

**WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND  
CRIME COMMISSIONER**

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

028/2015

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**Title: Violence Prevention Alliance**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Violence is a public health issue, it affects lives, families and communities. Living without the fear of violence is a fundamental requirement for health and wellbeing. It affects mental health and prevents people from participating fully in society. There is nothing inevitable about violence, it can be reduced and stopped, many of the key risk factors that make individuals, families or communities vulnerable to violence are changeable. Action can be taken by public agencies, the voluntary sector, and by communities and individuals. In order to have the greatest impact, actions need to be co-ordinated and targeted, using evidence of where problems are, and the science of what works in tackling root causes. We have evidence of where violence is most likely to occur, who the victims and perpetrators are, and what the costs and consequences are.

West Midlands Police and Public Health England have agreed to work jointly to develop a West Midlands Violence Prevention Alliance. The Alliance will be a member of the World Health Organisation and the West Midlands is the first area in England to adopt a Public Health approach to violence reduction.

**DECISION**

**I confirm the allocation of £249,500 to the West Midlands Violence Prevention Alliance.**

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**West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner**

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the West Midlands Office for Policing and Crime. Any interests are indicated below.

Signature.....

*David Amin*

Date.....

*20.10.15*

# NON - CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Violence is a major cause of ill health and poor wellbeing in our communities as well as a drain on public services and the wider economy. It is also preventable using measures that save much more money than they cost to implement. Interventions, especially those in early childhood, not only prevent individuals developing a propensity for violence but also improve educational outcomes, employment prospects and long term health outcomes. Violence is not something that just happens, nor is it normal or acceptable in our society. Many of the key risk factors that make individuals, families or communities vulnerable to violence are changeable.

Reducing violence is not just about protecting those at most acute risks. Without safe and secure communities' measures to encourage people to exercise, socialise or adopt more sustainable lifestyles, such as using public transport are more likely to fail as people feel trapped in their houses and cars and are unable to engage with local communities.

### Violence in the West Midlands

- Over the last 5 years there have been a total of **226,125** violent offences recorded by WMP. The rate of violence is higher in the West Midlands than its most similar police forces. It is one of the few categories of crime where this is the case.<sup>1</sup>
- Of these **90.2%** of victims (204,040) have been resident in one of the 7 local authorities that make up the Force area
- Over the last 5 years there have been a total of **48,980** attendances at A&E following an assault with **12,793** admissions. The cost of admissions alone is in excess of **£20 million**.
- **5.1%** of those injured sustained serious or fatal injuries.
- Those aged 10 to 24 years have experienced the highest levels of overall violent offending and represent **43.4%** of victims but only 21.0% of the local population.
- There is roughly one victim who sustains serious or fatal injuries per 22 victims of reported violence crime amongst this age group.
- Health inequality, deprivation and violence have a significant overlap (see appendix B)
- We can and need to reduce violence to ensure a vibrant and secure society.
- The wider economic cost of Violence to the West Midlands is **£890 million** per year.

Violence reduction is a global issue. What is increasingly evident is many jurisdictions have moved from seeing the problem simply as a policing and justice issue to a health issue. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set violence as a core feature of its global work programme from 2002. The World Health Violence Prevention Alliance provides a global network of governments and agencies committed to violence reduction and sharing evidence based practice.

The UK has in part lagged behind the perspective of violence as a health issue with one notable exception. In 2005 Strathclyde Police formed a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) which adopted the core principles of the WHO. In 2006 the Unit was extended to provide leadership nationally on violence by the Scottish Executive and remains a global leader in developing violence reduction strategies.

In 2013 the government adopted a new Public Health Model for England. With public health

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<sup>1</sup> WMP / PHE Joint profile of violence within the West Midlands

responsibilities returning to local government and an independent Public Health England body established with a remit to develop public health practice.

The new model adopted a new national framework and indicator set which placed critical policing outcomes such as re-offending, domestic violence, road accidents and violence centrally as areas that public health should be seeking to influence.

We now have the opportunity for the West Midlands to become the first area in England to adopt a Public Health approach to violence reduction. West Midlands Police and Public Health England West Midlands have agreed to work jointly to develop an effective partnership between policing and public health. It has been agreed that we should:

- Develop an intervention to reduce violence the risk to children and young people based upon evidence based practice.
- Develop interventions to reduce violence associated with mental health.
- Develop enhanced injury surveillance in order to understand violence trends and information using health and police information.
- Develop a stronger alliance of medical practitioners to help engage in violence prevention work.

To ensure we secure a long term strategic and systematic focus to reducing violence, more profound leadership and investment is now required that reaches beyond service boundaries and provides a focus for sustainable change.

### **West Midlands Violence Prevention Alliance**

The funding will be used to create the West Midlands Violence Prevention Alliance (WMVPA) which will be a member of the World Health Organisation. It will be an integrated body that will be the Hub for Violence Prevention providing a framework that has responsibilities that include:

- Adopting the public health approach as described in the WHO's World Report On Violence and Health (2002) in the Prevention of Violence<sup>2</sup>
- Creating a framework for the delivery of prevention activity supporting local delivery and innovation
- Identifying best practices and develop sustainable, innovative solutions to this deep rooted but preventable disease
- Reducing violent crime and behaviour by working with partner agencies to achieve long-term societal and attitudinal change
- Focusing on enforcement, protection and justice
- Building on the British evidence base for violence prevention

### **Membership**

The following partners have highlighted their commitment to the WMVPA:

- West Midlands Police
- Public Health England West Midlands
- Local Public Health Directors
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Company

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/216977/Violence-prevention.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216977/Violence-prevention.pdf)

- University of Worcester (Centre for Prevention of Violence)

The opportunity of the alliance is that it binds partners with a common focus, around evidence based practice within a global approach. It unites us under the banner of an Alliance with membership to the World Health Organisation. It can and is influencing joint strategic needs assessments and local commissioning practice. This will be the first such alliance in the UK outside Scotland.

