



Reference No: 64-2016

## THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

### DECISION RECORD FORM

**REQUEST:** For PCC approval following agreement at the funding approvals meeting held on 21 March 2016

**Title:** Domestic Abuse Victim Referral Service

**Executive Summary:**

The Victims Referral Service has been provided in Cleveland and Durham via grant arrangements through the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) prior to 2015 and for 2015/16 via a grant agreement jointly between the two PCCs. The service has been provided by Victim Support for many years and their support has been very much appreciated.

The Durham and Cleveland PCCs in 2015/16 agreed that due to the changing legislation for victims, the changing environment for the provision of services and increasing service providers, that it would be appropriate to test the market to ensure that the maximum value for money was being achieved, at the same time as defining a revised specification to achieve the optimum service to victims. Following a robust procurement exercise a contract was awarded in December 2015 to Safe In Tees Valley.

During this time it became apparent that in Cleveland there were many specialist services providers delivering services to victims of domestic abuse and it was felt that victims of such incidents / crime should be supported by specialist agencies that have the in-depth experience of working with such clients and understand their needs. Domestic and Sexual Abuse was therefore excluded from this contract.

To ensure that no victims 'slip through the net' and to ensure that all victims regardless of risk status are offered a service, work is on-going with Safe in Tees Valley and their Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS) to develop a pilot project to ensure all victims of domestic abuse are referred to specialist support services if they wish.

A number of reviews are currently ongoing in Cleveland Police including in the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit (PVP). Any suggested pilot will be discussed with this team and the Business Transformation Unit (BTU) who are leading on the implementation of these changes to ensure no duplication and that proposals compliment what is already delivered.

**Decision:**

1. To agree funding of up to £45,000 for the development and delivery of a victim referral service for victims of domestic abuse (regardless of their risk status).
2. That the detailed specification and commission be taken forward by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

<b>OPCC Lead Officer:</b> Rachelle Kipling			
<b>Contractor Details (if applicable):</b> Safe in Tees Valley / Victim Care and Advice Service Cleveland and Durham			
<b>Implications:</b>			
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"/>	
<b>(If yes please provide further details below)</b>			

**Decision Required – Supporting Information**

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

The financial implications of this decision are affordable within the 2016-17 Budget that was approved by the PCC in February 2016.

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

Having read this report and having considered such information as has been provided at the time of being asked to express this view, the Chief of Staff is satisfied that this report does not ask the PCC to make a decision which would (or would be likely to) give rise to a contravention of the law.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The EU Directive states that all victims of crime should have free of charge access to victim support services. This pilot will ensure that victims of a domestic abuse incident / crimes can access a specialist service if they so wish.

Human Rights Implications

None arise.

Sustainability Implications

None arise.


Risk Management Implications

Currently standard risk victims are not contacted in regards to specialist support services that are available to them. Research shows that standard risk victims are those that are often subject to Domestic Homicide Reviews. By not offering services to victims may impact on repeat victim rates due to no / lack of engagement with support services.

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Chief Executive**

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: 25/3/16

**Police and Crime Commissioner:**

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Cooper', written over a horizontal line.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

23/3/16