



POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
for Leicestershire

Prevention | Partnership | Protection

The PCC's Violence Reduction Network (VRN) Community Fund 2020/21

Information Pack and Guidance Notes



THE VRN COMMUNITY FUND GUIDANCE NOTES



What is the VRN Community Fund?

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) was established in September 2019 by Leicestershire's OPCC following a successful application to the Home Office for grant funding. This year's fund is focussed towards re-engaging and supporting vulnerable young people as part of the COVID19 recovery effort with a view to prevent a variety of negative outcomes including public place violence.

The core function of the VRN Network is to:

To offer leadership, establish a core membership and, working with all relevant agencies operating locally, provide strategic coordination of the local response to serious violence.

A key element to the VRN's work is supporting communities to build capacity and contribute to preventing violence across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We have therefore allocated funding for a small grants programme, specifically aimed at supporting community-based grass-root organisations and groups to develop initiatives that support violence reduction or prevention within a local community.

The main focus of the Violence Reduction Network is youth violence (up to 25 years of age) in public spaces and in particularly serious youth violence.

In line with the VRN's overall preventative approach, applications should focus on one or more types of prevention:

1. Primary Prevention: work with young people and/or communities to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.
2. Secondary Prevention: intervening early where there are concerns around violence to prevent its progression or escalation.
3. Tertiary Prevention: work aimed at enabling those already directly affected by violence, either as a victim and/or perpetrator, to recover and build a life free from violence.

It is important to note:

A priority of the VRN is to build community capacity and support young people transition back into public life as COVID19 restrictions ease but social distancing measures remain in place. Therefore applications and provision are encouraged to be flexible and should demonstrate that as social restrictions change, provision can adjust and continue.

We are interested in applications that seek to re-engage and support vulnerable young people with a view to prevent a variety of negative outcomes including preventing public place violence. This includes applications which seek to address known risk factors and protective factors of violence. For example, working with those with low school attendance or close to exclusion, those living in deprived areas or young people not in employment, education or training.

Grants must be used to fund a new initiative or project and applications should not duplicate what existing partners may be delivering in their area.

The initiative/ project must be delivered anywhere between the beginning of September 2020 and 31st March 2021. All funds awarded must be spent by 31st March 2021.

How much funding is available?

In this round, there is a total of £65,000 available. The intention is that this money will be allocated by the end of August 2020.

All initiatives/ projects must be delivered by 31st March 2021. It should be noted that the total amount is an indicative guide to the funding available and is subject to change.

You may apply for funding up to the value of £5,000. However, in order to support as many projects and initiatives as possible, only one grant payment per organisation will be awarded for projects.

Who can apply?

We are interested in applications from areas where there are higher risks and/ or incidents of youth violence. Therefore some justification of this should be made in the application. We are particularly interested in applications which cover Charnwood and Leicester City neighbourhoods, but not exclusively.

Applicants must demonstrate a knowledge and affiliation to the area where the funding is being spent. For example, the organisation may be based in the area or founded in the area holding a strong connection to those who would benefit from the funding.

Applicants are advised to check the detail of the Funding Agreements to ensure that they can comply with the terms and conditions associated with the funding. The funding Agreements can be found with the application documents [here](#).

If you would like to discuss anything in more detail, please email the VRN Team, FAO Ivan Liburd at vrn@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

What can the funding be used for?

The funding can be used for a variety of costs including staffing, training, activities for young people, investing in new approaches/ techniques, engagement activity, publicity, educational material. Core costs such as utility bills will not be covered.

All initiatives/ projects must target and benefit a cohort of young people up to 25 years of age.

What is the application process?

