



**STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD**  
**1 April 2014**

**Proceeds of Crime Act Funding**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board with a full update on Proceeds of Crime Act funding and its allocation.

**BACKGROUND**

2. The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) is a wide ranging act aiming to take the profit out of criminality a part of the act gives power to the police and other public bodies to confiscate assets and cash from individuals who are convicted of offences or on the balance of probability have benefited from their illegal activities. The Home Office operates the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) where a proportion of the recovered assets is returned to the agency(ies) that recovered it.
3. Under ARIS guidance POCA funding received from the Home Office should be used by police forces to drive up performance on asset recovery and where appropriate to fund local crime fighting priorities for the benefit of the community.

**PROCESS BY WHICH MONIES ARE SEIZED BY THE POLICE AND PARTNERS**

4. There are two routes for securing POCA funding. The first is following conviction for a relevant offence; the government takes 50% of this money and the remaining 50% is shared equally between the Courts, CPS and WMP (that is 18.75% of the seizure). The second process deals with cash seizures and is a civil process through the Magistrates Court; any funds realised through this process are shared equally between the Government and WMP.
5. POCA allocations to WMP over the last 5 years

<b>POCA receipts</b>	
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Income received from Home Office (in the financial year that it is due rather than the financial year in which the cash is received) £</b>
<b>2008-09</b>	1,344,220
<b>2009-10</b>	1,097,526
<b>2010-11</b>	1,575,848
<b>2011-12</b>	1,727,452
<b>2012-13</b>	1,910,706
	<b>7,655,752</b>
<b>Note</b>	WMP has received 2 quarterly payments to date which relate to 2013-14 - a total of £1,299,430, with a further 2 quarterly payments still to be received.

6. These are the income values received which relate to these financial years (albeit that there is a four month time delay between the income being due and the date that WMP receive it). Because of the delay between assets being secured and a conviction being secured or the civil court process being completed, there is an inherent delay in forces being sent POCA funds by the Home Office. It is not possible to accurately predict what the level of allocation will be as the Court outcomes are not determined.
7. Data relating to specific seizures/cash held under PACE etc. is not accessible at this time in a format which correlates to POCA income to WMP over a five year period. Neither is it is not possible to compare income with other similar forces at this stage.

#### **ASSET RECOVERY INCENTIVISATION SCHEME (ARIS) ALLOCATION 2012- 13**

8. Of the £1,910,706 awarded to WMP under ARIS WMP allocated £300,000 to fund local crime fighting priorities for the benefit of the community
9. Local Policing Unit (LPU) Commanders and Department Heads were invited to submit bids for POCA funds during Q3 for consideration by Command team. The received bids were considered and funding was allocated based on a case by case basis against the rules outlined by the Home Office
10. WMP Command Team direction during Q3of 2012/13 was that this funding would be allocated to the following areas:

Allocation	Amount (£'000)
<b>Future Asset Recovery</b>	
Infrastructure Equipment	97
<b>Force wide Local Impact</b>	
Crime Prevention Initiatives	50
Diversionsary Projects (Kickz) - A locally delivered football based diversionsary project in partnership with the Football Association (FA)	78
Forensic Marking roll out	30
Gun crime education in schools	10
<b>Other Local Impact</b>	
LPU's	25
Operation Network provision of ipads to locate stolen mobile phones	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>

#### **ASSET RECOVERY INCENTIVISATION SCHEME (ARIS) ALLOCATION 2013- 14**

11. WMP allocated £300,000 to fund local crime fighting priorities for the benefit of the community.
12. It was agreed by Command team that 80% of the funding should be allocated on an annual basis in Q1 of 2013-14 and 20% should be allocated via the chair of Force Tactical Tasking (TTCG) on a monthly basis. This would ensure that the allocation of funding was spent prior to the end of the financial year

#### **THE PROCESS FOR ALLOCATING POCA MONEY FOR 2013-14**

##### **Annual allocations**

13. Bids were submitted by neighbourhood officers and/or specialist force teams for a range of activities and were endorsed by senior leadership. These addressed force or local priorities as outlined in the Police and Crime Plan, the Force Strategic Assessment or the Local Policing Plans and were for projects which benefited the community or contributed to further opportunities to seize assets.
14. A panel was established to consider all bids for the annual allocation that met the Home Office criteria. The panel was chaired by a member of the Command Team and consisted of a diverse group of representatives from across the force.
15. The funds were distributed in line with the tables below.

