

2022-25



**Rural Crime
Thematic Call for Proposals**

July 2022



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Introduction

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire (the PCC) is seeking to fund third sector organisations to provide projects and initiatives that will help to prevent rural crime, improve confidence to report rural crime and better support victims in our rural communities.

We know that rural crime is a huge issue affecting some of our most vulnerable and isolated communities in Nottinghamshire – and one that so often goes overlooked.

The Commissioner is committed to 'levelling up' our response to rural crime in Nottinghamshire, with a view to improving public confidence in the police, victim satisfaction and our knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting rural communities. The Commissioner's Make Notts Safe Plan sets out a range of specific objectives for the 2021-25 period, which include activity to:-

- Improving our engagement with rural communities in understanding, tackling and preventing rural crime
- Enhancing our service response to those most adversely affected by rural crime and crime in rural communities
- Improving the reporting of crime and ASB among rural communities and ensure victims have confidence that action that will be taken as a result
- Work with Notts Victim CARE to ensure that victims of rural crime are able to access support services

To help deliver these objectives, the PCC would like to invest in community led projects and initiatives that aim to improve the local response to rural crime and the experience of victims of crime and ASB in rural communities.

This themed funding round will Fund community-led programmes of activity designed to help prevent rural crime, improve confidence to report rural crime and improve the overall service response to victims of crime in rural communities.

Multi-year funding is available, with up to £100,000 to be allocated between December 2022 and March 2025 to tackle Rural Crime across Nottinghamshire.

Context

Rural crime can be broadly defined as 'any crime that takes place in a rural location as classified by the ONS definition for rural and urban localities, or as identified by the victim'. More specifically, however, the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) has highlighted the following offences as national rural crime priorities¹:-

- Farm machinery, plant & vehicle theft
- Livestock offences

¹ NPCC Rural Affairs Strategy 2018 to 2021

- Fuel theft
- Equine crime
- Fly-tipping
- Poaching – including hare coursing, angling and riverside crime

A wide range of other crime and ASB issues are also known to disproportionately impact upon rural communities, including anti-social use of off-road vehicles², arson, heritage crime, fly grazing and badger persecution. Furthermore, we know that rural isolation can also compound the impact of many personally targeted crimes such as domestic and sexual abuse.

A survey undertaken in Nottinghamshire by the National Farmers Union in 2021 found that around 75% of respondents had experienced a rural crime in the last 18 months, with each victim experiencing on average 4.3 crimes during the period. 60% of farmers responding to the survey had been victims of fly-tipping whilst nearly half (49%) had experienced trespass. Cyber-crime (28%) and criminal damage (26%) were also offences commonly experienced by respondents. On average the cost of crime experienced by respondents over the 18 month period was around £6,600 per victim.

The PCC and force have invested significantly in additional rural crime resources since the launch of the Police and Crime Plan in 2021. This has included additional accredited Wildlife Crime Officers, a team of rural special, training for Neighbourhood Policing Teams in responding to the issue of off-road bikes and the development of a rural crime toolkit which is now available to all officers on their mobile devices.

Local engagement has highlighted a legacy of distrust in the police 101 non-emergency service among some victims of rural crime which our services have worked hard to overcome. Despite this, there remain significant opportunities to increase use of digital crime reporting tools among our rural communities and awareness of apps such as ‘what3words’ which enable farmers and landowners to better identify precise incident locations in rural localities.

Nottinghamshire Police have increased the level and quality of engagement with rural communities over recent years. This has included the introduction of ‘farmhouse kitchen’ meetings to give farmers and landowners the opportunity to discuss the issues that matter most to them and explain how rural crime affects them financially and emotionally. Still, we know that more can be done to empower residents to share information more effectively and better protect themselves from crime – including for example the use of crime prevention tools, trackers and community schemes such Farm Watch and Horse Watch.

² Anti-social use of off-road vehicles increased significantly during the period of Coronavirus Restrictions in 2020 and 2021

Scope

The PCC is seeking to fund projects and initiatives that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- **Crime prevention projects** to reduce the risk of rural crime either via physical crime prevention measures or through the dissemination of information and advice
- **Community engagement** activity to increase trust and confidence in the police among rural communities and improve confidence or opportunities to report crime and ASB
- **Education and professional development** to better equip police and practitioners in understanding the issues and needs of rural communities
- **Work with Notts Victim CARE** to ensure rural victims are able to access support services.

Outcomes and evaluation

Outcomes

We are particularly interested in interventions which seek to impact some or all of the following outcomes for participants:

- Improvements in the police and partnership response to rural crime locally
- Increases in the proportion of rural crime reported to police
- Increases in trust and confidence in the police in rural localities
- Improvements in satisfaction and service outcomes among victims of rural crime
- Reduction in the prevalence and risk of rural crime

Evaluation

It is important to the PCC that we are able to add to the local evidence base around what works in this area and demonstrate impact against public spending. Therefore, successful providers will be expected to work closely with a member of the OPCC to ensure that the necessary tools are in place to measure and evaluate success.

Other

Successful providers will be expected to cooperate with statutory partners within existing frameworks and delivery structures where necessary and appropriate.