

2022-25



**Youth Diversion
Thematic - Call for Proposals**

January 2022



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**



VRU Violence
Reduction
Unit
Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire

Introduction

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire (the PCC) and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) wish to fund third sector organisations to deliver community led targeted interventions which aim to divert at risk children and young people away from serious violence, other crime types and anti-social behaviour.

The objectives of this themed round are to:

- fund community led creative, sports or other types of diversion interventions, these interventions should also provide mentoring support;
- support children and young people who are at risk of being impacted by crime and/or are delivered in areas of the city and county which are vulnerable to crime and anti-social behaviour;
- measure the impact of diversionary and mentoring approaches on reducing risk factors associated with crime, including serious violence.

Multi-year funding is available, with up to £270,000 available for Youth Diversion between May 2022 and March 2025.

Context

Activity to protect and divert vulnerable young people from crime and harm has come under increasing pressure over recent years, impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, budgetary pressures and changing crime trends. This Make Notts Safe Youth Diversion funding seeks to strengthen provision in this important area.

Diversion programmes such as sports and creative activities can provide children and young people with positive peer groups and influences, support them to develop social skills and improve their physical and mental health. They can also help children and young people develop motivation and self-regulation through committed practice and relationships with positive role models such as sports coaches.

Positive diversion activities may also reduce the time that children are exposed to negative influences and allow children and young people to take risks in a safe environment. Depending on the activity, they may also have desirable impacts on reducing aggression, promoting mental health and responding to other behavioural difficulties.

Diversion programmes will often use activities as a 'hook' to engage children and young people in mentoring. The PCC and VRU are keen to understand how these two types of provision can work together as part of a targeted intervention.

Mentoring is often used to help prevent, divert, and provide ways out for young people engaged in, or thought to be at risk of involvement in gang and youth violence. It has been shown to have promising impacts on reoffending, anti-social and criminal behaviour, and associated problems.

The PCC and VRU aim to contribute to the local evidence base around diversion and mentoring programmes, whilst supporting children and young people at risk in the City and County.

Scope

The PCC and VRU seek to fund third sector organisations which will deliver projects and interventions that meet the following criteria:

- Provision of diversionary activities **with** mentoring provision. The diversionary activity may include but is not limited to sports or creative activities;
- Work with participants aged 10 – 18 year olds, although interventions for those aged up to 25 years will also be considered, particularly where they are care leavers and/or have Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND);
- Interventions which focus on at risk young people, referred by a relevant statutory body, for example, Nottinghamshire Police, Youth Justice Services (City and/or County), Social Care (City and/or County) or other statutory body; or
- Interventions which focus on areas where the risk of crime, which may include serious violence, is greater. In this instance participants may have been identified through outreach provision (not funded through this themed round) or referral from a non-statutory organisation.

The following priority geographical areas of need are included for consideration; however, this list is not exhaustive:

- **County** – Ashfield, Mansfield, Newark, Arnold and Worksop
- **City**- City Centre, Bulwell, Radford, Hyson Green and Arboretum, the Meadows, Sneinton, Lenton and Wollaton East and Bestwood

Outcomes and evaluation

Outcomes

We are particularly interested in interventions which should not be limited to but may seek to impact some or all of the following outcomes for participants:

- Reduced offending and victimisation
- Reduced involvement in statutory services
- Improved attendance at school/ college, including better behaviour and attainment
- Improved mental health and wellbeing
- Improved physical health

Evaluation

It is important to the PCC and VRU that we add to the local evidence base around what works to prevent and reduce crime, including serious violence, and demonstrate impact against public spending. Therefore, any successful providers will

be expected to work with an evaluation partner to demonstrate that the intervention has delivered impact against identified outcomes.

To support development of the community and voluntary providers, you will be guided through this process by the VRU team, however, as part of the application you will be asked to demonstrate your willingness to work with an evaluation partner, including adhering to any data sharing requirements.

Other

The PCC, in partnership with the VRU, is delivering a Youth Work Strategy and related programme of work which seeks to provide equity of access to training and development to those delivering youth provision in the voluntary and community sector. The purpose of this is to build consistent high-quality standards of youth work in the youth diversion space, reduce serious violence, and increase community safety. For further information please visit [Our Youth Work Strategy | Violence Reduction Unit \(nottsvru.co.uk\)](https://nottsvru.co.uk)

As part of the funding agreement you may be asked to complete minimum basic youth work training, including safeguarding, first aid and GDPR, this will be provided free of charge. In addition, there will be opportunity for your organisation to be supported to work towards achieving the Quality Endorsement Framework which provides a pathway for development for community organisations and can support your organisation in evidencing the quality of your service for young people.