

**Subject: CREST Advisory UK Ltd**

**Originator:** Serious Violence Policy and Programme Manager

**Decision no.** 32/2024

**Reason for submission:** For Decision

**Submitted to:** PCC

**Summary:**

1. The Serious Violence Duty commenced in January 2023. The Duty places a new legal duty on a number of organisations to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
2. Under the Duty, local areas are required to develop a strategic needs assessment (SNA) to inform a local strategy setting out how the partnership will work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
3. The Home Office have allocated funding to meet costs arising from the Duty. The funding is allocated to local policing bodies who can subsequently allocate funding to duty-holders.
4. Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner is the grant holder of Home Office funding to deliver a local response to the Serious Violence Duty.
5. As part of Norfolk's response, the Serious Violence Duty responsible authorities have agreed to allocate £12,500 of Serious Violence Duty Funding to CREST Advisory UK Ltd to assist the partnership by delivering:
  - a. Bespoke workshops for each of Norfolk's four strategic priorities; Under 25's, Domestic Abuse, Drugs & Alcohol, Places and Spaces to assist and develop partnership outcomes, monitoring and facilitate effective evaluation of serious violence response.
  - b. Provision of bespoke support and mentoring sessions to develop the evaluation of qualitative data on engagement within the local communities to assist partnership learning.

## Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner provide Serious Violence Duty grant funding to CREST Advisory UK Ltd to develop and deliver a Theory of Change and performance framework to Serious Violence Duty Partners to embed the delivery of Norfolk's partnership Response Strategy to the Serious Violence Duty.

**Outcome/approval by:** PCC/

*The recommendations as outlined above are approved.*

Signature:



Date: 01/05/2024

## Detail of the submission

### 1. Objective:

- 1.1 The Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.
- 1.2 The Duty requires the specified authorities in Norfolk to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- 1.3 The specific objectives of the work will provide support to the partnership to deliver a Theory of Change and performance framework which supports Norfolk's Response Strategy to serious violence. Norfolk's Strategic Priorities will each have a dedicated workshop to clarify and develop long-term outcomes, intermediate/short-term outcomes, and focus on long-term monitoring and evaluation. A final seminar will be held with the wider partnership to share findings further.
- 1.4 In addition, CREST will provide mentoring to the Communication and Engagement Officer within the Serious Violence Duty team. This will develop the evaluation of engagement activities in the community ensuring they will be used to embed learning throughout the partnership to all key stakeholders.

### 2. Background:

- 2.1 The new Serious Violence Duty has been introduced to facilitate the partnership response to preventing and reducing serious violence.

The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations to develop an evidence base (strategic needs assessment) and create and implement a strategy containing bespoke solutions as to how the local partnership will work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Serious violence has a devastating impact on lives of victims and families and instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society.

Interpersonal violence can be viewed as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels – the individual, their relationships, their community and wider society.

The public health approach to serious violence means thinking about violence, not only as a problem for the police, but as a preventable consequence of a complex range of factors which influence the likelihood of being affected by violence. It recognises that to effectively tackle violence and not just focus on those who are already affected by violence but also by addressing the underlying risk factors.

2.2 The public health approach involves interventions in three overarching categories, which focus on prevention for different population groups depending on the risk level:

- Primary prevention – aims to stop risk factors from emerging or promotes protective factors
- Secondary prevention – aims to address risk factors and stop issues from escalating
- Tertiary prevention – aims to manage an ongoing problem and reduce harm

2.3 There is growing body of research exploring why some people or groups are at higher risk of violence while some are protected from it. Although risk and protective factors are not predictive of future behaviour, research has found that reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors has been found to be effective in preventing violence.

2.4 The Serious Violence Duty Strategy has identified the need for a monitoring and evaluation framework which will allow for monitoring of short and long-term outcome measures, linked to a theory of change. This will allow the partnership to monitor progress of activities during the year. A range of measures will be monitored, but will include 3 key success measures specified within the Serious Violence Duty statutory guidance:

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object;
- A reduction in knife and sharp object enabled serious violence recorded by the police;
- A reduction in homicide recorded by the police.

