



THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

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

Title: Early Days in Custody

Executive Summary:

Early Days in Custody (EDiC) is a prison-based crisis intervention during the critical first-two weeks in prison which commenced delivery in April 2020. This service provides support to females entering the custody environment and associated vulnerabilities.

To support and promote rehabilitation, EDiC helps new prisoners to maintain family relationships, including with dependent children; improve their engagement with the prison regime; and strengthen the flow of information between custody and community services.

Durham University evaluated EDiC and found the support catered to a person's specific needs, acts as a conduit between prison departments and individual prisoners to ensure the prisoner's needs are responded to, assists with maintaining family relationships, and enhances mental health support for those at risk of self-harm and death by suicide.

NEPACS submitted a funding request to all three North-East based PCCs (Cleveland, Durham, and Northumbria) to collectively fund additional Family Support Worker provision at HMP Low Newton Prison (Durham) for one additional day each week. This would enable NEPACS to maintain service levels that have been delivered at the prison over the previous two-years (four days per week).

Funding of this day provision will ensure that NEPACS deliver/ protect:

- Reception coverage,
- Reducing delays with first family contact,
- Support mothers with dependent children at an earlier stage,
- Sustain continuity during busy periods.

HMP Low Newton has a wide catchment area, with prisoners primarily coming from local authority areas across the North-East of England.

All three Police and Crime Commissioners met on 12th May 2026 and agreed to collaborate on providing one-off funding, with each committing £2,000.00 (£6,000.00 collectively) following a review of the funding application. Cleveland PCC's contribution will come from the Police Property Act Fund (PPAF).

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria will manage the grant with NEPACS and share performance information with Cleveland and Durham OPCCs.

This uplift in provision will be delivered between 1st June 2026 and 31st May 2027.

This funding will support the OPCC to deliver on Police and Crime Plan priorities to 'Ensure the right support for (...) vulnerable people', and support prison-based rehabilitation and settlement efforts to 'tackle offending and reoffending' during the period of highest risk.

Decision: To approve funding of £2,000.00 from the Police Property Act Fund to NEPACS to provide additional Family Support Worker coverage at HMP Low Newton.

OPCC Lead Officer: Chris Guttridge

Contractor Details (if applicable): NEPACS, Charity number: 1088051

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	Implications
Equality & Diversity	☒	☐	No Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this funding award. The proposed grant is intended to support a prison-based intervention that is available to individuals entering custody and is targeted on the basis of need rather than protected characteristics. HMP Low Newton is a female prison meaning the direct beneficiaries of this funding will be women in custody and their families. EDiC is still being delivered across male prison estates, but they will not benefit from any uplifts in provision. The funding is expected to have a positive equality impact by supporting a group with recognised vulnerabilities and complex needs, including women experiencing mental health difficulties, trauma, domestic abuse, and separation from dependent children. Maintaining family relationships and providing additional support during the early stages of custody may help reduce barriers and improve outcomes for women and their families. On balance, the proposal is considered to have a positive and proportionate impact on equality outcomes and does not give rise to any identified unlawful discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.
Data Protection	☒	☐	Responsibility for the management of personal information will remain with NEPACS and HMP Low Newton, which have already been agreed and established between both organisations prior to commencing delivery in 2020.

			As grant management responsibilities will be undertaken by Northumbria OPCC, there is a reliance on appropriate data protection controls being maintained by the lead commissioner and delivery partner. All performance reporting will be anonymised, and high-level summary information which does not contain personal or special category information for service users or their families, which will then be shared with Cleveland and Durham OPCCs. For these reasons it has been agreed that a Data Protection Impact Assessments, or Information Sharing Agreements are not required. Any residual risks are considered low. No significant data protection risks have been identified.
Sustainability	☒	☐	This funding will sustain existing staffing resources and maintain current service delivery levels at HMP Low Newton for a twelve-month period. As the funding award is non-recurrent, there is a risk that service levels may reduce following the end of the funding period if alternative funding is not secured. To mitigate this risk, the Provider will be required to demonstrate and report on efforts to identify and secure future funding opportunities as part of ongoing performance reporting requirements. Whilst the grant will provide short-term stability, no commitment is made regarding future OPCC funding.
Risk	☒	☐	Whilst the evaluation of EDiC demonstrates positive outcomes, there are delivery and organisational risks associated with the proposed grant award. The funding is a short-term contribution and therefore there is a risk that service levels cannot be sustained beyond the funded period, potentially leading to reduced reception coverage, delays in first family contact, and diminished support for women with dependent children. Furthermore, service users have been identified as being at risk of harm – including death by suicide.

			As Cleveland OPCC is not the lead commissioner, there is a reliance on Northumbria OPCC to effectively manage the grant, monitor performance, and provide timely assurance regarding delivery and outcomes. There is a reputational risk to the OPCC should the funded activity fail to deliver the expected outcomes, or if service disruption results in reduced support for vulnerable prisoners during the critical early stages of custody. There is also a risk that collaborative funding arrangements create stakeholder expectations of future financial support, despite the grant being explicitly agreed as a one-off contribution. These risks are considered low and proportionate to the level of investment and are mitigated through established service delivery at HMP Low Newton, evidence of effectiveness from the Durham University evaluation, shared commissioning oversight from the participating OPCCs, and ongoing performance reporting through Northumbria OPCC.
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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 Police Property Act Fund to support this decision and NEPACs is a register charity and therefore eligible for funding from the Police Property Act Fund.

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 21.09.2026

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed



Date 22.09.2026