



Walking in their Shoes: Engaging volunteers with personal experience of vulnerability

Northumbria Constabulary & Bright Futures



1. PROJECT SUMMARY

The project aims to deliver and evaluate the recruitment and utilization of Police Support Volunteers with personal experience of vulnerability.

The pilot project will specifically trial a model of engaging sex workers as volunteers, to support improved community engagement and safeguarding.

2. KEY DELIVERABLES

The pilot project will trial a small-scale case study of engagement of sex workers as volunteers. It builds upon an existing engagement partnership project between Northumbria Police, Bright Futures and other local partners.

The trial will focus on evaluation in respect of key outcomes of (i) the benefits the project can bring in terms of user-led perspective on service development and delivery, and (ii) how the volunteering engagement and experience can help those participating personally.

3. PROJECT RESOURCING/TEAM/COSTINGS

Project Manager: Superintendent Sarah Pitt, Northumbria Police

The project has £15,000 allocated to Northumbria Police and their partners, to deliver expansion in delivery and to trial new models.

The evaluation of the project has an allocation of £10,000, and will be delivered by the Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice, with support from academics with expertise in the field of sex work.

4. TIMELINE

December 2017 – March 2018 – Project design and agreement of evaluation model

January 2018 – December 2018 – ‘Process evaluation’, ongoing as the project is designed, developed and delivers

February – July 2018 – Recruitment of volunteers and engagement of research participants

February – December 2018 – ‘Case study’, qualitative in-depth interview based fieldwork undertaken

January – February 2019 – Production of Findings Report.

5. EVALUATION PLAN

The methodology for the evaluation will be to undertake a small-scale case study. The research fieldwork will be primarily based upon interviews with the recruited volunteers, focused upon their perspectives and experiences.

There will also be a 'process evaluation' which will engage a range of deliverers and stakeholders across the project, to identify learning in terms of project implementation, and wider aspects of learning in terms of developing volunteering models with individuals who have experience of vulnerability.

6. PRODUCT

The project will produce guidance on future work engaging volunteers who have experience of vulnerability, based upon the Findings Report of the case study research, and upon the 'process evaluation' findings.