



8 December 2022

Dear Ms Schofield

Further to your letter dated 31 October concerning the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths and your requirement for me to respond to comments in your report about the REBOOT initiative, I can report as follows:

I named and launched the REBOOT initiative in 2019, as an early intervention youth programme and local response to the Government's Serious Violence Strategy. To do this, I secured one-off funding of £890,616 from the Home Office's Early Intervention Youth Fund to increase support for young people in Sussex who were at risk of becoming involved in serious violence. This additional funding was over and above the annual policing budget for Sussex and complimentary to the wider Sussex statutory services provided to young people delivered by local authorities and their youth justice and social services.

REBOOT was co-designed with local statutory and non-statutory partners and was aimed at complementing existing services provided by statutory agencies to identify young people showing signs of taking part in risky behaviours and on the periphery of becoming involved in serious violence. REBOOT was not intended as an alternative criminal justice pathway where a young person was already part of Youth Justice Service case load. It was acknowledged by all agencies at the outset that the additional funds, albeit significant, would be unlikely to satisfy the total demand across Sussex and, hence, only those young people displaying the greatest risk would take priority. Initially it was anticipated this funding would provide services for around 300 young people.

In order to prioritise and to have the most impact, young people are referred into REBOOT when starting to display the early signs of being at risk of becoming involved in crime and violence. These include but are not limited to: non-engagement with school; missing episodes; being part of a peer group coming to the attention of police; harmful risk taking; alcohol or drug use; and aggressive or impulsive behaviour. The programme engages positively with a small cohort of those aged between 10-17 years of age, at risk of committing serious violence, and those who have already come to the attention of the police through anti-social behaviour and low-level criminality. It is a strength-based programme which builds on the positive and protective factors in a young person's life.

The funding enabled REBOOT to be implemented and provided a range of extra resources to manage a target of 300 young people. The triaging process was conducted by dedicated REBOOT coordinators, supported by a dedicated REBOOT Sergeant embedded in Sussex Police structures. This involved looking into the young person's police history and understanding their involvement with the police to date. Often this included family history and past school incidents. Co-ordinators reviewed specific incidents further, to understand the young person's involvement and decipher whether they met the risky behaviours criteria for early intervention. If the young person's history was limited, and the recent incident met the criteria,

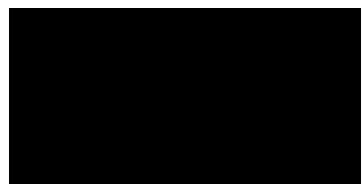
the Co-ordinators would conduct a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) check to understand their involvement with social services. If they were not open to social services, then this would be a successful candidate and they could be enrolled on the REBOOT programme.

The Home Office grant provided opportunities to test this initiative alongside constraints in terms of the volume of young people it could impact upon, as not every young person who comes to the attention of police can be referred onto the REBOOT programme.

Following on from the initial success of REBOOT, I funded the programme for an additional year in 2020/21 at a cost of £734,532 from my budget. During this period, the positive outcomes were verified and, in April 2021, co-ordination of the REBOOT scheme was migrated across to Sussex Police to become part of the embedded targeted response for the needs of young people in Sussex and funded from the force's core budget.

In terms of further action, in my role as the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, I have a statutory duty to hold the Chief Constable to account for policing in its totality and, at my monthly webcast Performance Accountability Meetings (PAM) I regularly scrutinise the Chief Constable over how Sussex Police responds to the risks of young people becoming involved in serious violence and will continue to do so. This scrutiny includes how REBOOT continues to play a part in such matters. The last time I enquired into REBOOT at a PAM was on 18th March 2022, the meeting and minutes can be viewed on the following link: [SPCC - Watch Live \(sussex-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner