COMMUNITY JUSTICE SECURITY

DECISION RECORD

Decision Record Number 36

This document records a decision taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner, together with details of the advice he received prior to taking the decision.

Decision taken

The Police and Crime Commissioner has taken the decisions to:

To provide funding to NACRO for a period of one year for the provision of a Rent Deposit Scheme for offenders totalling £15,000.

Details of advice taken

Advice from Director for Delivery

Martin Scoble
OPCC Chief Executive
7th February 2018
END

COMMUNITY JUSTICE SECURITY

Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission

Supporting Report to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Date of Report	6th February 2018
Subject	**Funding for the provision of a Rent Deposit Scheme for Offenders**
Report Author	Paul Bullen

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To outline the funding required for a pilot scheme for the provision of a Rent Deposit Scheme for offenders.

2. Decision(s) Recommended:

2.1 To provide one off funding of £15,000 for a pilot for the provision of a rent deposit scheme for offenders to NACRO.

3. Relevant background / Chronology of Key Events:

3.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner has recognised that the provision of housing, for both offenders and victims in the criminal justice system, is a major issue that will impact on the security of individuals and their future involvement in crime.

3.2 In conversations with the National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company and NACRO the issue of housing became a clear barrier to reducing reoffending. This is notably the case where often offenders do not fulfil criteria for social housing and do not have access to a deposit for a private rental. This scheme seeks to address this issue.

3.3 The project will open up bed spaces within the private rented sector for those most in need such as high risk individuals and vulnerable women and men at risk of exploitation and recidivism.

Key outcomes:

- At least 30 ex-offenders housed in the private rented sector within the first year of delivery (across both NPS and CRC cohorts)
- A reduced recidivism rate in those accessing the project
- A return of at least 20% of rent deposit is in the first year.

4. Consultation:

4.1 Consultation has taken place with the agencies listed above as well as conversations with the Bedfordshire OPCC where the scheme has already started.

5. Compliance Issues:

5.1 Is this a decision of 'significant public interest?'

5.1.1 No

5.2 **Is the recommended decision consistent with the priorities set out in the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Plan 2014/17?**

5.2.1 This decision is consistent with the PCP priority of ensuring swift and sure justice whilst supporting wider issues in relation to alcohol, drugs and mental heath and reducing reoffending – ultimately therefore preventing future victims of crime.

5.3 What are the financial and procurement implications of this decision?

5.3.1 A one-off grant of £15,000 to NACRO is required.

5.3.2 Procurement have agreed that as this is a pilot and the provider already have contracts with the CRC for delivery of the wrap around services required for the offenders that this can be dealt with via single tender award.

5.4 Will further decisions be required?

5.4.1 Not at this stage although, depending on the success of the scheme, the PCC may wish to consider investing further in this project in future. Should that be the case procurement would be re-involved to ensure that any provision complies with public procurement rules.

5.5 Legal Implications

5.5.1 Grant agreement that specifies performance indicators in place with NACRO

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 There is a reputational risk that offenders who have been helped to be housed through this scheme go on to re-offend. The mitigation for this is through the involvement of probation services to assess the suitability of the individuals for the scheme.

5.6.2 There is a risk that landlords may not be interested in the scheme due to it involving offenders. This risk has not been realised in Bedfordshire where many landlords have been identified and the scheme is already operational.

5.6.3 There is a risk that the £15,000 is not recycled as a result of the behaviour of individuals in the premises meaning that deposits are retained by the landlord. This is being mitigated through a range of approaches including seeking wherever possible to offer bonds rather than deposits, assessing suitable people for the scheme through probation services and through signing up those who benefit from the scheme to pay back any deposit. Even so it is likely that some individuals will default.

5.7 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?

5.7.1 No. The focus is on the offender population and the NPS and CRC will assess on a case by case basis the suitability for the scheme, taking into account matters of equality and diversity.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

6.1 The PCC could choose to do nothing but this would mean that offenders would be more likely to reoffend without a stable home environment.

7. List of background reports used to compile this report:

N/A

8. List of appendices accompanying this report (if any):

N/A

9. Approvals		Date
Has this report been approved by the author's line manager?	Yes	
Has this report been approved by the Chief Executive?	Yes	