

Fol ref: 2013 – 01354

Request received: 7 October 2013

Response sent: 5 November 2013

With the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the reforms in funding streams we are working to gain a clearer understanding of the implications these reforms will have on drug and alcohol services locally. We would therefore be very grateful of you could respond to the following questions:

1: For 2013-14, please provide information about how much of your Community Safety Fund has been allocated to services relating to drug or alcohol use.

This could include (for example) continuing funding of Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) type interventions, investing in other referral routes from the criminal justice sector into drug and / or alcohol treatment, funding diversionary or educational work, or financially supporting community or residential treatment services.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands made a decision to passport the Community Safety Fund 2013-14 back out to Community Safety Partnerships, as he feels that decisions about funding should be made locally by people who have the expert knowledge about what is happening in their area. This has given CSPs the opportunity to make decisions about funding and allocate it accordingly. The Commissioner has therefore allocated the overall budget, but has not commissioned services.

Attached to this email is a report that went to the Strategic Policing and Crime Board in June 2013, and it sets out the level of Community Safety Fund 2013-14, and the allocations that were made to each local authority area. Also attached is a spending plan for each of the areas, which sets out in broad terms the intention for spend. The Commissioners office does not have the level of detail in terms of spend on each of the areas that you have identified, as that information will be sent in at the end of the financial year, as specified in the Conditions of Grant. In order to get the level of detail that you are requesting, I would suggest that you contact the individual partnerships. I have attached details for each of them.

2: Are you able to give any indication of what the allocation is likely to be in 2014-15, and what the decision making process for next year's funding will be in you police area?

We are unable to provide any indication of the budget for 2014-15 at this time, however, the process will be the same in that it will be passported back out to partnerships.

3: Please describe how you engage with the Health and Wellbeing Boards within your police area, and what level of involvement you have in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies.

The current situation in the West Midlands is that West Midlands police has a seat on 6 out of the 7 Boards, with Sandwell offering a seat from the new financial year. The Police and Crime Commissioner has been invited and attends Wolverhampton and Solihull Boards.

At a local level a collective approach to strategies and assessments are taken and co-ordinated through the Community Safety Partnership and also at a strategic level through the development of our strategic Police and Crime Plan. Priorities feed into Local Policing Plans locally, and also strategically. There is an overlap between the Health and Wellbeing agenda and policing agenda in various areas including safeguarding, drug and alcohol treatment, violence and domestic violence. For these reasons it is important that police are members of the Boards.

4: Please describe whether you currently commission or are considering commissioning within the next 12 months' services funded by a Payment by Results (PbR) mechanism and if so, what form that mechanism takes.

The Police and Crime Commissioner does not commission any services at the present time and is unlikely to in the next 12 months.