



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

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

Title: Extension of Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network Independent Chair Arrangement

Executive Summary:

Ensuring the right support for victims & vulnerable people is a key priority in the Police and Crime Commissioner's 2024-29 Police and Crime Plan. Victims of modern slavery and trafficking are particularly vulnerable, and the response to this exploitation requires effective partnership working across a range of key local and national organisations.

The Cleveland Anti Slavery Network was established in April 2018, with the aims of:

- Developing strategic partnerships and collaborations with other regional, national and international organisations to tackle Modern Slavery including other networks, partnerships and learning establishments.
- Facilitating the development of knowledge, information, data and skills across agencies and enable the sharing of good practice.
- Encouraging a victim focussed approach and good practice in victim care.
- Encouraging the development and identification of best practice, trends and patterns.
- Remaining abreast of current developments and initiatives locally, regionally and nationally relating to slavery and human trafficking.
- Identifying gaps in current provision.

The work of the network is coordinated and driven by an independent chair. Funding for the independent chair arrangements was initially covered solely by the PCC, however after a two-year period it was agreed that funding contributions would be equally split between the PCC and the four Local Authorities that constitute Cleveland, demonstrating the level of partnership buy in for the network.

From April 2022 the independent chairing arrangements were jointly commissioned by Cleveland and Durham PCCs for a four-year period. The cost of the contract being £45,000 per annum (£22,5000 for Durham and £22,500 for Cleveland).

Whilst there have been benefits in sharing the expertise of the independent chair, the Durham and Cleveland networks have remained separate for the duration of the contract due to the different partnership landscapes in each area, together with different victimisation profiles, and have not delivered the efficiencies of scale initially anticipated.

As part of the re-commissioning review a survey was sent to members of the Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network to obtain their views on the value of the network, and specifically whether it was felt that the independent chairing arrangements were beneficial.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Consultees felt that the network was successful in achieving its primary aims and objectives, with key areas of strength being sharing of legislation changes and best practice together with horizon scanning. The range of presentations and members was valued, with a great wealth of experience and knowledge in many areas that provides partners with a full picture of the issues being faced. Members felt that the network had been effective in identifying challenges and gaps in delivery, and in working in partnership to overcome these.

All those who responded felt that the independent chairing arrangements provided benefits. Consultees felt that an impartial chair was in a better position to challenge local processes, and that the current post holder also brought experience from other areas of the country to the network, through their involvement with other national networks. It was felt that the wealth of knowledge and experience from the current chair provided a huge benefit to the Cleveland network. Other benefits noted regarding the independent chairing arrangements were keeping meetings focused and ensuring that the onus is not on one or two organisations to take forward the work needed but rather spread across the broad range of members.

This decision was discussed in a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 27th November 2025 where support for the approach set out below was agreed.

Decision: To approve a two year extension to the independent chairing arrangements for Cleveland Anti Slavery Network, effective from 1st April 2026.

Funding of £22,500 will be split equally between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and the four Local Authorities that constitute Cleveland.

OPCC funding will be from the Commissioning – Victims and Witness Services Fund.

Due to the wealth of experience of the current chair, together with their involvement in a range of local and national networks, they are uniquely placed to take forward the chairing arrangements and maintain consistency in the work of the network, therefore funding will be through a direct award.

Joint commissioning arrangements with Durham OPCC will not apply to the two year extension, which will solely cover the Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network.

OPCC Lead Officer: Sarah Wilson

Contractor Details (if applicable): Robin Brierley Consultancy

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 is available to support this proposal within the PCC's financial plans and therefore affordable 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:

None arising.

Human Rights Implications:

None arise.

Sustainability Implications:

The benefits of this approach will be monitored to influence future funding decisions.

Risk Management Implications:

None arising.

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 03.12.25

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed

Date 04.12.2025

Matt