

Appendix A: Expression of Interest (EOI) Bid Form

Police STAR Fund: Expression of Interest
Project name
VAWG Reduction in Essex through the expansion of the Minerva Tool
Project summary Please summarise your proposal in 1-2 sentences (max 50 words)
This project will develop and evaluate Minerva to improve the way we identify and tackle VAWG incidents in public spaces. This project will further enhance the way police and partners decide where to place resource, add perceptions data to the Minerva tool and create an evaluation module to the project.
Project lead and point of contact
Project lead: C/Supt Andrew Waldie
Contact name (if different): Amanda Johnson
Email address: **S31(1)**; **S31(1)**; **S31(1)**
Which organisation are you from? (Please delete as appropriate)
Police Force (England and Wales)
How much funding are you requesting? (£) If you are seeking, or have, received other funding (e.g. from a previous STAR bid), provide details.
- STAR funding 2021/22 Bid No 49 £54,500 for Essex Police: VAWG Hate and Harm Mapping. Working with Nottingham Trent University to develop a model / Mapping tool which will identify geographical areas of greater vulnerability through evidence based statistical mapping, underpinned & evaluated by academia. - This bid is for: - Project costs: £15,500 - Academic support from NTU Costs: £73,406
What challenge or issue does your project address? (max 100 words)
- Tackling violence against women and girls through the further development of Minerva (previous STAR-funded project). - Change policing and partners' current approach and thinking towards VAWG. - Minerva has broadly delivered beyond initial expectations. We want to continue testing the efficacy and sustainability of delivery and partnership working to tackle issues and implement effective interventions.

- The project will contribute to service lines of crime prevention and analytics and target the 1 to 5 years horizon.
- Support the need for policing and partners to have the ability, capacity, and confidence to make decisions [David Shaw, Digital Policing Summit 2023].

[96]

What do you plan to do? Outline your method, who you will involve, and what the outcome will be (max 300 words)

- Build on the successful development of the Minerva Toolkit to support critical thinking, embed workable outcomes, and improve its maturity.
- Continue to build on the partnership of Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Police Fire & Crime Commissioner and Essex County Council with the Quantitative and Spatial Criminology Research Group at Nottingham Trent University. This has utilised academic research to enhance the VAWG evidence base for actual practitioners on the ground (police and local partners) and nationally.
- To showcase how Minerva encourages data and scientific analysis to provide an additional evidence base that challenges assumptions, shapes the narrative and targets intervention.
- To work towards the ambition of Sir Stephen House for policing to have access to, use and evaluate a broad spectrum of data, as the basis of decision making to help understand how and what resources to deploy; and that the use of data needs to go hand-in-hand with academic research.

The team wish to develop three components:

- To build on the partner support to policing developed in the Minerva project through the development of a **transferable practitioner's decision-making toolkit**. It will use behavioural science to look at the lessons from the initial Minerva rollout with partners. The aim will be to help partners navigate decision-making and become more data-literate and evidence-driven in their decision-making through a consistent and defined process.
- To enhance Minerva by **including perception data** around the fear of VAWG and the subsequent analysis required to build additional functionality and insights, which will assist in profiling VAWG and potentially vulnerable or risky locations.
- To **evaluate the impact of evidence-based interventions** using the functionality of the Minerva toolkit to (a) examine changes in VAWG incidents within the targeted zones; and (b) capture how it has challenged assumptions and transformed approaches to tackling VAWG.

[299]

What measurable difference will it make? Outline all direct and indirect benefits/deliverables (max 200 words)

1. The decision-making toolkit will assist more effective use of data by partners by helping to filter out options, guide their thought processes, identify implications of decisions, and help them consider where to target activity, implement sustainable and deliverable interventions.
2. Perception data inclusion will (a) enrich and develop the use of data to enhance a partnership approach, tackling a societal problem that moves beyond a 'crime-levels' focus; (b) enable the exploration of the relationship between VAWG levels and perceptions at the neighbourhood level; and (c) facilitate the evaluation of interventions upon both incidence and perception levels.
3. Develop a robust, science-based evaluation model of the data, interventions, and profiling to determine if there has been a sustainable drop in incidents in the targeted areas.
4. The evaluation model will provide better policy understanding for partners and avoid the fear of failure by (a) recognising that unsuccessful policy interventions constitute important learning too; and (b) by helping to continue to evidence where and how to target interventions and allocate resources on a solid intelligence-led basis.
5. Continue to challenge working assumptions around the drivers of VAWG and disrupt what policing and the partners think they know in a positive manner.

[200]

What risk and challenges are there to successful delivery of your project, and how will you mitigate them? [max 5 bullets]

- Provision of data-overload that stifles rather than enhances decision-making and understanding.
 - Mitigation: Provision of enhanced online support and workshops to guide partners using the enhanced Minerva toolkit and decision-making toolkit.
- Engagement of all 14 CSPs within a timely manner.
 - Mitigation: By having 14 CSPs we should get 80% of them fully engaged (based upon Minerva take-up to date).
- Obtaining the perception data – dependent upon public use of which ever data gathering tool we choose in the timescales provided and in sufficient volume to provide a statistically valuable data set. option we do.

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mitigation – Continued engagement with research (including alternative predictive modelling of other sources of perception data) and the established good comms routes beyond our usual lines and methods |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appetite for national rollout happens before the package is fully developed. There is increasing appetite to scale up MINERVA across other forces/constabularies. Rolling this out without appropriate wrap around support and full piloting with Essex would be detrimental to the partners involved.• Mitigation: This next funding round will ensure a full understanding of how to effectively demonstrate, implement and pull through the tool and support package into practices. It will also demonstrate how the MINERVA approach supports decision making, can be included in policy adaptation and can become a source of sustainable learning about these behaviours. |
| |