
To: North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority

On: 16 December 2016

Report by: Chief Officer

Heading: Allocation of Additional Criminal Justice Social Work
Section 27 Grant Allocation 2016/17 to Local Authorities

1. Summary

- 1.1** On 9th June 2016, The Scottish Government wrote to the Chief Officer advising him that an additional allocation of Section 27 Grant has been approved by the Justice Secretary totally £4 million of which the NSCJA share was £393,683. The letter indicated the £4 million was a resources transfer from the Scottish Prison Service for the purpose of reducing reoffending. See Appendix 1.
- 1.2** The letter arrived too late for it to be considered at the June meeting on NSCJA which was held on the 10th June but following an informal discussion with members at the meeting, it was agreed that the Chief Officer should advise the local authorities of their indicative allocation to enable them to begin planning to use the additional grant albeit the formal allocation would not be approved by NSCJA until its next meeting on 9th September. As it is Section 27 funding there can be no carryover beyond 31st March 2017.
- 1.3** The Chief Officer has provided indicative allocations based on the Local Authorities share of the 2016/17 Core Section 27 Grant which NSCJA approved on 10th June 2016. These allocations are as follows

Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires CJ Partnership	£161,410
East Renfrewshire	£ 23,621
Inverclyde	£ 70,863
Renfrewshire	£137,789
Total	£393,683

- 1.4** The letter (appendix 1) also states that the additional funding should be used in consultation with the new local community justice partners, stakeholders and the third sector, to address local priorities.

Finally the letter requests that the Chief Officer reports back to the Scottish Government by 30th September advising what plans have been made to spend the additional grant.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Authority is asked to note the content of this report.
- 2.2** Approve the allocation of the additional grant as 1.3 and request the Treasurer makes arrangements to align payments accordingly.
- 2.3** Request that the Chief Officer provide an update report to the December board meeting on how local authorities have used the additional grant.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 give the CJA the power to allocate to the constituent local authorities any amount paid to it under Section 27 a(1) and 27 b (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. The aim of this funding arrangement is to match resources against priorities described within the Area Plan to reduce reoffending.
- 3.2** Core funding is intended to provide grant for these statutory duties which local authorities have to provide through their criminal justice social work services. Non core funding is used to fund local pilot schemes which have been agreed by the CJA and other projects which have been initiated centrally by the Scottish Government.
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Implications of the Report

Equality & Human Rights

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Authorities website.

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9 June 2016

Dear Mr Hunter

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL GRANT FOR COMMUNITY SENTENCES 2016-17

I am writing to inform you that an additional allocation of ring fenced funding to your Community Justice Authority (CJA) for Community Sentences for the financial year 2016-17 has been approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

This follows a meeting of COSLA Leaders on 3 June, where the principles for this allocation and methodology for distribution was discussed and agreed. The funding has been allocated using the current Community Justice funding formula which is based on statutory workloads and needs and has been distributed accordingly.

This update has been issued in advance of a press release on **15 June 2016** and I would ask that any local communications around this funding is embargoed until after this date.

The funding has become available to reduce reoffending through reinvestment in prevention and alternatives to custody. This investment represents a significant reinvestment of cash releasable savings from the Scottish Prison Service to tackle reoffending.

This funding for Community Sentences is in addition to the funding allocated on 1st April 2016 but has been approved in line with the delivery context of the new model for community justice to meet local priorities and needs, in consultation with local community justice partners and stakeholders and the Third Sector.

Your confirmed additional allocation for 2016-17 is **£393,683**. This funding is provided under sections 27A and 27B of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 as amended. Chief Officers, as budget holders, are responsible for the effective financial management of the funds allocated to their CJA, and for resource allocations across their constituent local authorities.

This funding is being provided by the Scottish Government to your CJA in order to allow you to discharge your statutory duties and to work towards reducing reoffending in your CJA area. The Cabinet Secretary is keen to learn and share how this investment is being utilised and would welcome an update on the use of this additional resource. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide a brief summary of plans agreed by your CJA Board on how this funding will be deployed during 2016/17, by the 30 September 2016.

The funding must be utilised 2016/17, as no carry over is permitted under the Section 27 funding arrangements. It would also be helpful for an early indication of any potential underspend in the update in September for planning purposes.

Please contact Michelle Main (tel: 0131 244 5439) if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



STEPHEN HARPER