<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Amount (£'000)</b>
Infrastructure – future asset recovery (annual)	75
Diversionsary Projects (Kickz) - A locally delivered football based diversionsary project in partnership with the Football Association (FA)	75
LPU / Department bids (annual)	90
Allocation via Force Tactical Co-Ordination Group ( £5k monthly)	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>

<b>Ref</b>	<b>LPU / Dept</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>£ Allocated</b>
AR1	Economic Crime Unit	Money Laundering Training	8,800.00
AR2	Intelligence Department	Rapid Vision	15,995.00
AR4	Intelligence Department	IP Network	25,000.00
AR5	Economic Crime Unit	Altia Licenses	8,995.00
<b>Infrastructure – future asset recovery (annual)</b>			<b>£58,790</b>
	Force	Diversionsary Projects (Kickz) - A locally delivered football based diversionsary project in partnership with the Football Association (FA)	75,000.00
<b>Diversionsary Projects (Kickz)</b>			<b>£75,000</b>
3	Wolverhampton LPU	Boxclever	5,000.00
6	B'hamWest &Central LPU	Recipe for Change	2,900.00
10	B'hamWest &Central LPU	Bike Crime reduction material	1,950.00
17	B'hamWest &Central LPU	Small Heath Boxing Club	8,840.00
18	B'hamWest &Central LPU	Digbeth Princes Trust	1,061.77
27	B'hamSouth LPU	Bike Register Kits - Quinton	1,700.00
29	B'ham South LPU	Haven Centre - Welsh House Farm	1,000.00
47	B'ham North LPU	Tyburn Boxing Club	5,000.00
53	Wolverhampton LPU(for use across the force)	Mobile Phone bungee cords for venue events	10,000.00
55	Wolverhampton LPU	Stolen Lives Teaching Resource	5,000.00
67	Partnerships	GPS Pilot with Buddi	25,000.00
68	Dudley LPU	Retail Radio upgrade - Dudley Town Centre	13,487.50
80	Professional Standards Dept	ADAVU project	5,000.00
91	Sandwell LPU	Retail Radio Link - Bearwood	5,980.00
98	B'ham South LPU	Radio Link for Maypole Shopping Centre, Billesley	1,500.00
0	Force CID	General Crime Prevention	12,790.73
<b>LPU / Department bids –including the infrastructure underspend of £16,210</b>			<b>£106,210</b>

## Monthly Allocations

16. LPUs and Departments are encouraged to submit monthly bids for POCA funding in line with the Home Office criteria. All bids are submitted to the chair of Force TTCG for consideration. Allocating funds on a monthly basis allows the force to respond to emerging threat and risk to our communities.
17. A corporate record of bids, allocations and results is maintained by the Finance Department and Force CATO.
18. The impact of monthly bids is monitored and subject to scrutiny via the existing Force TTCG process and feedback requested where appropriate by the chair.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECT OUTCOMES

19. The following are examples of funding allocated during 2013/14 and the outcome of this allocation

**Ref: 17 - Small Heath Boxing Club: £8,840 allocated to fund a project intended to divert young people on the cusp of criminal behaviour away from crime and antisocial behaviour.**

- Two weeks of the project took place during the October 2013 half term and the February half term. 14 young people signed up to the project and took part in the events, with an increase in numbers anticipated with the lighter nights.
- All young people have achieved the basic preliminary stage of the England Boxing Awards Scheme, and are progressing towards their bronze stage, which shows good levels of determination and motivation.
- The young people have attended the GB training headquarters in Sheffield and attended a session at University College Birmingham which teaches them more about sports science.
- The young people have also received a talk from a former Mr UK body builder who changed his life around after being involved in the crime and gang activity. Members feed back was positive about this event and they said “they felt inspired by the talk”.
- The project will conclude in August 2014

**Ref: 47 – Tyburn Boxing Club: £5,000 allocated to fund interventions to deal with young people’s thinking, attitudes and behaviour, with particular reference to dealing with emotion and links to violent crime**

- £3500 funded a 12 week ‘Blackbox’ Course for 15 young people to attend. This used boxing to teach the young people to better manage and control their emotions such as anger, frustration, disappointment and negativity and channel these into positively and a brighter future. The aim was to deter them away from involvement in anti-social behaviour and criminality.

- Two conflict management sessions have also been carried out with Birmingham North LPU Princes Trust students as part of this project.
- £1500 has funded mobile boxing equipment to conduct outreach work within the community providing youth clubs, community centres, schools a bespoke mobile version of the 'Blackbox' course.

**Ref: 80 - ADAVU project: £5,000 allocated to fund the Birmingham Methodist District to facilitate a local response to Human Trafficking in the West Midlands**

- The Birmingham 'Say Something if you See Something' Campaign, has enabled training sessions for hotel staff in partnership with West Midlands Police Neighbourhood Teams, and with support from colleagues from a number of third sector agencies to identify those at risk of trafficking or exploitation.
- Information leaflets have been distributed to local hotels across the city to raise awareness and encourage intervention and engagement with training sessions
- This project has encouraged engagement with local policing teams which builds confidence for those at risk to ask for help.

**Ref: 68 - Dudley Retail Radio Link: £13,487.50 was allocated to fund an upgrade of the current radio system to enable the local business community to work in partnership with the police to address crime and disorder within a priority area.**

- The new equipment has been operating since February 2014 and is used by the majority of shops and licensed premises, in partnership with the Dudley retail crime partnership and CCTV operators.
- The new digital radios are proving a great asset in targeting potential shoplifters and enabling a vital link to exist between the police, retailers and licensed premises.
- The new system has a clearer signal than the analogue system, better coverage and better battery strength with robust user terminals and up to date technology.

**ARE THE PROPOSALS FOR POCA ALLOCATIONS DURING 2014-15**

20. The process for allocation of POCA funding is currently under review by Command Team.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

21. Financial implications are detailed within the body of this report.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

22. Legal implications are detailed within the body of this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

23. The Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

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