



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For PCC approval.

Title: Harm Reduction Union - Peer to Peer Naloxone Programme

Executive Summary:

In December 2019; the OPCC received a funding application via the Community Safety Initiative for £20,000 from Foundations to deliver a Peer to Peer Naloxone Project in Cleveland via the Harm Reduction Union (HRU) for a 12 month period.

Opiate based drugs are a key contributor to the high rates of drug related deaths in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, which have the highest rates nationally. Naloxone is a life-saving treatment that temporarily reverses the effects of an overdose from opiate based drugs.

In 2015 the Home Office published guidance on Naloxone being issued to people who take drugs as part of a 'Take Home Kit'. These kits can be acquired from substance misuse services, but there are drug users who do not access treatment services, and are at a greater risk of death due to the lack of contact with health care professionals, and support services that do not have access to Naloxone. To address the gap and meet the needs of this vulnerable group of people, Foundations have formed a Harm Reduction Union Peer to Peer Naloxone Project, which will involve a group of volunteers, who are themselves in recovery for their substance use, who will distribute the kits to those who need it most.

Foundations have stated that the key aims of the project are to:

- Reduce drug related deaths
- Increase access to meaningful recovery and support
- Reduction in drug related litter in communities
- Reduction in costs on public services
- Increase education and employment opportunities.

Foundations is the clinical delivery partner for Heroin Assisted Treatment, which was the first scheme of its kind to commence in England. The services of the organisation have been rated as 'outstanding' for care of vulnerable people, providing effective care via CQC at their Acklam Road site, and 'outstanding' overall for the care provided at their Harris Street site.

This proposal aligns with the OPCC's commitments to provide people with substance abuse issues the treatment and support they need, as stated in the Police and Crime Plan.

Funding was initially agreed by the OPCC to cover the twelve month period 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021. Due to the initial outbreak of COVID'19, and subsequent quarantine, Foundations were not in a position where they could operate the scheme. The new funding period will cover 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021.

Decision: To approve funding for the Harm Reduction Union upto the value of £20,000 between January 2021 and December 2021			
OPCC Lead Officer: Chris Guttridge, Commissioner's Officer for Crime, Offending and Justice			
Contractor Details (if applicable): Foundations			
Implications:			
Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(If yes please provide further details below)			

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's Chief Finance Officer where the decision has financial implications)

The funding that was initially approved to support this proposal is still available and therefore the proposal is affordable within the funding available to the PCC

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

Grant arrangements pursuant to the PCC's commissioning powers set out in s.143 Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The increased availability, and administration of Naloxone will safeguard people with social and health inequalities, and will be accessible to anyone regardless of background, gender, ethnic group, or sexual orientation.

Human Rights Implications

The administration of Naloxone reverses overdoses, and access to this treatment protects rights to life.

Sustainability Implications

OPCC funding will cover a twelve month period. Whilst operating the Harm Reduction Union, Foundations will explore alternative funding streams to become self-sustaining post 31st December 2021.

Risk Management Implications

The initiative will directly feed into the Tees-wide Preventing Drug Related Deaths Working Group. The Harm Reduction Union will also link in in with existing strategic groups hosted by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Community Safety Partnerships, Health & Wellbeing Board's.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed

Date 09/02/2021



Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed

Date 09/02/2021