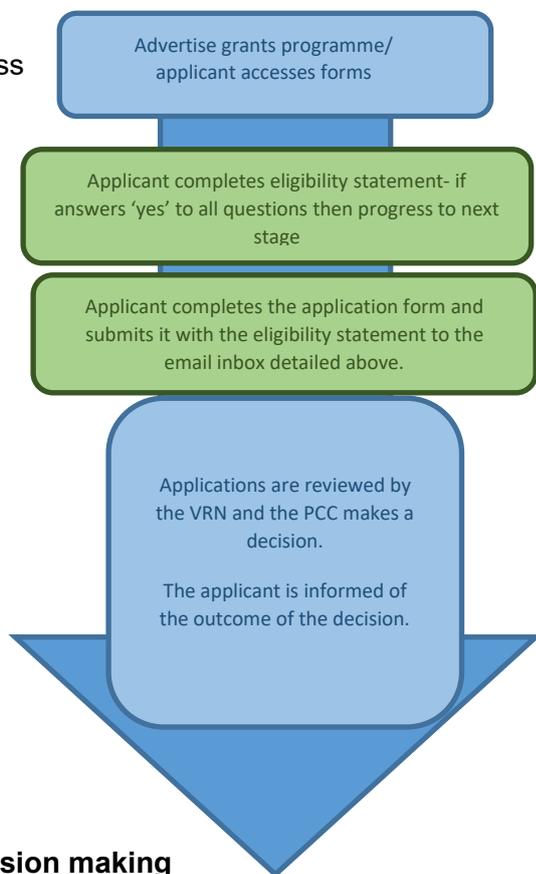
The funding opportunity will be available from 28th July 2020 and will have a deadline of 25th August 2020 (11:59pm) to apply. All documents related to the application process can be found on the VRN website [here](#).

Interested parties must first complete the Eligibility Statement, if marked 'Yes' against all criteria, then applicants can progress to and complete an Application Form. Both the Eligibility Statement and the Application Form should be submitted by email to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Violence Reduction Network via email to vrn@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Once submitted, applicants will receive an email response acknowledging safe receipt of their application. Please complete the form in font size 11 and stick to the stated word limits on all questions as anything over the word limit will be deleted prior to marking.

Throughout the Eligibility Statement and Application Form there are information points  which give more clarity on what information is required in that particular section.

The Grants Process



Scoring and decision making

Each application received will be reviewed and evaluated for consideration by the VRN/OPCC. The application will be scored according to a pre-determined scoring scheme. Each question will be assessed and given a score 0-4 (as per the table below) and then a weighting will be applied.

Score	Criteria
0	The response did not meet any of the requirements
1	The response did not meet the requirements, but had some detail and/or evidence.
2	The response meets the basic requirements but could have been expanded upon with a little more detail and/or evidence.
3	The response meets the requirements with relevant detail and clear evidence
4	The response meets the requirements with relevant detail, strong evidence and additional supporting content.

Each question has a weighting, either 'High', 'Medium' or 'Low' (to determine which weighting applies, please refer to the questions in the application form).

We will also consider whether the project represents direct duplication of another successful bid currently in delivery. Taking into account the whole bid, the VRN/OPCC reserves the right to refuse applications on this basis.

When will I know if my application has been successful?

If successful, applicants will receive an email which will state that the funding application has been agreed, the level of funding, and setting out the next steps. Unsuccessful applicants will receive an email stating that their application has not been successful.

Applications will be evaluated and we aim to notify applicants by the 28th August 2020. The VRN's decision is final and there will be no appeals process.

If I am successful what are the next steps?

Funding agreement

If you are successful you will receive a funding agreement. We will request that your organisation signs the agreement and returns it to the VRN.

Payment

Once we are in receipt of the funding agreement we will make arrangements to transfer the funding into your nominated bank account. Funding will be paid up front at the beginning of the delivery period.

Monitoring

Projects awarded funding will be required to capture monitoring information. This will include capturing information on the number of people engaged, the difference the project has made to young people. By accepting this grant funding, you will also be required to support the VRN with evaluation activity.

It may be useful to capture age, ethnicity, photographs are also a good way to capture the essence of who was involved in the project.

A member of the VRN will also visit the project whilst in action, which may include taking promotional photographs. However, we will be sensitive to the willingness of participants to take part in photographs.