An on-going jointly resourced alliance and work programme between WMP and PHE helps to support WM police's broader strategic vision of prevention and early intervention. The alliance will set out an annual plan to direct its focus that will be signed up to by partners. Its focus will be directed by the Regional Public Health Directors meeting with police and other key partner involvement. It will aim to support and add value to a local model of public health delivery. There will be an annual review built into the alliance reporting back to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **The PCC will fund the following posts and a small budget for two years**

- An analyst to work full time for two years on embedding a world class injury surveillance system across the West Midlands.
- A project manager to work fulltime for two years on delivering programmes and projects under the alliance.
- An administration officer to support the logistics of the programmes and projects under the alliance.
- The core team will be based and managed within Public Health England West Midlands.

The PCC will make a strong and visible commitment to this work in order to trigger more effective deployment of core health and community safety resources. The benefits from this investment will be the phased developments of a West Midlands Injury Surveillance System that over time will enable the partnership achieve the following objectives:

- Improve our collective understanding of the contribution of injuries to the overall burden of morbidity and mortality in the West Midlands;
- Provide representative and reliable estimates of the incidence and other characteristics of particular types of injury (for example intentional injuries arising from violent events/exposures);
- Enable us identify the main populations at high risk from particular injuries;
- Support the identification of evidence-informed interventions to tackle the main drivers of injuries;
- Identify those areas (geographic/setting based) where it might be possible to reduce policing and public health costs by preventing injuries through the effective allocation of scarce resources;
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the West Midlands Violence Alliance and associated interventions/programmes over time.

WMP and PHE commit to supporting the employment of the aforementioned posts and dependant on contract type will ensure the necessary strategies to enter and exit said employment are in place. Any assets that are provided to the alliance remain the property of the donating organisation. Where they are bought from this budget clear ownership is documented within the necessary framework.

Through work with partners it is anticipated that in addition to the costs supported through WMP, PHE and through this bid the PCC, there will be the opportunity to offset further costs through the commissioning of preventative services. Beyond this initial funding, WMP commit to

conversations that will allow consultation to identify future funding and design into mainstream policing and public sector budgets. WMP recognise the significance of this partnership and are looking to build into the new Target Operating Model.

The rationale for asking the Commissioner to support the Alliance through the Invest to Save process is that there are great opportunities to make financial savings through a reduction of victims of violence, reduction of demand within the health and criminal justice arena and also reducing the financial impact on the wider economy. It is difficult at this time to explain the real cost saving due the complex way of identifying actual service costs however part of the work within the alliance work with academic colleagues will allow us to do this.

### Return on Investment

West Midlands Police currently experience a higher level of violent offences than those compared it its most similar force group (MSF) and this has been the case for several years. In particular West Midlands Police experiences 16.29% more Violence with Injury offences per year. If we were to move in line with the MSF average this would save (efficiency) WMP alone £1,351,744 equivalent to 29 Full Time PC/DC Employment posts (FTE).<sup>3</sup> There are further returns on investment; e.g. evidence shows an offence of murder costs in excess of £1,000,000. Applying a 10% reduction across a variety of agencies shows a saving of £829,800 and 18 FTE to WMP, £2,000,000 to the NHS in terms of hospital admission costs<sup>4</sup>, and an overall saving of £89,000,000 to the wider economy each year. A reduction by 10% would also mean 4,300 fewer Emergency Department attendances and applying an average figure of £150 per attendance would equate to a £645,000 saving.

### Summary

The work to date on this partnership has created the opportunity for a step change in how policing and public health can work together. It cements an evidence based approach to a genuine West Midlands Partnership. It is already seen as innovative practice. It has the potential to be a beacon of excellence in an area that poses so much harm to the residents and economy of the region.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The table below sets out the funding allocation for the Violence Prevention Alliance.

Total Funding	Year 1 (14/15) (£)	Year 2 (15/16) (£)	TOTAL (£)
Total Funding Requirement	161,600	303,300	464,900
West Midlands Police	30,000	71,200	101,200
Public Health England	41,400	72,800	114,200
Police and Crime Commissioner	90,200	159,300	249,500

<sup>3</sup> West Midlands Police Service Transformation

<sup>4</sup> PHE Hospital Episode Statistics (KIT PHE West Midlands)

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Schedule 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides Commissioners with the powers to award crime and disorder grants to any organisations and projects they consider will help them achieve their crime prevention and wider priorities.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Violence Prevention Alliance will ensure that, in conducting its work, it will integrate consideration of equality and diversity issues into each item of business, with a view to valuing and promoting equality and diversity and eliminating discrimination.

## **Schedule of Background Papers**

None

## **Public Access to Information**

Information contained in this decision is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. This decision will be made available on the Commissioner's website.