

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to invest £250,000 from the All Age Social Care budget into the creation of a Safer Communities Fund grant scheme 2023/24.
Date of decision:	22 nd September 2023
Decision maker:	Corporate Director, Children and Young People
Authority for delegated decision:	CYP- 23 Overall lead for community safety and the prevent strategy
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Consultation has be carried out with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and West Mercia Police. The cabinet member for children and young people has also been briefed.
Decision made:	To invest £250,000 from the All Age Social Care budget to create a Safer Communities Fund grant scheme 2023/24.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and West Mercia Police are investing £250,000 into the safer communities grant scheme in Herefordshire. The investment from Herefordshire Council’s All Age Social Care budget that this decision will enable is match funding for the PCC funding and will extend the benefits of the grant scheme.</p> <p>The Safer Communities Grant Scheme will support new and existing projects that focus on early prevention, tackling the root causes of crime, vulnerability, exploitation and anti-social behaviour within the county, specifically focusing on children and young people.</p> <p>The grant scheme will be open to not for profit organisations and schools across Herefordshire. Grants of between £25,000 and £300,000 will be available. Applicants will be expected to clearly demonstrate and evidence the need for their projects.</p> <p>The Safer Community Grant Scheme fits with the following ambitions set out in Herefordshire’s County Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together • Ensure all children are healthy, safe and inspired to achieve
Equality Considerations	<p>The grant scheme will be open to not for profit organisations and schools.</p> <p>It will focus on early prevention, tackling the root causes of crime, vulnerability, exploitation and anti-social behavior within the county, specifically focusing on children and young people.</p>

	Additional weighting will be given to projects delivering in areas of deprivation where inequalities are most prevalent.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>A legal agreement has been drawn up between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Herefordshire Council setting out the parameters of the funding.</p> <p>The funding is for 2023/24. The legal agreement sets out that any underspend from the current financial year can be carried into 2024/25, enabling a longer period of spend for successful applicants.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Not to provide match funding for the PCC investment in the Safer Communities Grant scheme. This option has been rejected on the basis on the benefits that the PCC funding will have for children and young people in Herefordshire.</p> <p>To invest in existing contracts. This option was rejected in preference of an open process of investment for eligible organizations across the county. Existing service providers may be eligible to apply.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None