

Subject: ST GILES TRUST – THE WONDER PROJECT

Originator: Stephanie Stearman

Decision no. 24/2024

Reason for submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk – Giles Orpen-Smellie

Summary:

1. The WONDER Project has been running in Norfolk and delivered by St Giles Trust under the current Contract since 1st March 2018. During this time there have been three contract extensions.
2. The WONDER Project supports women in Norfolk by way of a Whole System Approach by rehabilitating female offenders and supporting women at risk of offender.
3. The service is diversionary in approach (whereby women given a conditional caution or other women who voluntarily self-refer to the scheme) and targeting interventions for qualifying female offenders, and women at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System.
4. The outcome of WONDER is delivery of a community based holistic system of gender specific assessment, referral, and support to meet the complex needs of this vulnerable client group.
5. This Decision Notice is to award St Giles Trust a continuation of funding for the financial year 2024/25.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the PCC support this Decision Notice for the extension of the WONDER Project delivered by St Giles Trust for a further year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Outcome/approval by: PCC

(Delete as appropriate)

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature: 

Date: 14/03/2024

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

- 1.1 The WONDER Project supports women in Norfolk by way of a Whole System Approach by rehabilitating female offenders and supporting women at risk of offender.
- 1.2 This Decision Notice is to award St Giles Trust the continuation of funding for the financial year 2024/25 (1st April 2024-31st March 2025) of the WONDER Project.
- 1.3 During 2024/25 an assessment of the WONDER Project and a needs analysis will take place in readiness of the new Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan 2024-28 being produced to allow for any alignment and/or any procurement process to take place.

2. Background:

- 2.1 The WONDER+ service is a Whole System Approach (WSA) to rehabilitating female offenders and supporting women at risk of offending, originally funded by the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Norfolk County Council Public Health and the Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company (NSCRC).
- 2.2 The model for 2024/25 will be funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Norfolk County Council Public Health through Project ADDER.
- 2.3 The preferred model will include 4 x Link Workers and 1 x Senior Link Worker.
- 2.4 The outcome will be the delivery of a community based holistic system of gender specific assessment, referral, and support to meet the complex needs of this vulnerable client group.

2.5 The service targets all women residing in Norfolk who meet the following criteria:

- Aged 18 years or over and residing in the Norfolk local authority area, or of no fixed abode, presenting in Norfolk and:
- Detention or attendance by appointment at Police Investigation Centres (PICS) in Wymondham, Kings Lynn, Aylsham, Great Yarmouth, and Bury St Edmunds, or
- Engaging with Operational Policing Teams and/or agencies based in Early Help Hubs across the county, or
- In receipt of support from another statutory or voluntary agency but requiring more specialist support in relation to offending behaviour or engagement with the criminal justice system.

3. Areas for consideration:

3.1 Partnership with Norfolk County Council, Public Health as a funding partner had to be reviewed and agreed. Decision for this partnership approach and funding was pending confirmation of central funding through Project Adder. This funding has now been agreed and Public Health have confirmed they will continue to contribute to the overall funding initiative as laid out in section 6 of this Decision Notice.

4. Other options considered:

4.1 There were four operating models taken into consideration and reviewed:

- a. Option 1 – not to fund WONDER – this has been rejected as there would be no diversionary approach (whereby women given a conditional caution or other women who voluntarily self-refer to the scheme) of offering targeted interventions for qualifying female offenders and women at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System.
- b. Option 2 – would be to reduce cover from 4 x Link Workers to 3 x Link Workers: reduce the Senior Lead Worker from 1 x FTE to .4 FTE Senior Link Worker and retain the 0.5 FTE Administration Worker (Provided by Future Projects) – this option was rejected.
- c. Option 3 – would reduce cover from 4 x Link Workers to 3 x Link Workers: keep the 1 x Senior Lead Worker; remove the .5 FTE Administration Worker (Provided by Future Projects)– this option was rejected.
- d. Option 4 – would be to retain the 4 x Link Workers, retain the 1 x Senior Lead Worker and remove the role of Administration Worker – this option was the preferred option as reducing the Link Workers and Senior Link Workers would:
 - i. Reduce the reach of the women in need of service in Norfolk

- ii. Provide fewer overheads associated with the partnership
- iii. Provide greater Senior Worker presence which supports better oversight and risk management of complex cases across the service
- iv. Provide the least disruption to the staffing structure for the women in service
- v. Allow for co-ordination carried out by the Administration Worker to be absorbed into the role of the Senior Link Worker which would include receipt of referrals, the triage, RAG rating, support with high risk/complex cases and allocation based on complexity and geography to the Link Workers.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

5.1 The PCC has a statutory obligation to set out Police and Crime objectives through the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan 2022-2024. The PCC's six priorities fall into the following categories each with detailed objectives in the plan:

- Sustain Norfolk Constabulary
- Visible and Trusted Policing
- Tackling Crime
- Prevent Offending
- Support Victims
- Safe and Stronger Communities

5.2 The WONDER Project supports three of these pillars: Prevent Offending, Supporting Victims and Safe and Stronger Communities.

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 The total cost of funding to extend the WONDER Project for one year is £206,483

6.2 The breakdown of funding is as follows:

ITEM	2024/25
OPCCN Commissioning Budget	£161,483
Norfolk County Council Public Health Project ADDER Contribution	£45,000
Award Total	£206,483

7. Carbon Emissions and Other Environmental Implications:

Carbon Emissions

7.1 The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

Emission Categories:	Increase in tCO ₂	Saving in tCO ₂
Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating	0	0
Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity	0	0

Environmental Implications

7.2 No material implications

8. Other implications and risks:

8.1 There are no foreseen implications or risks that have been identified at this time.

8.2 The OPCCN has assessed the eligibility of St Giles Trust and the appropriate due diligence checks have been completed.

Originator checklist (must be completed)	Please state 'yes' or 'no'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	NO
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have human resource implications been considered?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	YES
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	YES
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
Have sustainability and environmental factors been considered? (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction)	YES
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	YES

Is this report a Confidential Decision?

NO

If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

Approval to submit to the decision-maker (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



Signature:

Date: 25/03/2024

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date: 25/03/2024

Public access to information: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*