



Decision Reference: 2023/2024 - 0017

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For Police and Crime Commissioner approval.

Title: Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Victims Funding Core Uplift (2023/24) to be used for specialist stalking training for front-line police and practitioners responding to stalking.

Executive Summary:

This decision record should be read in conjunction with decision record [2023/24 0003](#) which outlines funding awarded to the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to deliver a specialist stalking advocacy support service across the Cleveland area until 31 March 2025.

In August 2023, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) informed Police and Crime Commissioner's that they would be providing an uplift to the 2023/24 Core Victims Funding allocation. For Cleveland this was to the value of up to **£22,528.57** with the requirement for it to be spent by 31 March 2024.

During the mobilisation of the stalking support service covered in the decision notice referred to above, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust offered to match fund our funding commitment to enable the provision of **1 FTE Team Leader Stalking Advocate** and **1 FTE Stalking Advocate**. The match funding from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust allowed for sufficient capacity in support of partnership development to ensure alignment and support with other victim services commissioned locally and Cleveland Police – seeking to improve victim referrals into the new service.

The current processes for identifying stalking victims and assessing associated risk of harms is very under-developed across services in contact with victims of stalking. This is exacerbated by the high numbers of domestic abuse related stalking incidents and the different risk assessment tools being used. This is highlighted as a national issue within a super-complaint made by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. The super-complaint identified that this is what currently contributes to a lack of assurance regarding appropriate identification of stalking and assessment of harms to known victims of stalking and stalking related domestic abuse.

Suzy Lamplugh Trust - 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, have a broad range of training packages available which can be delivered to police and other front-line practitioners

across a variety of organisations with a role in identifying and assessing risk and harms associated with stalking.

Following a review of local issues identified by Cleveland Police, Criminal Justice partners, victim service commissioners/providers and Suzy Lamplugh Trust regarding how the stalking advocacy service would receive referrals that could best support victims, it was agreed that identification and thorough assessment of stalking cases is a current workforce gap.

As a result, and following discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 4 October 2023, it has been agreed to provide further funding to the Suzy Lamplugh Trust to deliver specialist stalking training to front-line practitioners most likely to identify stalking crimes. In addition, it would support with the understanding of how to appropriately assess risks and harms so that stalking victims can be referred into the stalking advocacy service. This would support in the tackling of stalking perpetrators, ensure victims are safe and supported and guarantee a more confident workforce in dealing with the stalking cases – and directly contributes the PCC’s priorities of tackling violence against women and girls, and providing effective, quality support for victims and witnesses.

Given the short timescales for the funding the OPCC will work with relevant partners to identify and prioritise which front-line police officers and practitioners should benefit from the training.

To conclude; this decision will add significant value and benefit to the broader work being considered in relation to how Cleveland can work to better address stalking related crime and provide victims of stalking with the most effective support for their safety and recovery.

Current grant arrangements with the Suzy Lamplugh Trust will be varied setting out a clear timeline for delivery of the training between 1 November 2023 and 31 March 2024.

Decision:

To award Suzy Lamplugh Trust £22,528.57 for the delivery period 1 November 2023 – 31 March 2024 to deliver specialist stalking training to police and other front-line practitioners working with potential stalking cases across Cleveland.

OPCC Lead Officer: Tracey Brittain, Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager

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)

The additional funding to support the proposals set out within this decision have been confirmed to the PCC and therefore the proposal is affordable.

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

None arising

Equality and Diversity Implications:

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

Human Rights Implications:

N/A

Sustainability Implications:

Funding is in place until 31st March 2024 – OPCC will work with Cleveland Police and other commissioners to seek opportunities for longer term workforce development.

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 12.10.23

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed 

Date 12.10.2022