



## THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

### DECISION RECORD FORM

<b>REQUEST:</b> For PCC approval following agreement by the PCC on 30 January 2017			
<b>Title:</b> National Ugly Mug Scheme Contribution 2016/17			
<b>Executive Summary:</b>			
<p>The National Ugly Mug (NUM) Scheme, founded by the UK Network of Sex Work Projects (UKNSWP), have received almost 1800 reports of crime against sex workers in the last 3 years, of which 45% involved violence. Furthermore, 27% of the total number of reports involved some form of sexual assault and 15% of all the incidents reported were rapes. This represents a figure of 262 rapes of sex workers, almost 70% of whom were street workers (NUM 2015).</p> <p>The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) National Policing Sex Work Guidance issued in December 2015 seeks to offer practical and meaningful advice to those within the Police Service dealing with sex work related issues. One of the of key recommendations of the guidance is around police forces engaging with the NUM Scheme and setting up intelligence pathways which support local schemes that are linked to NUM.</p> <p>In the North East Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 126 individual sex workers are signed up to receive alerts</li> <li>• 23 Projects / Organisations are signed up to receive alerts</li> <li>• 18 Advertising sites / establishments are signed up to receive alerts</li> </ul> <p>The NUM Scheme is an invaluable tool to safeguard sex workers and reduce the risk that they face every day to violent attacks and rape. Specialist service providers across Cleveland proactively raise awareness and promote the use of NUMs and sex workers are encouraged to make use of the system should they be victim of any violent incidents. The sharing of this information is vital in terms of individual's safety and the wider intelligence picture that can be generated.</p> <p>More information can be found in the attached Funding Intention report.</p>			
<b>Decision:</b> Approval of a £5,000 contribution to the National Ugly Mugs Scheme for 2016/17 in support of the NUM Scheme aims which can be seen at 2.1 of the attached report.			
<b>OPCC Lead Officer:</b> Rachelle Kipling			
<b>Contractor Details (if applicable):</b> National Ugly Mugs Scheme			
<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"/>	

(If yes please provide further details below)

**Decision Required – Supporting Information**

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

The requested funding is affordable from the 2016/17 budget available to the PCC.

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

Grant arrangements pursuant to the PCC's commissioning powers set out in s.143 Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None arise.

Human Rights Implications

None arise.

Sustainability Implications

National Ugly Mugs is a national charity which relies on support from police forces and donations to enable delivery of their service.

Risk Management Implications

None arise.

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Monitoring Officer**

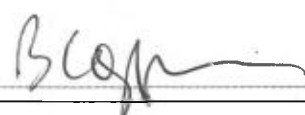
I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed 

Date 7/3/17

**Police and Crime Commissioner:**

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed 

Date 7/3/17

# **National Ugly Mugs (NUM) – Review of Future Funding Intentions**

## **January 2017**

The purpose of this report is to review the current arrangements in regards to the National Ugly Mugs Scheme including current and future funding arrangements.

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 The National Ugly Mugs (NUM) scheme, founded by The UK Network of Sex Work Projects (UKNSWP), have received almost 1800 reports of crime against sex workers in the last 3 years, of which over 45% involved violence. Furthermore, 27% of the total number of reports involved some form of sexual assault and 15% of all the incidents reported were rapes. This represents a figure of 262 rapes of sex workers, almost 70% of whom were street workers (NUM 2015).

1.2 Research suggests that sex workers are at higher risk of murder than other groups in the community and that they are far less likely to report incidents to the Police, with only 25% of victims reporting incidents to NUM being willing to formally report. Building and maintaining the trust of sex workers is a vital part of increasing incident reporting and breaking down barriers.

### **2.0 What is National Ugly Mugs?**

2.1 NUM is a national charity that aims to:

- Improve the safety of sex workers
- Prevent crime
- Bring to justice more offenders who target sex workers
- Support sex workers in accessing frontline services
- Increase the number of crimes against sex workers reported to the police; and
- Enhance the levels of intelligence that exist throughout the UK about dangerous criminals.

2.2 The scheme takes reports of incidents from sex workers via their website ([www.uknswp.org](http://www.uknswp.org)) and is designed to help keep them safe by producing anonymised warnings (Alerts) which are sent directly to sex workers and front-line support projects across the UK. This warns sex workers of dangerous individuals that potentially may be operating in their area. In addition to this with consent, information is shared anonymously with the Serious Crime Analysis Section (SCAS)<sup>1</sup> of the National Crime Agency and local police intelligence hubs. In the event that SCAS links NUM Reports to other crimes on their database or feels that they should be investigated by police they will pass on the data and encourage the local forces to contact the NUM Team.

2.3 NUM estimate that nationally between 10,000 and 15,000 sex workers access alerts either directly or indirectly, through organisational members.

