



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For PCC approval

Title: Extension of funding for Barnardos worker co-located with Cleveland Police Complex Exploitation Team

Executive Summary:

The goal of Barnardos is to achieve better outcomes for more children. Barnardos already have close partnership working arrangements with the community safety and criminal justice services operating around the exploitation of children in Cleveland through Local Authority funded exploitation workers. As an organisation they are uniquely placed to focus on child exploitation, with significant expertise in this area.

A member of Barnardos staff is co located within the Cleveland Police Complex Exploitation Team (CET). The aim of the role is to support and enhance existing Barnardos exploitation services by:

- Working closely with the CET team, providing support submitting safer referrals
- Linking in with Barnardo's exploitation services across the Tees Valley to promote Cross Boundary working and to share information about hotspots/places of interest/persons of interest and exploitation case work
- Creating closer working relationships with Social Care Services and other agencies to promote working together to disrupt exploitation
- Assisting the CET team during home visits to build trusted working relationships with children, young people and carers during investigations linked to grooming/CSE/CCE/abuse
- Ensuring the CET Team are informed in 'Relationship Based Practice'
- Providing information, support and guidance to parents, carers and professionals on grooming and exploitation.
- Providing 1-2-1 support sessions to children and young people being worked with by the CET team.
- Supporting Police Operations as and when requested to ensure children and young people are effectively supported through the process and best evidence is obtained.
- Facilitating access to safe and trusted therapeutic services
- Seeking service user 'views' to inform training needs, gaps in service, service development and quality assurance.

The post ensures that children, young people and their parents/carers are supported as effectively as possible through the process of an exploitation investigation, and that agencies work together as cohesively as possible to maximise the disruption and penalties for those who exploit children and young people in Cleveland.

Current funding arrangements come to an end on 12th May 2025. Following a meeting on 4th April 2025 the Police and Crime Commissioner made the decision to extend the funding for this post for a period of almost two years, to 31st March 2027 taking funding arrangements back in line with financial year reporting.

This DRF extends funding agreed through a [previous DRF](#).

Decision: That the PCC approves £85,269 to extend funding until 31st March 2027 for a Barnardos worker who is co located with the Cleveland Police Complex Exploitation Team at 29.6 hours per week.

OPCC Lead Officer: Sarah Wilson

Contractor Details (if applicable): Barnardos

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 to support this decision is provided for with the 2025/26 approved budget and the longer-term financial plans.

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:

The funding will support at risk children and young people to be better supported through a traumatic process

Human Rights Implications:

None identified

Sustainability Implications:

By establishing an effective performance management framework an evidence base will be established to support future commissioning/grant funding arrangements.

Risk Management Implications:

Exploitation is a complex area with high associated risks – funding for this post will minimise risks by ensuring effective support for victims, facilitating maximum evidence gathering to assist in disruption/prosecution of offenders and improving partnership working arrangements to support better outcomes for victims.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer:

Signed

Date 23/05/2025



Police and Crime Commissioner:

Signed

Date 29/05/2025

