

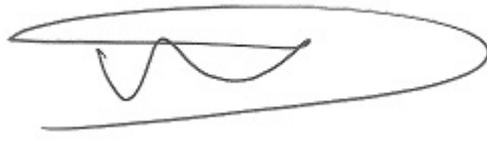
**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) FOR LINCOLNSHIRE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

REF: 018/2022
DATE: 20/04/2022

SUBJECT	
'THINK SHARP' KNIFE CRIME INTERVENTION HUB	
REPORT BY	CHIEF CONSTABLE
CONTACT OFFICER	Mr. Mark Johnson / PC Simon Garside - Project Think Sharp Tel 07501597635 / 07767006327
Project Think Sharp is the proposed use of Sleaford Police Stations custody office which has been unused since 2009. The mission of the project is to promote a safer and more educated community specifically for and with our young people. It is to achieve this by the use of bespoke learning hubs within the custody office which include innovative presentations by key partners.	
RECOMMENDATION	<i>That the proposed funds of £27k from the PCC's Partnership Working Reserve be approved and that the hub at Sleaford Police station be approved for a period of five years.</i>

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LINCOLNSHIRE

I hereby approve the recommendation above, having considered the content of this report.



Date: 20 April 2022

Signature:

A. NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC

A1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The purpose of the report is for approval of funding for the project. Specifically, this is a request for £27k to be drawn down from the PCC's Partnership Working Reserve.

Executive summary

2. Project Think Sharp is the proposed use of Sleaford Police Stations custody office which has been unused since 2009. The mission of the project is to promote a safer and more educated community specifically for and with our

young people. It is to achieve this by the use of bespoke learning hubs within the custody office which include innovative presentations by key partners.

3. The aim is to reach out to every young person in our County aged between 10 and 19 years and enable them to make the right decisions and to be better informed as to the risks of knife and weapon based offending and to consider the impact it could have on them, their friends, family and the wider community including the emergency services who attend such scenes.
4. We will be using the tragic murder of school pupil, Luke Walmsley who was the first pupil to be killed on school grounds in the UK. This happened in Lincolnshire. We will be working very closely with Luke's parents and many key partners from across the community safety partnership both in the construction of the build and the intervention material it contains. Even the measurement of this project is both innovative and unique in that, for the first time we will be able to measure the extent of successful message delivery by a purpose built victim empathy matrix, designed in consultation with the Lincoln University criminology team. This will be a first for the U.K.
5. Operation Raptor is an ongoing Lincolnshire Police intelligence led operation tackling knife crime related violence on the streets of Lincolnshire. The Operation was launched in October 2019 initially starting in Lincoln before being rolled out to the entire County. Since the launch over 100 weapons have been seized either by Police in response to incidents or with amnesty bins at key points throughout the County.
6. As is well known, knives and other weapons are a key part of organised criminal gangs (Including County Lines) business, and it is often the case that not only adults are engaged in carrying these during arranged drug exchanges. Unfortunately, it is often young people that are coerced into carrying weapons either as an enforcer or as a form of self-protection during the transaction. Key points to highlight:
7. The Thematic Weapons Profile for Lincolnshire (Dated July 2019-August 2020) shows 3203 occurrences involving a knife or weapon, 44% Violence Against The Person, 21% Possession Offences, 13% Public Disorder. We have seen an increase year on year with JDP Referrals for knife and weapon-based offences, most notably a 62% increase from 2019-2020. EMAS figures show that between 01/04/2019 and 31/03/2020 there were 127 stabbing reports attended and two were confirmed as dead on arrival of the crew. Between 01/04/2020 and 31/03/2021 there were 122 stabbing reports and again, two were very sadly, confirmed dead on arrival of the crew. Most recently we have had numerous serious incidents aggravated by knives or weapons in the last 6 months, most notably the double murder in Louth, juvenile on juvenile murder in Boston and murder in Lincoln.
8. In this proposal we seek to address these issues. Our mission is to educate young people about the dangers of becoming involved in and around knives. It is essential that we keep all our citizens as safe and aware as they can be, particularly those most vulnerable members of society.

9. To help achieve this objective we have established the way forward which will be a first for Lincolnshire. We propose the creation of a hub based within the long-term disused custody suite of Sleaford Police station for the young people of Lincolnshire, their families, and respective organisations. This will be a community based multi-agency initiative, a facility where we can raise awareness of the dangers of knives and seek to divert and channel positive change through education using a wide variety of delivery methods including interactive video, graphics, and dramatized role plays/scenarios.
10. We are looking for financial means to cover the refurbishment costs and development of the intervention in addition to the authorisation for the dedicated use of the Sleaford Custody Suite for a term not less than 5 years. We have sought the support of the PCC, OPCC and COT to evoke a real and positive change for the young people of Lincolnshire using our innovative approach. On the 17th of February 2022 the capabilities board approved this project with a provision it went by way of a decision log to the OPCC for further scrutiny and consideration for approval.

