



DRF Ref. 2023/2024 - 0003

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) approval.

Title:

Recruitment of x2 (1 full time and 1 part time) Specialist Stalking Advocates reallocated from the 2021-2025 Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Independent Sexual Violence / Independent Domestic Violence Funding (ISVA/IDVA)

Executive Summary:

This Decision Record should be read in conjunction with decision record [2021-0007012](#) and Decision Record [2022-0004](#) which outlines the details of funding awarded by the MoJ in 2021 for additional ISVAs and IDVAs. In 2022, the MoJ announced that this ringfenced funding would be extended to 31st March 2025.

Previously, funding to the value of £95,972 from the above fund was allocated to a service provider in the Redcar and Cleveland area who held the contract for domestic abuse provision commissioned by Redcar and Cleveland Council. In the spring of 2022, Redcar and Cleveland Council re-commissioned their service and awarded the contract to deliver domestic abuse services to a new provider. As a result, it was agreed that the OPCC would review the IDVA arrangements across the Redcar area through a review of service demand and outcomes. This review involved data collection on domestic abuse crimes and incidents, and discussions with Redcar and Cleveland Council as well as service providers operating across the area. The review determined that continuation of the IDVA service provided by the previously commissioned service provider did not provide the best value for money and a decision to de-commission the service was agreed in consultation with Redcar and Cleveland Council colleagues.

The OPCC team worked with the previously commissioned service provider to ensure the exit planning did not adversely impact any victim/survivors engaged with the service and all open cases were reviewed and closed, or referred into alternative provision as required. Further, the review determined that IDVA provision within two other domestic abuse services operating in Redcar and Cleveland was sufficient to meet demand and that, in context of gaps in specialist IDVA provision at a broader Cleveland level, the remaining £191,944 multi-year funding (to March 2025) for the period July 2023 - March 2025 could be better utilised to fill such gaps.

Following a briefing on this matter with the PCC on 2 June 2023, the PCC supported the proposal and this decision record is provided to approve the reallocation of funding towards specialist advocacy for victims of stalking following agreement with MoJ in April 2023.

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust are a registered charity recognised as the UK's leading authority on stalking work, with evidence of delivering positive impact for victims through their stalking advocacy work and expert support for Police and a range of partner agencies.

The decision to use the £191,944 ISVA/IDVA funding for this purpose was based on the following factors:

- Review of purpose of ISVA/IDVA Fund which includes Stalking
- Review of local victim strategic needs assessment and gaps in provision
- Discussions and agreement with Local Authority domestic abuse commissioners
- Significantly escalating and high rates of stalking crimes/victims identified in Cleveland Police data and high percentage of domestic abuse related stalking
- Currently no specialist stalking advocacy available for victims
- Significant number of domestic abuse related stalking victims being absorbed by domestic abuse services

Decision:

To award Suzy Lamplugh Trust up to £191,944 for the provision of x2 Stalking Advocacy Posts as described above.

The funding will cover the period July 2023 – March 2025

OPCC Lead Officer: Tracey Brittain

Contractor Details (if applicable): Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Implications:

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)

Funding of £191,944 was allocated within the 2023 approved long term financial plan across the 2023/24 and 2024/25 to this area of work and therefore the funding is available for this decision within the current resources available to the PCC.

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

There are no legal implications arising.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

This funding will support victims of stalking and will not impact other EDI considerations.

Human Rights Implications:

N/A

Sustainability Implications:

Funding is in place until 31st March 2025 – OPCC will work with Cleveland Police and other commissioners to seek opportunities for longer term delivery.

Risk Management Implications:

N/A

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

05 July 2023

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed



Date

06 July 2023