



The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) Community Fund

Information Pack and Guidance Notes



POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER
for Leicestershire

Prevention | Partnership | Protection

THE VRN COMMUNITY FUND GUIDANCE NOTES



What is the VRN Community Fund?

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) was established in August 2019 following a successful application to the Home Office for a grant from the Serious Violence fund. The core function of the 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 including knife crime.

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.

A priority of the VRN is to build community capacity by increasing peer and community mentoring. Applications should therefore include an element of mentoring and a willingness to work with the VRN in developing a model which can be adopted by other groups and organisations. Additional support from the VRN will be offered to groups/organisations who are at the early stages of developing mentoring approaches.

Grants can be used to fund a new initiative or to develop existing initiatives/ projects.

The initiative/ project must commence and be delivered between the dates of 1st January 2020 and 31st March 2020. All funds awarded must be spent by 31st March 2020.

How much funding is available?

In this round, there is a total of £50,000 available. The intention is that this money will be allocated by the end of December 2019. All initiatives/ projects must be delivered by 31st March 2020. 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 particularly 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.

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 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, mentoring costs, activities for young people, investing in new approaches/ techniques, engagement activity, publicity, educational material. Any initiative/ project must include an element of peer and/ or community mentoring.

All initiatives/ projects must target and benefit those up to 25 years of age.


The initiative/ project must commence and be delivered between the dates of 1st January 2020 and 31st March 2020. All funds awarded must be spent by 31st March 2020.

What is the application process?

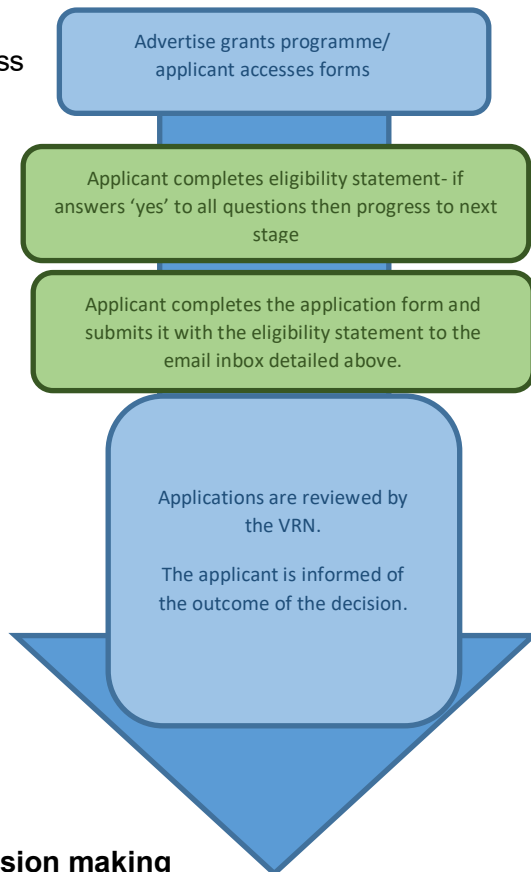
The funding opportunity will be available from 20th November and will have a deadline of 17th December to apply. All documents related to the application process can be found on the VRN website [here](#).

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 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. 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 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 30th December 2019. 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, if successful, we will work with groups to identify what monitoring/ reporting is needed.

Monitoring will include capturing information on the number of people engaged with and the difference the project has made to young people. It may be useful to capture age, ethnicity, photographs are also a good way to capture the essence of who attended.