



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:

From 1st January 2025 the PCC and the four Local Authority Trading Standards teams have joint funded Safer Communities to provide one FTE Fraud Financial Advocate, 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; ensuring the right support for victims and vulnerable people, the aim of the roles is to:

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

The roles are 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.

The current funding agreement expires 31st December 2026 as per previous DRF - [Decision 2025/26 - 005: Extension of funding for Financial Fraud Advocate - Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner](#)

The recruited post holders both have extensive experience in the banking industry and a thorough understanding of banking legislation around fraud recovery. During the funding period the FFAs have recovered over £1 million of vulnerable victims' fraud losses. The impact on victim welfare of the roles has been significant, with one victim stating 'My nightmare ended' when the FFA role took on their case.

In order to maintain continuity of service, all funders have agreed to extend funding for a period of 15 months to 31st March 2028. Costings will be as per below:

- Jan 27 – March 27 - £13,904 - £2,780.80 per funder
- April 27 – March 28 - £57,692 - £11,538.40 per funder

Decision: To approve £14,319.20 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 31 st March 2028.			
OPCC Lead Officer: Sarah Wilson			
Contractor Details: Safer Communities			
Implications:			
Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	Implications
Equality & Diversity	☒	☐	Support provided by the FFA roles assists vulnerable fraud victims across all protected characteristics. The roles provide particular support for vulnerable elderly victims who are disproportionately impacted by this crime type and can require additional support to navigate bank compensation processes.
Data Protection	☒	☐	An Information Sharing Agreement is in place between Cleveland Police and the four Trading Standards teams and Safer Communities to allow the sharing of victim details to initiate FFA support.
Sustainability	☒	☐	The roles are funded through Proceeds of Crime Act Funding which is a sustainable funding source. The roles have been recognised nationally as being best practice so it is hoped that there may be a possibility of future centralised funding to cover this aspect of victim support.
Risk	☒	☐	The roles have operated successfully since January 2025. There is a risk that Safer Communities will not be responsible for providing the generic victim support service from 1 st April 2027, however these roles would continue to be hosted by Safer Communities and would link with the new victim support provider.

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 Proceed of Crime Act reserve to support the proposed decision.

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

There are no legal implications 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 16.09.2026

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed



Date 17.09.2026