



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

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

Title: Extend Fraud Financial Advocate funding

Executive Summary:

In October 2024 the PCC agreed to fund Safer Communities for a pilot period of 12 months, from 1st January 2025, to appoint one FTE Fraud Financial Advocates, delivered through two part time posts, one covering Hartlepool and Stockton, and one covering Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland.

Aligned to the Police and Crime Plan priority 'Ensure the right support for victims and vulnerable people', the aim of the roles are to:

- Help victims of fraud recover their financial losses
- Reduce the risk of repeat victimisation
- Improve their physical and emotional welfare
- Improve levels of satisfaction with the services provided

The roles were funded through Proceeds of Crime Act funding, with equal contributions from the OPCC and each of Cleveland's four Local Authority Trading Standards teams, thereby utilising funding seized from criminals by the police and courts to help recover victims' financial losses and also to prevent further victimisation.

More details of the original decision can be found in at [DRF 2024/2025 -006](#)

The recruited post holders both have extensive experience in the banking industry and a thorough understanding of banking legislation around fraud recovery. During the first three months of delivery the FFAs were able to recover £92k of vulnerable victims funding with a further £250k awaiting a decision from banks and the Financial Ombudsman.

This service has already delivered extensive support to vulnerable victims to assist them in their recovery journey. In order to maintain continuity of service, funders have agreed to extend funding for a period of 12 months to 31st December 2026.

Decision:

To approve £10,832.20 PCC Proceeds of Crime Act Funding to extend funding for one FTE Fraud Financial Advocate role, delivered through two part time posts, hosted within Safer Communities to 31st December 2026.

The posts will be joint funded with equal contributions from each of Cleveland's four Local

Authority Trading Standards departments funded through their respective POCA funding streams.			
OPCC Lead Officer: Sarah Wilson			
Contractor Details (if applicable): Safer Communities			
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)

There is sufficient funding within the Proceeds of Crime Act Reserves to fund this extension.

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:

No equality and diversity issues have been identified.

Human Rights Implications:

No human rights issues have been identified.

Sustainability Implications:

Proceeds of Crime Act funding is a sustainable funding stream.

Risk Management Implications:

None identified

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 09.05.25

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.



Signed

Date

09/05/2025

