is no formal requirement to report back to the PCC on outcomes as burglary for the area will be tracked and shared with the council.
- There will be no commitment to renew, increase or continue the scheme beyond the approved terms.

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Stage 1

1. The PCC promotes that the WDBC grant round is open to receiving applications (via website, social media platforms, formal letter). West Mercia Police also promote the WDBC scheme in their local communities and direct Cllr's to make an application via the website

2. The councillor will read the policy and procedure, terms and conditions and then complete an application form returning it to grants@westmercia.pnn.police.uk for the attention of the Commissioning Officer

3. The PCC acknowledges receipt of the submission (via auto message) and then assesses each application. This will include sharing information about the application with the WDBC team and OPCC colleagues. The PCC's Officers may contact the applicant for more information.

4. A member of the Commissioning Team and a WDBC Officer will consider the application received and make decisions regarding the funding and any additional conditions

5. If an offer of grant funding is agreed by the PCC, a grant offer letter will be issued within 14 working days of submission of the form. The accompanying acceptance form must be returned by the date specified. This will then trigger stage 2 of the procedure.

Stage 2

6. A WDBC Officer arranges a meeting with the Cllr to formalise the approved application i.e. discuss practicalities, arrange a date to present to the SNT SPOC and volunteers administering the scheme, discuss a potential community launch date, ideas for 'roll out' etc.

7. The Cllr orders and receives 75% of Smartwater kits. This enables the WDBC Officer to release the PCC's 25% of granted kits

8. The community launch date goes live and as many kits as possible are registered to residents on the day.
NB: there may be a need for additional volunteer/support time to administer further deliveries

9. Once the 70% saturation target has been met, the free (funded by the PCC) signage is erected and installation is complete for the area.

10. Burglary for the WDBC area is monitored by a Smartwater analyst in partnership with West Mercia Police. Updates are provided to the WDBC team, Councillors, partners and the PCC in a timely manner.