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| Committee: | Date: |
| Safer City Partnership | 23 September 2019 |
| Subject: POCA Fund – Policy and Guidance | Public |
| Report of: Head of Community Safety | For Decision |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report sets out the process by which the Safer City Partnership will consider, award and monitor the use of the POCA money allocated to it.</p> <p>The SCP Strategy Group will have the key role in guiding spend and holding partners to account. The SCP will report annually to the Police Authority Board on the use of these funds.</p> <p>All successful bids will be expected to report back to the SCP Strategy Group, with an emphasis on outcomes and lessons learnt. These activities will also feature within the SCP Annual Assessment.</p> <p>Bids are expected to support one or more of the agreed SCP Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded • People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person • People and business are protected from theft and fraud/acquisitive crime • Anti-social Behaviour is tackled and responded to effectively • People are safe and feel safe in the Night-Time Economy <p>Bids are expected to be sponsored by at least two SCP members. It is expected that those bidding for funds will set out the</p> | |

resources they are committing to the activity.

Proposals will come to the SCP Strategy Group for consideration, although it is recognised in certain cases it may be desirable to agree support between meetings. In these circumstances the Head of Community Safety will discuss the situation with the Chairman of the SCP.

Proposals will initially be assessed by the Head of Community Safety and City of London Police's Superintendent for Uniformed Policing, who will also have a role in monitoring activity. Budgetary responsibility ultimately resides with the Head of Community Safety

Recommendation

Members are asked:

1. To note the contents of the report and
2. Endorse the approach outlined to manage, monitor and report on POCA proposals or projects funded from the allocation administered by the SCP.

Main Report

Background

1. The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) provides the police and other public bodies the power to confiscate assets and cash from individuals who are convicted of offences or on the balance of probability have benefited from their illegal activities. The Home Office operates the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) where a proportion of the recovered assets is returned to the agency that recovered it.
2. ARIS guidance advises that these funds should be used by police forces to drive up performance on asset recovery and, where appropriate, to fund local crime fighting priorities for the benefit of the community.
3. The City of London Police has provided the Safer City Partnership with an allocation of £45,000 from POCA funds. This provides the partnership with a valuable opportunity to galvanise activity to help meet its agreed outcomes.

Proposed Mechanism

4. The SCP Strategy Group will have responsibility for guiding spend and holding partners to account. It is envisaged that a report on POCA spend will become a standing item at SCP Strategy Group meetings. There will be an annual report summing up activity over the course of each financial year. The SCP will report annually to the Police Authority Board on the use of these funds.
5. Bids will be expected to support one or more of the agreed SCP Priorities:
 - Vulnerable people and communities are protected and safeguarded
 - People are safe from violent crime and violence against the person
 - People and business are protected from theft and fraud/acquisitive crime
 - Anti-social Behaviour is tackled and responded to effectively
 - People are safe and feel safe in the Night-Time Economy
6. To encourage the development and delivery of partnership approaches bids are expected to be sponsored by at least two SCP members. It is also expected that those bidding for funds will set out the resources they are committing to the activity (this can include in-kind resource).
7. Bids for these funds will generally come to the SCP Strategy Group for agreement, although in certain cases where there is a pressing demand it may be desirable to agree support between meetings (but with a full report for the next SCP Strategy Group). In these circumstances the Head of Community Safety will discuss the situation with the Chairman of the SCP.
8. Prior to proposals being presented to the SCP Strategy Group they will initially be assessed by the Head of Community Safety and City of London Police's Superintendent for Uniformed Policing. These two officers will also have a role in monitoring activity and ensuring quarterly reports are produced in a timely fashion. Budgetary responsibility ultimately resides with the Head of Community Safety.
9. All successful bids will be expected to report back quarterly to the SCP Strategy Group. Upon their completion the relevant officers will submit a full report with an emphasis on outcomes and lessons learnt. These activities will also feature within the Annual Assessment. This will support the development of a City specific evidence base.

10. After a period of 12 months, we will produce a report on progress and include suggestions for future development.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

11. The SCP has a particular role in contributing toward Outcome 1 of the City of London Corporation's Corporate plan – People are Safe and Feel Safe.

12. These funds represent the only free-standing financial resources available to the SCP at a time when individual partners budgets are under considerable pressure. As such it provides a valuable opportunity to support relevant targeted initiatives, purchase materials or equipment or address communication needs.

Conclusion

13. Members are asked to agree the recommendations contained within this paper.

Appendices

14. SCP POCA fund application form.

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