



Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire Supporting Victims Fund 2018-19

Overview and Funding Priorities

Background

The aim of the Cheshire PCC Supporting Victims Fund is to build capacity and maximise the potential of organisations to help ensure the improved provision of vital services to support victims of crime and help them cope and recover from the impact of crime.

A comprehensive mapping and consultation exercise has been undertaken to identify the services needed for victims of crime in Cheshire, with funding priorities refreshed each year to ensure that we continue to target funding in the areas that are needed.

A further interim needs assessment finalised in January 2018 identified that, in addition to the on-going commissioning of; Cheshire CARES contact and emotional support centre, Restorative Justice & Mediation services across Cheshire, support for victims of sexual violence, Services for victims of domestic abuse and victims of child sexual abuse or exploitation, the areas in need of prioritisation for provisioning support are;

- young people under 18,
- victims of hate crime,
- victims with mental health needs and
- victims with other vulnerable, such as individuals at risk of exploitation.

Funding

The national picture with regards to funding victim services remains complex and continues to change at a pace. Local organisations are vulnerable to different funders taking decisions without understanding the impact on local services.

Victim services budgets continue to be provided to the PCC by the Ministry of Justice on a one year basis, despite calls to provide the budget over a three year period, which would help to build, grow and sustain vital local services. One year settlements from government mean that services in Cheshire will continue to be grant funded on an annual cycle for the 2018-19 period.

Grants are available to individual organisations or partnerships providing support to victims of crime to help them cope and recover. Please note, partnership applications will need to be submitted by one lead applicant.

A total of £160,000 has been allocated with £40,000 earmarked against each priority area. This may be allocated to one project in full or across multiple projects.

Purpose of the fund

Victims of crime can be of any age, gender, race or sexual orientation and can be vulnerable due to these characteristics or other factors such as a disability, their mental health, religion/belief or the type and nature of the crime committed. In Cheshire we are striving to ensure that victims with the greatest need have access to support that is tailored to meet their needs and help them to best cope and recover.

We want to ensure that victims of crime feel confident to seek help when they need it and when they do, the right type of support is available to them. The fund is managed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire and is in place to support work across the Cheshire Policing area, including the local authority areas of Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, Halton and Warrington.

Funding is available for organisations providing support to victims of crime to help them cope in the aftermath of a crime and to help their long-term recovery. The Supporting Victims Fund will support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and will help to achieve the following:

- More victims encouraged to come forward.
- Increased opportunities for Restorative Justice.
- Improved victims and witnesses experience at court.
- The most vulnerable victims of crime are identified and provided with personal support and firm action.
- Victims have access to appropriate advice and a high quality practical and emotional support service tailored to their needs.
- Victims have access to specialist services where these are needed to help them to cope and recover from their experiences.
- Care pathways are more consistent, there are not gaps in referrals and changes of support do not negatively impact on the individual.

Organisations can apply for funding individually or in partnership with other organisations. Where partnership applications are submitted a clear lead applicant will be needed.

Grant themes and funding priorities

To help us identify the victim services we require in Cheshire we have analysed information from a wide range of sources including crime trends and victimology, public and partner priorities, demands on existing victim services and demand for services where need is unmet.

Understanding the victims' landscape in Cheshire allows us to best provide services that fulfil our vision "to ensure that victims of crime feel confident to seek help and when they do, they are provided with a choice of high quality support tailored to meet their individual needs".

We particularly welcome applications that provide support to those most vulnerable in our society who under the Victims Code of Practice are entitled to enhanced support, and those with identifiable additional vulnerabilities and/or needs. Taking this into consideration with

what we know about our vulnerable victims in Cheshire we have identified the following grant themes:

Young people under 18 – examples could include

- Therapeutic services and advocacy support for young people following a crime
- School based support and guidance
- Support for young victims of domestic and sexual abuse
- Emotional and practical support for young victims who experience cyber related crime, exploitation and harassment
- Support for young people who have been subject to criminal exploitation

Victims with mental health needs / issues – examples could include

- Specialist support and therapeutic services for those victims of crime who are vulnerable due to a mental health needs

Victims of hate crime – examples could include

- Personal emotional support for victims and repeat victims of all hate crime
- Specialist support and therapeutic services
- Building community cohesion and support for victims of race hate crime
- Peer based support to assist victims cope and recover
- Outreach into communities (including virtual communities) to ensure engagement and support opportunities are maximised

Victims with other vulnerabilities – examples could include

- Specialist support for victims of trafficking, modern slavery and labour exploitation
- Support for victims of cyber-crime and fraud including those at risk of exploitation and support for older people
- Specialist support and practical guidance for victims of crime with regards to criminal injuries compensation and understanding the criminal justice system
- Support for isolated/marginalised victims, for example those in isolation due to age or mobility, rural victims and those with a disability
- Enhanced outreach provision for victims in harder to reach communities, such as including support for honour based abuse and FGM victims

£40,000 has been allocated against each priority area and may be allocated to one project in full or across multiple projects.

Strengthening services

Grants are available to cover any costs relating to work which builds the capacity and maximises the potential of organisations working to support victims of crime. This could include a range of activities including:

- Widening geographical coverage
- Enhanced provision through the increase in training
- Strengthening operating procedures and referral routes to maximise victim engagement
- Recruitment and training of volunteers

- Changes to operating practices to meet victim demand
- New and innovative approaches and techniques to supporting victims

Key dates

- The deadline for applications is 4pm Friday 31 August 2018
- Assessments will take place immediately after this date
- Organisations will be informed of the outcome on Friday 7 September 2018
- Services and projects should look to mobilise and be in place no later than 1 October 2018
- Funding is likely to be distributed as to support an initial mobilisation in the following way:
 - October 2018 - £17,500
 - January 2019 - £7,500
 - April 2019 - £7,500
 - July 2019 - £7,500
- Successful applicants will have until 30 September 2019 to spend any funding and will be expected to provide progress updates on a 3 monthly cycle against an outcome framework agreed with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Who can apply?

We are able to accept applications from organisations with the following legal status:

- Constituted voluntary and community sector organisations or groups
- Registered charities
- Charitable incorporated organisations
- Community interest companies
- Local authorities, multi-agency partnerships and any other public sector provider

We are unable to consider supporting the following:

- Any party political activities
- Purely commercial ventures (for profit)
- Spending that has already taken place (i.e. retrospective funding)
- Individual sponsorship

Making an application

There are two key documents in addition to this that you should read carefully before making an application:

- Guidance notes – tips on how to fill in the application form and the information you need to provide
- Application form – available electronically

If you would like any further information or advice please contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner on Commissioning@Cheshire.pnn.police.uk or call 01606 364030.

Performance reporting requirements

Successful projects will be required to measure and report against the specific outcomes of their project on a 3 monthly basis. In addition, as a condition of the grant, successful projects will be required to provide performance information to assist the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner in providing the required reporting to the Ministry of Justice.

No. of referrals received by support providers	Total no. of referrals to support services
	No. of referrals broken down by source of referral
	No. of referrals broken down by crime type
No. of cases supported	Total no. of cases supported in a given time period.
	Total no. of new cases supported (where possible)
	No. of cases in the past X months where support was provided in a single incidence vs as part of ongoing support
Protected characteristics of cases supported (May only be collected annually)	Age of victims supported x by gender (where possible)
	Other protected characteristics where available
No. of returns showing a improvement / no change / deterioration since the previous assessment	Improved Health & Wellbeing
	Better able to cope with aspects of everyday life
	Increased feelings of safety
	Better informed / empowered to act on information
No. of Complaints	Number of complaints