

**FOI ref no:** SCO/FOI/042/2023

**Date:** 8 November 2023

Dear Applicant,

**Freedom of Information request: reference SCO/FOI/042/2023 first notified to us by email on the 25 October 2023.**

Please supply the following information, under the FOI Act.

What is the Police and Crime Commissioner currently doing to combat knife crime?  
Please supply details of current initiatives.

What has been spent (£) on these initiatives?  
Please supply figures for the past five years (calendar or financial) -- from 2018 to the present.

**Staffordshire Commissioner's Office response to your enquiry is as follows:**

Serious Violence, including knife crime has been a focus for Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) since 2018, forming a key priority of the local Police and Crime Plan. To compliment this, a multi-agency Serious Violence Strategy was launched in 2020, resulting in the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Violence Reduction Alliance (VRA) being established. The VRA is a multi-agency partnership focussed on stopping serious violence before it begins.

By approaching the issue as a public health problem, the VRA aim to achieve sustainable reductions in serious violence and improve the health and quality of life of all people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. This means properly understanding the issue and local needs; addressing the risk factors that increase the likelihood of somebody becoming an offender or a victim of serious violence. As such, prevention is central to the approach. This requires the involvement of a range of partners including health, public health, commissioning groups, education, local authorities, police, criminal justice agencies, the voluntary sector and, importantly, the communities of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

In January 2023, the VRA became the accountable body for delivering the Governments Serious Violence Duty, and the Staffordshire PFCC continues to be responsible for convening the partnership.

Many of the pan Staffordshire initiatives supported by both the VRA and the PFCC are focussed on broad prevention activity; addressing the causes of offending and supporting victims. For example, the Office commissions a service for children and young people at risk of violence and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE); this includes A & E and Custody Navigator, 121 support and targeted education. The PFCC funds two Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Coordinators to support the development of consistent, quality assured resources for use in education and youth establishments. The Coordinators focus on broad PSHE subjects, while also addressing specific issues including knife crime, county lines and exploitation.

The VRA are supported by a business analyst who assists with identifying the strategic needs relating to serious violence; and a Communications and Engagement Officer who works with partners to develop/promote campaigns including Ditch the Blade, and leads engagement with communities.

Staffordshire Commissioners Office, Ground Floor, Block 9, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0YY

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In light of the Serious Violence Duty, the VRA have recently undertaken a refresh of their Strategy and aim to launch this in January 2024. The Strategy will build on the achievements to date; and will be supported by a delivery plan and initiatives to address serious violence and knife crime.

In terms of the information currently held by the Commissioner's office, I can also confirm the following specifics based on the parameters provided.

Organisation	Description	Amount
<b>2022</b>		
SCVYS	Consultation with Children and Young People to inform professionals on the issues and concerns young people have around violence/knife crime within their community and online	£9,000
Parent Group	Consultation with Parents and Carers to inform professionals on the issues and concerns they have around violence/knife crime within their community and online	£1,000
Staffordshire Police	Enhanced First Aid kits in Police operational vehicles to enable control the bleed in circumstances where there is a penetrative wound, including knife/blade	£6,577.50
<b>2023</b>		
Safer Streets Round Four	East Staffordshire for Virtual Reality Education and Diversionary Project.	£4,990
	Virtual Reality Education programmes focussed on Knives and Gangs	£35,585

#### Locality Deal Funding 2018 to present date

	2023/24 Anticipated Spend				2022/23 Spend			
Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	Locality Deal Funding (LDF)	Narrative	ASB Reduction Fund £	Community Change Fund £	LDF 22/23 £	Narrative	ASB Reduction Fund £	Community Change Fund £
Cannock	£ 18,230.00	Loudmouth School education, range of subjects incl Knife Crime.	2,000.00		£ 6,750.00	Loudmouth School education, range of subjects incl Knife Crime		
Lichfield	£ 10,000.00	Knife Angel, education & bleed kits						
East Staffs								
Moorlands	£ 3,000.00	Violence incl bleed kits						
Newcastle		Knife Bins		2,250.00				
South Staffs								
Stafford								
Stoke					£ 15,700.00	Knife crime school education via VR		
Tamworth	£ 14,500.00	Public Place Violence incl education & knife crime						
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 45,730.00</b>		<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>2,250.00</b>	<b>£ 22,450.00</b>			

