



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

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

Title: Custody Navigator Scheme

Executive Summary:

In July 2022, the PCC was awarded £3.5 million of Home Office funding to support the establishment of a local Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). Forming part of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) was set-up to lead and coordinate the local preventative, whole-system approach to violence reduction, which includes:

- Multi-agency working
- Data sharing and analysis
- Engaging young people and communities
- Commissioning (and delivering) evidence-based interventions

As specified by the Home Office, the primary measures of success for VRUs are to deliver:

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among victims aged under 25
- A reduction on all non-domestic homicides and especially among victims aged under 25 involving knives.

As detailed in [DRF:2022/202-0028](#), funding was approved to support the establishment of the Custody Navigator Scheme.

Launched in August 2023, delivered by the South Tees Justice Service, the scheme comprises of a team of specialist custody navigators, who work alongside Cleveland Police and health care practitioners in Cleveland Police central custody suite.

The primary role of the scheme is to engage with young people aged primarily between 10 and 25 years old who are either involved in, or at risk of, serious violence.

The scheme operates in a dedicated Youth Focused Custody Suite, which is the first of its kind in the country. The bespoke suite, co-designed with young people, separates young people from adult offenders and applies the principles of trauma informed practice and care.

To date, the scheme has engaged with more than 750 young people aged between 10-24 and has supported over 200 first-time offenders while returning a re-offending rate of 6%, which is below the national average.

An independent evaluation of the scheme has highlighted that *'The Custody Navigator programme represents value for money and appears to have a significant impact on reducing reoffending among 10-17 year olds when it is able to provide them with substantial support'*, and confirms the scheme is making a *'Return on investment of £2.03 for every £1 spent'*.

On the basis of the above and strategic alignment with the Police and Crime Plan priorities, to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and harm, and tackle offending and re-offending - it is recommended that the PCC extends funding arrangements for the Custody Navigator Scheme for a further 12-months – 1st April 2025- 31st March 2026.

This extension will enable the continuation of the scheme and enable the exploration of co-commissioning opportunities to inform PCC future commissioning intentions of youth focussed interventions.

Decision:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approves the allocation of funding upto the value of **£216,366.00** for the budget year 2025/2026 to ensure the continuation of the Custody Navigator Programme.

OPCC Lead Officer: John Holden

Contractor Details (if applicable): South Tees Youth Justice Service

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 funding for Violence Reduction Units has yet to be confirmed for 2025/26 and therefore there is an element of risk in extending this arrangement. Should the PCC not be allocated any additional VRU funding then the costs of this decision will need to be funded from elsewhere within the budget and difficult decisions would be required. My view is that the risk of not receiving additional funding is low and therefore I am happy for the decision to be made knowing that there are potential risks to doing so.

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:

None arising.

Human Rights Implications:

None arising.

Sustainability Implications:

None arising.

Risk Management Implications:

None arising.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer:

Signed



Date 17.02.25

Police and Crime Commissioner:

Signed



Date 17.02.2025