### **3.0 National Picture**

3.1 The NPCC National Policing Sex Work Guidance issued in December 2015 seeks to offer practical and meaningful advice to those within the Police Service dealing with sex work related issues. One of the key recommendations of the guidance is around police forces engaging with the NUM Scheme and setting up intelligence pathways which support local schemes that are linked to NUM. NUM is vitally important in relation to the intelligence picture and also in keeping sex workers safe.

3.2 All but four police forces (including Cleveland) across the UK currently have contributed to NUM this year and at the end of the financial year NUM will be publishing a list of those who have and those who have not contributed. Alerts will continue to be sent to sex workers in the areas where the forces have not supported the scheme, but this may not be feasible in the long term.

### **4.0 Local Picture**

4.1 From a local perspective the NUM Scheme provides the intelligence hub with a notification following incidents reported anonymously or otherwise by sex workers. The hub then shares this information with local policing teams and the licensing team so that

---

<sup>1</sup> The NCA's Serious Crime Analysis Section works to identify the potential emergence of serial killers and serial rapists at the earliest stage of their offending.

they can support / enforce appropriately. The NUM scheme also allows the police to feed in information for circulation to sex workers when appropriate, although this rarely happens and is something that the force could develop in terms of safety and prevention.

4.2 Locally Sex Workers are very comfortable with the NUM scheme and although often when things happen the majority are still refusing to support a personalised investigation with the police due to historical factors, this is currently being worked through with the introduction of Designated Liaison Officers (DLO's). The force currently has one DLO that engages at drop-in sessions with service providers but are looking at expanding this to five in total. This will allow relationships to be built with sex workers especially in terms of those operating online/ in-door and are a 'harder to reach' group.

## **5.0 Data**

5.1 In order to understand the picture locally the following information has been provided by NUM:

- In the North East Region there are:
  - 126 individual sex workers signed up to alerts
  - 23 Projects/ Organisations signed up to alerts
  - 18 Advertising sites / establishments signed up to alerts

5.2 Incidents reported / dealt with in the Cleveland Police Force area include:

- **2016** – 18 incidents including six rapes and one attempted rape. The majority of incidents contained violence of some kind and less than a third of the victims were willing to speak to the police, however all but one of them provided consent for the information to be shared anonymously. In addition to this two specific requests for help and support were received from Cleveland Police.
- **2015** – 5 incidents
- **2014** - 9 incidents

## **6.0 Specialist Support Services**

6.1 Across Cleveland there are currently two specialist services that provide support to sex workers in terms of one to one support sessions, outreach and drop in. Both of these agencies actively promote NUM and make use and refer to it often. They also take a role in actively raising awareness of the system. Alerts are also shared with sex workers through the various sessions that take place to help warn and keep them as safe as possible. The engagement and partnership working between NUM and the specialist support services locally ensures vulnerable men and women on the streets are kept safe.

6.2 The NUM scheme via the support services also enables communication with people who work on-line which is such a hidden community. It allows them to be able to check phone numbers and email addresses of potential service users; a safety tool that is paramount to them.

6.3 In a recent survey by NUM of people involved in sex work 96% said they felt safer due to the NUM Scheme. Nationally around 60 incidents are reported to NUM each month, but only 25% of the people reporting are willing to go to police. Without NUM the police would not have any of this intelligence.

6.4 Feedback provided from those who have used the alert system has been extremely positive and has enabled workers to avoid punters because of information they have received via an alert. It has also enabled workers to spread the word to others, keeping each other safer.

## **7.0 Funding History**

7.1 In 2014 NUMs submitted an application to the PCCs Community Safety Initiatives Fund for £3,000; this application was declined following advice received from the Chief Constable. Furthermore during 2015/16 a contribution was made by Cleveland Police to NUMs for £3,000.

7.2 The vast majority of police forces in the UK (all except four) support NUMS and they are seeking funding from Cleveland for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

7.3 Most forces contribute £5,000 except the Met that contributes £20,000 and some of the smaller rural forces that have no identifiable street based sex work contribute £3,000.

## **8.0 Conclusion and recommendations**

8.1 The NUM Scheme is an invaluable tool to safeguard sex workers and reduce the risk that they face every day to violent attacks and rape. Specialist service providers in the area proactively raise awareness and promote the use of NUMS and sex workers are encouraged to make use of the systems should they be victim of any violent incidents. The sharing of this information is vital in terms of individual's safety and the wider intelligence picture that can be generated.

8.2 Breaking down barriers between sex workers and the Police is crucial in terms of bringing offenders to justice and this is something that will be progressed with the appointment of additional DLOs.

## **9.0 It is therefore recommended that:**

- **NUM is supported for the period 2016/17 and 2017/18 (subject to a funding application to the Community Safety Initiatives Fund) in support of the NUM aims highlighted at 2.1 of this report at the sum of £5,000.**
- **The Police and service providers are actively encouraged to further promote NUM to sex workers highlighting the safety benefits associated.**
- **Cleveland Police consider the use of sharing information via NUM except when this could comprise any on-going investigations.**