

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMBERSIDE  
DECISION RECORD**

Decision Record Number: 17/2020

Title: **Project Nova – Humberside support team**

**Executive Summary:**

Project Nova is seeking the support of the Humberside PCC in funding to support the sustainability of the Humberside team. Project Nova have made applications to CSP Crime Reduction Fund but were unable to demonstrate local impact fully due to the services being delivered throughout the Humberside Force footprint.

The service has a significant funding gap that threatens the sustainability of the Humberside team. COVID has also presented further challenges and demand for service has increased and is expected to continue to do so.

Project Nova has a track record of effectively engaging with a known vulnerable group and providing tailored support to help reduce the risk of offending behaviour.

**Decision:**

To fund Project Nova to the sum of £48,000 to cover the funding gap identified for 202/21.

**Background Report:** Open

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside**

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above decision has my approval.

**Signature**



**Date 01.12.2020**

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

**SUBMISSION FOR: DECISION**

**OPEN**

**Title: Project Nova – Humberside support team**

**Date: 02 November 2020**

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**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1. Project Nova is seeking the support of the Humberside PCC in funding to support the sustainability of the Humberside team. Project Nova have made applications to CSP Crime Reduction Fund but were unable to demonstrate local impact fully due to the services being delivered throughout the Humberside Force footprint.
- 1.2. The service has a significant funding gap that threatens the sustainability of the Humberside team. COVID has also presented further challenges and demand for service has increased and is expected to continue to do so.
- 1.3. Project Nova has a track record of effectively engaging with a known vulnerable group and providing tailored support to help reduce the risk of offending behaviour.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. It is recommended that the OPCC provides £48,000 to cover the funding gap identified in the 2020/21 period.

**3. Background**

- 3.1. Project Nova is the first programme of its kind to support veterans who have been arrested, at risk of arrest or deemed vulnerable. Experience has demonstrated that veterans do not engage with mainstream support as they do not feel that their life experience is well understood. As a result, veterans in the criminal justice system are largely unsupported.
- 3.2. Project Nova employ a locally based team that currently provide practical and emotional support. The team work with those within the justice system, through out of court disposals, and once they have left custody. Work is focussed on improving social stability, health and wellbeing and employment. This continues through to securing sustainable employment. Referrals are received through the following routes;
  - Automated Police Custody referrals
  - Liaison & Diversion referrals
  - Automated Voluntary Attendance referrals

- Community Police referrals
- Domestic Abuse/Violence referrals
- NPS/CRC referrals
- HMPPS referrals
- Specialist Partner referrals
- Self-Referrals

3.3. Project Nova is unique in combining support for social stability and health and wellbeing, with a clear route into employment. It is operated by RFEA staff with a blend of experience from the armed forces, Criminal Justice System and other charities. Staff are skilled at engaging with veterans to understand their experience of military service, their lives before they joined the armed forces, and their transition back to civilian life. Veterans who have criminal records face a considerable barrier to employment and the team are expert at working to support those that face a longer a complex journey back to work.

3.4. Project Nova has been operational across Humberside (North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Kingston upon Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire) since 2016. The team face a funding gap across Humberside and are in need of support to sustain delivery and adapt support to reduce violence amongst veterans before they reach crisis point.

3.5. In a 12-month period (2018 – 2019) 616 detainees disclosed military service, with 32% of those consenting to a Project Nova referral in Humberside. Of the 2 Male Local prisons in the region, 9% of prisoners at HMP Hull, and 8% of prisoners at HMP Lincoln disclosed military service to the HMCIP as part of the prisoner population survey. In 2018 Humberside Police looked into how many of those ex-Military that engaged with Project Nova went on to re-offend by receiving an additional court disposal. 6.5% of those that engaged with Project Nova received an additional court disposal 93.5% went on living a law-abiding life.

3.6. The COVID-19 situation also poses additional challenges. With unemployment rates expected to jump to near 10% there are expected increases in demand for Project Nova services. Some of the current funders for particular programmes have had to reduce their pledged funding due to a lack of incoming public donations.

3.7. Project Nova has running costs in Humberside of approx. £60k a year. Approx. 20% of these costs are met directly from contracts. The remainder is drawn from the charities reserves. Without finding the remaining 80% funding reserves will deplete fully and risk the service being unsustainable.

#### **4. Options**

- 1) Do nothing - The decision not to make an award of funding could mean that the Project Nova service scales down at a time where demand is increasing.
- 2) Make a partial contribution – The decision to reduce the amount offered will result in much the same outcome as doing nothing, although the impact will be delayed proportionately.

- 3) Fully fund – the decision to fully fund is the preferred option to ensure that the service is able to be maintained to the standards we have come to recognise.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The preferred option requires a commitment of £48,000 for the financial year 20/21.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1. None.

## **7. Driver for Change/Contribution to Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan**

The decision to fund directly delivers against all aspects of the Police and Crime Plan. Project Nova has demonstrated a track record of reducing the reoffending rate for those that engage in their services positively impacting Aim 1 with fewer potential victims of the crimes committed. It also supports Aim 1 in supporting a successful service delivery partnership and providing services that identify and respond to existing and emerging threat of risk and harm. Experience has shown that veterans often fail to engage with mainstream services and therefore working with Project Nova can assist in bridging the gap between the individual and the services they need via a trusted partner such as Project Nova, thus contributing to Aim 2 in helping build confidence in agencies involved in creating safer communities. Finally the programme can also contribute to Aim 3 as many of the veterans may also have been victims of crime themselves and are often found to be within the most vulnerable groups and requiring specialist support.

## **8. Equalities Implications**

- 8.1. This funding provides direct support for those that may be deemed to be vulnerable including women.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1. The police force and wider partners are extremely supportive of the provision of Project Nova services in the area and have demonstrated this in the high levels of referrals made by the force.

## **10. Media information**

- 10.1. There are no immediate media implications for this decision.

## 11. Background documents

11.1. None

## 12. Publication

12.1. Open

This matrix provides a simple check list for the things you need to have considered within your report. If there are no implications please state

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, OPCC officer(s) etc. prior to submitting this report for official comments	N/A
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget?	Y
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Y
The report is approved by the relevant Chief Officer	Y
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	N/A
I have liaised with Corporate Communications on any communications issues	N/A
I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	N/A
I have included any equalities, diversity and or human rights implications within the report	Y
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	N/A
I have included information about how this report contributes to the delivery of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan	Y