2.5 The workshops and mentoring aims to assist the partnership to connect inputs, activities and outcomes into a performance framework which will reach across the development of all 4 strategic priorities in Norfolk. This framework will be monitored and evaluated against the Response Strategy to inform prevention initiatives and reduce serious violence.

### 3. Areas for consideration:

3.1 The benefits align with the evidence base developed through the Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment and the priorities of Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty Strategy.

3.2 The benefits of these activities are:

- All Serious Violence Duty partners are provided the opportunity to develop a theory of change and better understand the requirements of a performance framework to make informed decisions to reduce and prevent serious violence in the local area.
- All Serious Violence Duty partners work together to connect inputs, activities and outcomes and continue to monitor and evaluate these in alignment with Norfolk's Response Strategy to serious violence.
- Developing a cross-cutting performance framework aligned to Norfolk's Response Strategy to serious violence across four areas: Under 25's, Domestic Abuse, Drugs & Alcohol, Places and Spaces.
- Embedding short-, medium- and long-term outcomes which aim to influence a reduction in risk factors and promote a range of protective factors for serious violence across four levels: the individual, their relationships, their community and wider society.

### 4. Other options considered:

4.1 Do nothing: Without this funding, the Serious Violence Duty Partnership would not benefit from the expertise and experience CREST Advisory UK Ltd have successfully provided to 43 Police Force areas, leaving Norfolk partners at a disadvantage and unable to incorporate that knowledge. This would undoubtedly incur delays in the development and implementation of a performance framework, and impact on Norfolk's ability to measure and evaluate outcomes and interventions in line with the Response Strategy.

### 5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

5.1 This will directly benefit the following aspects of the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan, which came into action at the end of March 2022:

- Pillar 4:

- Develop and deliver effective diversionary schemes for offenders (high harm and volume);
  - Work in partnership to safeguard vulnerable adults and children;
  - Work in partnership to ensure offenders are managed effectively in the community;
  - Reduce the revolving door of crime by putting in place the support needed to reduce re-offending;
  - Strengthen early intervention and preventative approaches to crime in the county and reduce first time entrants into criminal justice.
- Pillar 5:
    - Work in partnership to commission effective services that support victims of high harm crime;
    - Implement and develop the Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS) and review the provision of services for sexual violence victims.
  - Pillar 6:
    - Working with partners and communities to prevent crime and harm;
    - Early identification and diversion to the appropriate agencies for those suffering with mental health issues;
    - Promote crime prevention initiatives.

5.2 Furthermore, the programme directly contributes to the following long-term outcome from the Safer Norfolk Plan:

- Building resilient and cohesive communities
- Tackling Neighbourhood Crime
- Reducing the threat of criminal exploitation
- Safeguarding Communities from Abuse and Serious Violence

5.3 This programme contributes to the achievement of the Government's Serious Violence Duty. The Serious Violence Duty encourages a Public Health approach, identifying and responding to risk and protective factors for Serious Violence.

5.4 Norfolk's Serious Violence Partnership Group has identified this option to assist in the development and delivery of Norfolk's performance framework to identify, monitor and evaluate prevention and reduction initiatives to serious violence.

## 6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 To deliver the CREST Advisory UK Ltd workshops and 1:1 mentoring, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk will grant fund £12,500, funded by the Home Office Serious Violence Funding.

## 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 <sub>2</sub>	Saving in tCO <sub>2</sub>
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 In line with usual government grants, PCCs must ensure that organisations do not use the funding for any of the following activities:

- religious activities outside of projects benefiting the wider community and not containing religious content;
- political or lobbying activities;
- loan repayments; or
- activities that make profit for private gain

8.2 All organisations awarded funding will need to comply with the OPCCN Governance 'Check List' that will be provided with offers of Grants if this has not been completed in advance.

8.3 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, CREST Advisory UK Ltd is required to notify the OPCCN as per the conditions of the award.

<b>Originator checklist (must be completed)</b>	<b>Please state 'yes' or 'no'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>No</b>
Has the P C C's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>Yes</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	<b>Yes</b>
Have human resource implications been considered?	<b>Yes</b>
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	<b>Yes</b>
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	<b>Yes</b>
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	<b>Yes</b>
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)	<b>No</b>
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	<b>Yes</b>

**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).

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED



## 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: 30/04/2024

## 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: 01/05/2024

**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.*