A2. LINKS TO POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND PCC'S STRATEGIES/PRIORITIES.

As set out in the attached comprehensive business case for Project Think Sharp, which reveals full compliance with the Police and Crime Plan and the PCC's strategies / priorities.

B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

As set out in the attached comprehensive business case for Project Think Sharp. A summary of the financial considerations for the project and funds requested is provided below:-

<p>Total cost of the Think Sharp Project (As outlined in detail and itemised on the 'Think Sharp' business case). This is comprised of £23.9k for the physical build of the project within the Police station and £16k for the development and delivery of the intervention material. The outstanding monies of £12.9k will be paid by the Richard and Angela Maxwell charitable trust, who are a registered charity based in Coningsby and who issue charitable assistance to youth safety and educational based Lincolnshire Projects.</p>	<p>£39,900</p>
<p>Funds requested from the OPCC. Specifically to be drawn down from the PCC's Partnership working reserve.</p>	<p>£27,000</p>

C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

[This should include the legal powers the PCC has for making the decision]

None.

D. PERSONNEL AND EQUALITIES ISSUES

[This should include a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment, if required]

As set out in the attached comprehensive business case for Project Think Sharp.

E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

Project Think Sharp will be subject of both short term (monthly) and long range (Annual) scrutiny through the development of three key working groups that carry out both physical analysis of the delivery through feedback from key participants and partners engaged in the subject matter (Please refer to business case attached) as well as scrutiny via progress of participants post input at the hub and unlike other sites of this type across the Country, this analysis will continue through JDP Processing and Future4Me young person's engagement in both regular meetings and for the most challenging participants, this will be done dynamically especially where concerns are heightened due to current offending / involvement in the use of weapons.

The core role of Project Think Sharp is:

To deliver intervention to the young people of Lincolnshire throughout the school year and beyond these dates, delivering the police elements alongside key partners, including EMAS, Lincoln College and University as well as the parents of the murdered school pupil, Luke Walmsley as part of the Stay Safe Partnership.

- Delivery to our young people across Lincolnshire in a unique and bespoke way (Initially a minimum of four sessions per week covering 5 days a week) covering effective decision making, what to do if confronted, Gang risks and recruitment, County Lines and Knife Crime, victim impact (Victim ripple).
- Program adaptation and delivery subject to flexible evolution through key working groups and delivered by trained facilitators, using actors and key witness accounts.
- Co-ordination and training of the Think Sharp program which consists of working closely with community safety partners, problem solving approach, supports operation Raptor as part of its prevent strand.
- Researching educational programs in the subject area and keeping up to date regarding the political messaging and changes. Playing a

pivotal role in youth engagement and seeking to change the hearts and minds of our young people to secure a safer future for our communities.

F. RISK MANAGEMENT

The project will use unique and bespoke measurement of individual progress of attendees by using a victim empathy matrix designed by the criminology and psychology department of Lincoln University. This is truly ground - breaking and will give a unique insight into the true effectiveness and thus the ability for prompt and effective delivery change and focus where needed. The formed key working groups will help to ensure that the work is continually monitored for performance and effectiveness utilising feedback from students, teachers, and key partners in the community safety partnership. The project will also use intelligence and information from Operation Raptor analysis to invoke delivery change where deemed appropriate to ensure that inputs are targeted according to need as issues emerge.

G. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form along with any supporting material is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC's website within one working day of approval. However, if release by that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved, publication may be deferred. An explanation for any deferment must be provided below, together with a date for publication.

Is the publication of this form to be deferred? No

If Yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate part 2 form.

Is there a part 2 form? Yes

If Yes, for what reason: Business Case is marked 'Official' as it contains information about police operations.

DECLARATIONS

	Initial to confirm
Originating Officer: recommends this proposal for the reasons outlined above	MJ/SG
The CC's Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal	SC
The Chief Constable has been consulted on this proposal	CH
The PCC's Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal	JF

OFFICER APPROVAL

Performance and Delivery Manager (for Chief Executive)

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. Consultation outlined above has also taken place. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire.

Signature: Joanne Davison

Date: 20 April 2022

