The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has a new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy for 2024 - 2026, with a priority being working in collaboration with young people to prevent and raise awareness of sexual violence. The OPCC, Violence Reduction Network (VRN) and the wider partnership are working in collaboration to support this initiative and have co-designed the new local VAWG Strategy with young people between the ages of 10 – 19 years old, from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR).

“Effective prevention must include early intervention to attempt to influence the right values in childhood and adolescence, as well as shifting attitudes to become less accepting of violence and inequality." (Page 5, OPCC VAWG Strategy).

We are offering funding for up to 25 community organisations within the LLR region to implement a specialised sexual violence prevention educational package. This initiative encompasses the SHUSH (Speaking Honestly to Understand Sexual Harm) and SHARA (Sexual Harm Awareness and Recognising Abuse) projects, which are designed for young people aged 10-19. The SHUSH project targets those aged 10-15 and focuses on essential topics such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, consent, personal space and boundaries, sexual harassment and assault, invasions of space, bystander approach, sexting, and grooming awareness. The SHARA project is aimed at 16-19-year-olds and delves into more complex subjects including the continuum of violence, gender perspectives on violence, misogyny, using a bystander approach, the impact of pornography, and managing rejection. Both projects aim to build the development of critical thinking and decision-making skills in young people. This approach is in direct response to the VRN’s strategic needs assessment, which identified that individuals aged 10-19 are the most likely to be both victims and perpetrators of sexual violence in the LLR area.

We have the capacity to offer £1,870 to each organisation selected for this programme. The funding is intended to reimburse organisations for the time spent on training and implementing the programmes into their curriculum. Eligible organisations must be community-based; schools, colleges, and universities are excluded, though pupil referral units are welcome to apply.

Comprehensive training will be provided for one lead facilitator and one co-facilitator from each organisation. This training will cover sexual violence awareness, relevant laws and disclosures, working with young people with special educational needs and disabilities on RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) topics, and effective communication with young people experiencing sexual violence. Additionally, a dedicated community engagement worker will be available to assist organisations in integrating the educational packages into their existing programs or curriculums. This support will ensure that the packages are delivered effectively, with ongoing feedback and guidance provided throughout the process.

We believe that by working directly with community organisations, which have established relationships with young people, this initiative will have a significant impact. The educational packages are designed to be incorporated into the organisation’s existing framework, thereby enhancing their effectiveness and sustainability. Interested organisations should demonstrate their capacity to deliver these programs and their commitment to preventing sexual violence among young people.

We are keen to receive applications from those community organisations working with children and young people within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and who meet the below outlined criteria. We will prioritise organisations who work with young people in the below priority areas:

* Charnwood
* Hinckley
* Bosworth
* East Leicester
* West Leicester

Applicants must meet all requirements listed below for eligibility.

**Requirements:**

Please click the box to indicate that you are agreeing to the requirements and will have the capacity to have these in place.

[ ]  Both the lead facilitator and co-facilitator must hold a valid DBS.

[ ]  Mandatory Training Dates: The lead facilitator must attend the following training dates: 24th & 25th February 2025 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Both lead and co facilitator are required to attend a full online training day on 27th February 2025, from 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM and another online full online training day on the 14th March 2025, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

[ ]  Your organisation must be based in the LLR region.

[ ]  Your organisation must have a safeguarding policy in place.

[ ]  You are required to complete pre and post session surveys to support evaluation data.

[ ]  You must be able to work with our community engagement worker to implement the educational packages between Feb 2025 and April 2025.

[ ]  You must be able to deliver a minimum of 2 sessions from the educational packages for up to a minimum of 10 young people between February 2025 and May 2025. This can be individually or as a group session. This will inform evaluation data from pre and post surveys.

 **Community Grant Round Application**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Organisation:** |  |
| **Type of Organisation:** |  |
| **Name of Individual Applying:** |  |
| **Role of Individual:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Telephone:** |  |
| **Organisation’s Website:** |  |
| **Organisation’s Social Media Details:** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Give a brief description of your organisation, including the community you are based in and your reach of young people: (500 words)**
 |
| 1. **How does your organisation engage with young people aged 10-19, and how do you plan to use this opportunity to expand or enhance your services? (500 words)**
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| --- |
| 1. **What makes your organisation well-suited to deliver the SHUSH and SHARA educational packages, even if you have no prior experience with sexual violence prevention? (500 words)**
 |
| 1. **How do you plan to utilise the training and support provided to effectively implement the SHUSH and SHARA programs within your organisation? (500 words)**
 |
| 1. **In what ways does your organisation currently support the well-being of young people, and how do you envision the SHUSH and SHARA programs complementing these efforts? (500 words)**
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| --- |
| 1. **How does your organisation plan to ensure inclusivity and accessibility when delivering the SHUSH and SHARA programs to diverse groups of young people? (500 words)**
 |

**Declaration:**

By submitting this application, we confirm that all information provided is accurate to the best of our knowledge and that we agree to participate in the VAWG initiative if selected.

We understand that incomplete or inaccurate applications may affect our eligibility for participation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Signature:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

**Note:**

Please send your completed application by 12pm, 27th January 2025, to:

**sharan.dhillon@leics.police.uk**