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Specification

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) Habitual Knife Carrier Evaluation

Lot 3

1. Context

As part of our regional work to prevent violence, West Midlands Police (WMP) and West Midlands VRP are running a pilot programme which supports the identification of habitual knife carriers (HKCs). The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) references individual forces having varying definitions of a habitual knife carrier (HKC) however the NPCC states "the focus is on identifying those who have been recently and repeatedly identified as carrying knives either by intelligence or following an arrest. These individuals can then be prioritised for enforcement and diversion".

The HKC Programme has been running since 2025 and is continually being reviewed and refined to ensure the right children are identified; the right process is in place to gain consent; and the children get access to the right level and type of intervention and support.

WMP and the VRP are keen to ensure that the process is as robust as possible in readiness for any national HKC scheme which may be introduced through Central Government. We want to understand the current process and identify where there are opportunities to improve it, such as how we can build into the process robust mechanisms to monitor outcomes and impact.

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2. Service Specific Requirements

We are seeking services from an individual and or team who have specialist experience in evaluation, policing and serious violence. The commissioned individual and or team will lead on a process evaluation for the habitual knife carrier programme, collaborating with WMP, WMVRP, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and local organisations. The process evaluation will explore areas where delivery can be improved and highlight aspects of delivery that are a success and provide recommendations for the future of the programme.

We are also seeking to potentially setup an impact evaluation of the programme in the future, but this is subject to funding. Therefore, alongside a process evaluation the commissioned individual or team will be required to produce recommendations on how a rigorous and methodological robust evaluation can be setup to assess impact in the future.

The individual and or team that is commissioned may be subject to vetting requirements. No access to police systems or personal data should be required for the outlined specification but due to the sensitivity of the programme vetting may be required. The WMVRP and WMP will help provide access to colleagues, partners and aggregated data where required.

3. Skills and Qualification Requirements

- Post graduate qualification or higher in social science, criminology, public health, data science, or a related research field.
- Background of working in policing and public environments and in-depth knowledge and understanding of policing and public sector environments.
- Strong technical expertise and analytical capability in standard office IT software and statistical analysis tools such as SPSS, Microsoft Excel, R or related statistical programmes.
- Detailed knowledge and extensive experience in implementing research methods, including both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

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- Ability to collect, manage, analyse and interpret data, synthesising data into understandable key recommendations to drive and influence change.
- Ability to produce clear high-quality reports designed to disseminate findings in a range of formats including but not limited to reports, presentations and infographics.
- Strong presentation and communication skills with experienced background in presenting complex research methods to a range of partners, stakeholders and decision makers.
- Experienced and detailed knowledge surrounding ethical and safeguarding practices such as informed consent, confidentiality, data protection legislation, GDPR and conducting ethical research.

4. Key Performance Indicators

- Set out proposed timeline of process evaluation by November 30th, 2026.
- Collaborate with VRP lead, VRP policing lead, VRP Data and Evaluation Manager and WMP staff at least once each to understand HKC process.
- High quality process evaluation report with key recommendations by March 2027.
- High quality proposed impact evaluation methodology by February 2027.

5. Key Deliverables and Timeline

- Monthly reviews: progress meetings with the WMVRP Data and Evaluation Manager.
- Draft process evaluation report: presented by 28th February 2027
- Final process evaluation report: completed by 31st March 2027.

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- Proposed impact evaluation methodology: completed by 28th February 2027.

6. Contract Price and Duration

This is a short-term contract scheduled to conclude on 31st March 2027, with a suggested budget envelope of around £15,000. There may be an option to extend the contract by up to a further year. This is subject to future VRP funding and need.