

EARLY INTERVENTION YOUTH FUND: Prospectus: JULY 2018

Introduction

1. On 9 April 2018, the Government published its Serious Violence Strategy ¹ (the 'Strategy') setting out an ambitious programme of work to respond to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide.
2. The Strategy sets out a multiple strand approach that is not solely focused on law enforcement, very important as that is, but also depends on partnerships across a number of sectors such as education, health, social services, housing, youth services, victim services and others. In particular, the Strategy places a new emphasis on early intervention and prevention and aims to tackle the root causes of violence and prevent young people from getting involved in crime in the first place.
3. The Strategy includes a key commitment to deliver a new £11m Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF). Following an announcement by the Home Secretary that we will double the size of the Fund, £22m is now available for two years covering this financial year (2018/19) and next (2019/20).
4. Through the EIYF we want to support communities in tackling serious violence by engaging in early intervention and prevention programmes with young people.
5. The EIYF is open to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales as lead bidders. PCCs must work with Community Safety Partnerships (or similar local partnerships) to bid for funding to support targeted early intervention and prevention activity with young people (and in some instances young adults).

Background

6. The Strategy sets out a comprehensive analysis of the trends and drivers of serious violence. It sets out the risk and protective factors likely to increase the likelihood of an individual becoming involved in serious violence as either a victim, or perpetrator. It also sets out the available evidence of what is effective in preventing a person becoming involved in violent crime.
7. The analysis also looks at the evidence of the key risk factors (for example, school absence, substance misuse, peer pressure etc.) which may mean a young person may have a greater propensity to get involved in crime than would otherwise be the case. It also sets out the evidence supporting the importance of early intervention with young

¹ For further information see the [Serious Violence Strategy](#)

people and encouraging positive activities to engage them and to build protective factors such as links with their community.

8. The Strategy is clear that targeted interventions (those aimed at young people in at risk locations or groups) are found to have a firmer evidence base of effectiveness. Targeted programmes are for individuals who have already committed violence or groups who have been identified as high-risk but have not committed violence yet.

Purpose of funding

9. The purpose of the Fund is to provide support for early intervention programmes with young people (under 18s) at risk of criminal involvement, as victims and/or perpetrators through:
 - Delivering services to support and prevent young people from getting involved in crime by supporting positive activities;
 - Delivering positive outcomes for young people, focused on addressing risk factors which are linked to serious violence;
 - Building on, and developing, our understanding of what works in practice for tackling these risks factors;
 - Driving improved local, multi-agency partnership working; and most crucially,
 - Reducing the levels of serious violence and crime.
10. The primary focus of the fund is on preventing and tackling serious violence however an associated benefit of the fund will be to increase resilience in young people from becoming victims of a wide range of extra familial threats by addressing the risk and protective factors common to a range of vulnerabilities.
11. We are looking to fund projects that mainly work with young people (under 18) but will consider projects with young adults (by which we mean a broader group of young adults up to the age of 25) who have been identified by local partners who may be at risk of criminal involvement, these can be victims and perpetrators.

What we are looking for

12. The Fund is open to PCCs in England and Wales to apply. PCCs must work with Community Safety Partnerships (or similar local partnerships) to submit a partnership bid for funding.
13. We see the PCCs leading and overseeing the bid and working with the local partnerships. We will accept multiple bids from one PCC working with different partnerships and also collaborative bids across more than one PCC area.

14. We will be flexible on the model of the proposed approach. This is to ensure that we allow for innovative and new approaches to be tested as well as the possibility of the funding adding value to existing initiatives or supporting initiatives that are already being developed.
15. We will be looking for evidence that PCCs have understood their local threat picture and identified a need for the project based on an assessment of their crime profile. We will be looking at areas with high crime rates but also those areas with an emerging crime threat.

The offer

16. We are making available up to £22m of funding over two years with £11m available in 2018/19 and £11m in 2019/20.
17. We are looking for bids of a maximum amount of up to £700,000 across the two financial years (up to £350,000 each financial year) but we will also consider more, for example, for consortia bids. All submissions will be evaluated using the criteria made available in the published documents accessible via the EIYF eSourcing event.
18. Grants will be paid per financial year, with the option of renewal annually subject to Legislative Authority funding being sanctioned. Bids should cover the two year period of the fund, and renewal will be dependent on sufficient progress being made against milestones. We will require progress reports on which continued funding will be conditional. The Home Office will award grant funding in arrears. Bidders should have their own financial and legal arrangements with their partner organisations as the Home Office will only award the funding to the Legal lead of any partnership/consortium bid.
19. Local partnerships must be aware that in the first year (2018/19) the allocation of funds will not be until after the signature of the Grant Agreement, likely to be October 2018, and therefore this needs to be factored into bid plans.
20. It will be a requirement of successful applicants that they work collaboratively with our Independent Evaluation Partner providing access to relevant information as required.

Evaluation

21. Successful bids will need to work with our Independent Evaluation Partner (to be announced) during the set up, delivery and evaluation of their project. The Independent Evaluation Partner will support local partnerships with monitoring arrangements and will gather qualitative and quantitative data over the course of the project, which will contribute to a programme wide evaluation, including an overview of what we have learnt about good practice. A separate feasibility study will possibly be run alongside of this evaluation, where options to use PNC for following individuals' trajectories in offending will be explored.

Eligibility

22. The Fund is open to PCCs in England and Wales. PCCs must work with Community Safety Partnerships (or similar local partnerships).
23. Bidders must demonstrate suitable evidence to endorse the interventions they are proposing to deliver.
24. Successful bidders must be transparent in relation to grant use, as this is part of the government's agenda concerning using public funds. All grant funding will be registered on the Government Grant Information System.
25. Bid submission outputs must contribute to the achievement of the overall outcomes of the funding, clearly demonstrating how intervention will contribute to supporting young people who are at risk of criminal involvement as part of their planned activities and meet the essential assessment criteria.
26. PCCs working with local partnerships may submit more than one bid, as long as they are registered separately, but Bidders may not receive separate grant funding to deliver the same set of interventions.
27. The decision of the assessment panel is final.

Essential Criteria

28. Bidders must submit their proposals through the EIYF eSourcing event. Proposals will need to demonstrate how they meet the following essential criteria:
 - How serious violence will be tackled with a clear local plan which may include law enforcement options.
 - Evidence of an understanding of serious violence and its drivers and how bids will address all or some of the drivers.
 - Identification of a local need based on an assessment of your crime profile. We are looking at areas with higher crime rates but also those areas with an emerging crime risk, so that we have geographical flexibility. We would also like to hear how partnerships have developed their idea by involving the people who will benefit.
 - Evidence of partnerships and cross-sector support. All applications should be developed with local partners, including the voluntary and community sector (VCS), who could play a significant role in delivery of the initiative.
 - Evidence of links with other local provision and schemes in the area and how the initiative would fit in with these and what it would be

adding. The project can be designed to add value to existing initiatives or supports initiatives that are already being developed.

- Provision of an element of match-funding (we are not prescriptive as to the amount).
- Monitoring of the projects to ensure progress stays on track and in order to contribute to the overall evaluation and there will be requirements to collect and share data and information to support the independent evaluation.
- Detail on the experience of the partnership in delivering similar projects and information on the team and resource allocated to the project.
- How value for money is being achieved.

Application process

29. To access the online questionnaire, potential bidders must be registered as Suppliers with the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) eSourcing tool: <https://gpsesourcing.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>.

30. The online questionnaire will be available from w/c 30 July and will remain open until midday on 14 September 2018.

31. Once registered with CCS please contact EIYF@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and request access to the eSourcing event.