

MAYOR OF LONDON

Cllr Damian White & Andrew Blake - Herbert

Main Rd,
Romford
RM1 3BB

9th September 2019

Dear Cllr Damian White & Andrew Blake - Herbert

Recently we wrote to you to let you know that the Mayor's Violence Reduction Unit would be providing additional funding to boroughs through the London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF). We are pleased that we have further details around the purpose, scale and mechanism for distributing money that we are able to share with you.

The Violence Reduction Unit was set up by the Mayor of London in Autumn last year and was tasked with reducing and stabilising violence across London; increasing feelings of safety for all Londoners; and to ensure both objectives to make sure that communities and young people were at the heart of sustainable and long term change.

The Mayor allocated £7 million towards the programme's budget and last week we received confirmation that the Home Office had allocated a further £7 million.

The VRU knows that boroughs are at the heart of delivering local violence reduction strategies and that good work has been done in aligning local efforts around the borough knife crime action plans. And that local councils are at the heart of change and we look forward to developing a constructive partnership.

Objectives

Building on this work, we want the additional spending to be focused on three strategic outcomes, namely:

- Addressing the drug related drivers of violence
- Supporting young offenders and reducing violent recidivism
- Minimising school exclusions and supporting young people back into education, employment and training

Within those objectives, money may be used to uplift existing LCPF projects, though additionality must be made clear.

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Scale

Every borough is eligible for funding with an additional amount provided in line with the boroughs who experience the highest levels of violence. We have divided the boroughs into three tiers using the GLA Dataset of violent crime, deprivation, health and perception in relation to violence. This is different to the formula used by the LCPF and is more reflective of the public health approach that the VRU is adopting.

The delivery period will be for 7 months of this financial year, and for the 12 months of 2020/21. The funding is allocated so that 50% is available in the seven remaining months of year 1 and 50% for year two. This will coincide with the end of the LCPF funding period, in March 2021.

If in exceptional circumstances you wish to spend more than the 50% allocated in the first year and are confident that you can do so; then you may apply for more of the funding in year one. In any such application the rationale for spending a larger proportion in year 1, will need to be set out. Please note that the overall amount of funding for year 1 and year 2 combined, will remain the same even if a successful request for allocation of more than 50% is made for year 1.

Your borough will receive:

Tier 3

£50,000 in year 1 and £50,000 in year 2

The LCPF direct borough grant arrangements will be utilised as a means to provide this additional funding to boroughs as swiftly as possible, and may not be carried over between financial years or reprofiled in-year as is permitted for LCPF direct funding. This also does not guarantee an uplift in LCPF funding beyond 2020/21.

Eligibility

The project proposals should address at least one of the three strategic outcomes as outlined above.

Funding is contingent on each borough's Knife Crime and Serious Violence Plan being of a satisfactory standard as assessed by the Violence Reduction Unit. If that is not the case, there will need to be a commitment to work with the VRU to reach that standard before the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

The VRU has reviewed all plans and will provide feedback to each borough as soon as possible and certainly by the end of September.

Mechanism

In order to receive this additional funding, a new project will need to be created on GLA OPS, an online project management system which all boroughs are currently using for LCPF projects, outlining what will be delivered and the funding profile across the two

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financial years. These projects will be subject to quarterly financial and annual performance reporting, alongside the LCPF projects.

The following LCPF minimum standards must be adhered to in all proposals:

- Projects must deliver crime prevention approaches in partnership with other local and regional agencies.
- Projects must identify communities disproportionately affected by crime types and be based on narrowing the vulnerability gap.
- Projects which provide services to victims of crime must have due regard to the victim's code of practice.
- Projects adhere to child and adult safeguarding and child protection guidelines and policies, seeking to achieve best practice.
- Projects must have due regard to the equality and diversity implications.

Next steps

We would be grateful if you could respond to this letter with in-principle agreement to accept this funding on the conditions laid out.

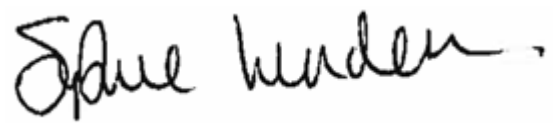
We will then require information on the projects as soon as possible and certainly by the end of September 2019. This will be in line with conversations with the VRU, led by Steve Bending, on the knife crime & violence reduction strategies.

We would be grateful if you could inform your Heads of Community Safety so that MOPAC officers can be in touch directly with further guidance on project development and the use of OPS.

We hope that this answers any questions you may have but if you have queries about the nature of the projects then please contact steve.bending@london.gov.uk. If you have any queries about the LCPF then please contact sam.cunningham@london.gov.uk

We look forward to receiving your responses, and to continuing to work together to tackle violence in London.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to be 'Lib Peck' with a horizontal line underneath the name.A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to be 'Sophie Linden'.

Lib Peck
Violence Reduction Unit Director

Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime