

Evaluation of Safer Communities 'Microgrants' Office of the PCC for Cheshire



Overview

To support the future roll-out of microgrants in 2018 by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Cheshire an evaluation of the Safer Communities Fund (SCF) was carried out across the county over a five week period in winter 2017, to assess:

- Whether the objectives and outcomes of funded projects align to the priorities of the Police & Crime Plan 2016-21.
- Whether objectives and outcomes of funded projects have been fulfilled and how the community benefitted from the project.
- What learning can be taken from the funding process and how projects spend the grant.
- How small funding pots of this nature could be made more accessible to certain groups / individuals who haven't received funding.
- Any recommendations to improve the SCF.

What we did

The independent evaluator was able to:

- Conduct 28 interviews with both unsuccessful applicants and grantees (see logos above).
- Draft and circulate a Grant Impact Form, for grantees to self complete in November 2017.
- Review and analyse management data associated with the funding process.

- Draft, amend and finalise a report for circulation to the OPCC Chief of Staff and the PCC in December 2017.

Outcomes & added value

Five key areas for improvement and development were presented in the report:

- Recommendation 1: The need for clearer feedback to unsuccessful applicants, to encourage more relevant future applications.
- Recommendation 2: A review of the OPCC approach to site visits, to improve two-way learning and how the PCC is perceived in terms of responsiveness.
- Recommendation 3: Greater clarity on project delivery timelines and more regular checks that projects are on track, to help flag any problems early and ensure a more timely response.
- Recommendation 4: More face-to-face networking opportunities for applicants, to encourage more effective collaborative working.
- Recommendation 5: Strengthen signposting to impact measurement tools and knowledge, to help projects evidence the benefits they have on communities.



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“MLR provided a high level of service which showed flexibility & commitment to complete the project in a short and challenging deadline”

Head of Policy & Partnerships,
OPCC for Cheshire

A 20 page summary report was accompanied by an Appendices document that included the:

- Proformas used in interviews.
- Grant Impact Form, circulated for completion.
- Draft End of Grant Impact Form for inclusion in future grant award packs.

The reporting is being used to help shape the future allocation of 2018 SCF grants and improve internal processes for managing grant funding to local communities and groups across Cheshire.

More information

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