#### Proceeds of Crime Funding - 2018 to present date

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POCA 2018-19 Round 2	Burton Albion Community Trust	#Knifefree	<p>The #knifefree project has been designed by a consortium of partners utilising sanitised gang and knife crime data from Staffordshire Police consisting of the following components;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Community Engagement</li> <li>• Campaign</li> <li>• Professionals</li> <li>• Ambassador</li> </ul> <p>#knifefree Education The project aims, through workshops, assemblies and PHSE lessons to raise awareness of gang and knife crime within young people aged 10 – 23 years old.</p> <p>#knifefree Community Engagement We will deliver targeted workshops and interventions to at-risk communities by utilising BACT's multi-sport, community based, diversionary project Kicks and attach workshops from partners and PCSO visits to deliver key messages.</p> <p>#knifefree Campaign We will utilise national campaign resources and work alongside local authority, transport services and community partners to share key messages using posters, social media and local ambassadors.</p> <p>knifefree Professionals This is a forum for professionals from a variety of sectors to learn about #knifefree East Staffordshire, share best practice and explore interventions.</p> <p>#knifefree Ambassador were really pleased to have agreed with Burton born boxer and Commonwealth Gold Medallist Frazer Clarke that he will be our #knifefree ambassador</p>	EI	East Staffordshire	£12,290.00

POCA 2020-21 Round 1	Burton Albion Community Trust	Our Community	<p>Through our strong working relationship with Central Jamia Misjad Rizvia Mosque on Uxbridge Street we will provide sport and activity sessions to adults and young people from this ward and from East Staffordshires BAME community. The session will target -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will provide evening/weekend football sessions – 2 hour football sessions at Anglesey Primary School including workshops around community matters like Knife Crime, Addiction, Gangs etc</li> <li>• We will provide sport and exercise sessions to young people during Education time (5pm-7pm) at Central Jamia Misjad Rizvia Mosque – Multi Sport and Fitness Sessions</li> <li>• We will provide Street Cricket Weekly sessions - 2 hour cricket sessions at Anglesey Primary School including workshops around community matters like Knife Crime, Addiction, Gangs etc</li> <li>• We will provide Women only fitness sessions</li> <li>• We will deliver a community engagement event/tournament at the Pirelli Stadium – Community Engagement event for the whole of Burton and East Staffordshire including Football Tournament/Community Stands (Police/Fire Service/NHS/Service Providers).</li> </ul> <p>Anglesey Ward is a high priority ward for the community safety partnership and, although it has seen a slight decrease in anti-social behaviour in the last year, community engagement and</p>	EI	Esst Staffs	£10,000

#### People Power Fund – 2018 to present date

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PPF 2019-20 Round 1	Achieve Inspire & Motivate CIC	Drug Talk	<p>AIM CIC is looking to apply for Police &amp; Crime Commissioner Funding – The People Power Fund to deliver a series of primary prevention stage workshops around Drugs &amp; Alcohol Education. These workshops will utilise the teaching qualifications of the Directors of AIM and cover a range learning techniques including auditory, visual, written and kinesthetic. The following learning objectives will be delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying different drugs and their types.</li> <li>Understanding the implications in law of drinking, smoking and drugs.</li> <li>Identifying the effects alcohol, smoking, drugs and its impact on personal safety and health. The impact on wider society e.g. Grooming, Life Chances, County Lines &amp; Knife Crime.</li> </ul> <p>Researching &amp; Evaluation of Learning via Group Presentations. Prior to developing this area of work further, the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner Office suggested we undertake research to identify if there is a clear gap in this area of service provision. Upon contacting the Community Safety Team at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, we were informed they do not fund this area of work as this type of work is commissioned by the County Council via T3. We challenged this by informing the Community Safety Team, it was our understanding T3 interventions are mainly secondary stage work e.g. when a young person is referred to them, they work with them one to one. This was reaffirmed by T3 when we contacted them directly (see email evidence).</p> <p>We have therefore concluded that there appears to no other agencies delivering a consistent message in terms of prevention work in the Moorlands since the Youth &amp; Community Service (funded via the Community Safety Partnership) was decommissioned 4 years ago.</p>	EI	Staffordshire Moorlands	£2,000.00
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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this email and should be addressed to:

Independent Review Manager  
Staffordshire Commissioner's Office  
Block 9, Staffordshire Police HQ  
Stafford  
ST18 0YY

Or emailed to: [FOI.PFCC@staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk](mailto:FOI.PFCC@staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Decision Maker**