DRF 2026 2027 - 013

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

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

Title: Knife Crime Concentration Fund

Executive Summary:

To support the wider violence reduction programme across Cleveland, the Police and Crime Commissioner has secured £481,505 from the Home Office through the Knife Crime Concentration Fund (KCCF) for 2026/27. The KCCF funding will enable a partnership-led approach to tackling knife crime in Cleveland's identified knife crime hotspot locations, delivering a combination of enforcement, targeted interventions and activity aimed at reducing serious violence and improving community safety.

The KCCF requires police forces and partners to identify the locations accounting for approximately 10% of local knife crime and develop targeted Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) responses using the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment) methodology.

Analysis undertaken by Cleveland Police, supported by the local Violence Reduction Unit (CURV) and partner agencies, identified five hyper-local knife crime concentration locations across Cleveland using two years of knife crime data, hotspot mapping and Home Office methodology.

Following submission of the proposed locations and supporting analysis to the Home Office, all five locations were approved for inclusion within the KCCF programme:

- Three hotspot locations within Middlesbrough
- Two hotspot locations within Stockton

The five approved locations were identified through Home Office-approved analysis as having a high concentration of knife crime and serious violence and account for approximately 11% of all recorded knife crime across Cleveland.

Detailed analytical profiles and locally tailored SARA plans have been developed for each location by multi-agency partners, informed by evidence, local knowledge and recognised best practice, including College of Policing guidance. The plans combine enforcement, prevention and environmental measures to deliver sustainable reductions in knife crime and associated violence.

The proposed activity and interventions were reviewed through the multi-agency KCCF Steering Group. The proposed approach was subsequently approved by the Home Office on 4th September 2026 as part of Cleveland's 2026/27 KCCF delivery proposal.

KCCF funding will support the delivery of these Home Office-approved SARA plans through targeted Problem-Oriented Policing and partnership interventions designed to address the specific drivers of knife crime and serious violence within each location.

The proposed interventions and activities support a whole-system approach to reducing knife crime, including work to address the underlying causes, risk factors and vulnerabilities associated with offending and victimisation.

These include:

- Community intelligence gathering, information-sharing and targeted crime prevention campaigns
- Community safety, reassurance and neighbourhood engagement activities
- Targeted interventions addressing the underlying drivers of knife crime and serious violence, including vulnerability, exploitation, substance misuse, social exclusion and other identified risk factors.
- Victim engagement and support activities aimed at increasing confidence, reporting and participation in the criminal justice process.
- Professional witness support and evidence-gathering services.
- CCTV, environmental improvements and other situational crime prevention measures
- Targeted youth work, outreach and early intervention activities
- Diversionary activities for children and young people
- Multi-agency problem-solving and coordinated enforcement activities targeting the underlying causes and drivers of knife crime
- Safeguarding, referral and support services for vulnerable individuals
- Violence reduction and harm reduction initiatives

Approval is sought for the allocation of £481,505 to support delivery of the KCCF programme, comprising:

- £165,063.57 for Cleveland Police-led analytical, programme management and targeted patrol activity; and
- £316,441.43 for the commissioning and delivery of Problem-Oriented Policing activity and interventions within the approved KCCF locations.

The programme will be delivered through established KCCF governance arrangements involving Cleveland Police, CURV and local authority partners, with performance monitored against Home Office requirements and agreed programme outcomes.

The KCCF programme directly supports the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan by delivering targeted action to reduce knife crime, serious violence and associated harm within Cleveland's most affected communities.

Decision:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approves the allocation of £481,505 from the Home Office Knife Crime Concentration Fund for the delivery of Problem-Oriented Policing activity, environmental improvements, partnership-led interventions, directly commissioned services and associated activity identified through approved POP plans within Cleveland's designated KCCF hyperlocal locations during 2026/27.

OPCC Lead Officer: John Holden

Contractor Details (if applicable):

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	Implications
Equality & Diversity	☒	☐	Knife crime and serious violence disproportionately impact upon vulnerable individuals, young people and communities

			experiencing higher levels of deprivation and social exclusion. The activity commissioned through this funding seeks to reduce violence and improve safety for all communities whilst ensuring that interventions are targeted according to evidenced need. Any commissioned activity will be required to comply with equality legislation and relevant safeguarding requirements. No adverse equality impacts have been identified.
Data Protection	☒	☐	The decision requested relates to the allocation of grant funding and does not involve the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner directly collecting, processing or storing personal data. Delivery of interventions funded through the Knife Crime Concentration Fund may require partner agencies to process personal data where necessary and proportionate for the purposes of crime prevention, safeguarding, offender management or support to vulnerable individuals. Any processing of personal data will be undertaken by the relevant delivery organisations in accordance with UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018, organisational information governance policies, and any applicable information sharing agreements. Data sharing will be limited to that which is necessary for the delivery and monitoring of funded activity and appropriate technical and organisational security measures will be applied. At this stage, no specific privacy risks have been identified arising directly from this funding decision. Where commissioned activity involves the processing of personal data that is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the responsible delivery organisation will be required to complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) prior to implementation, but no DPIA is required for this decision record itself.
Sustainability	☒	☐	The programme is specifically designed to develop sustainable, evidence-based responses to knife crime through the implementation of long-term problem-solving

			activity rather than solely relying upon short-term enforcement approaches. Interventions funded through this programme will seek to address the environmental and social drivers of violence, build community resilience and strengthen partnership approaches capable of continuing beyond the life of the grant.
Risk	☒	☐	A number of risks have been identified and will be managed through established KCCF governance arrangements. These include: • Failure to achieve anticipated reductions in knife crime. • Delays in development or implementation of SARA plans. • Delays in commissioning activity. • Duplication with existing serious violence programmes. • Delivery partner performance issues. • Underspend or non-compliance with Home Office grant conditions. These risks will be mitigated through: • Dedicated analytical support. • Regular performance monitoring. • Existing multi-agency governance and scrutiny arrangements. • Quarterly reporting to the Home Office. • Compliance with grant management and procurement requirements. • Oversight through CURV governance structures. The Home Office grant agreement also requires regular monitoring against agreed Key Performance Indicators relating to knife crime, violence, robbery and patrol activity, providing an additional level of assurance regarding delivery and value for money.

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's Chief Finance Officer where the decision has financial implications)

The decision outlined within this document aligns with the funding that the PCC has been specifically allocated for this area of work and is therefore affordable to the PCC and in-line with the specific grant that the PCC has been allocated for this work.

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 28.10.2026

Police and Crime Commissioner:
The above request HAS my approval.

Signed  Date 28.10.2026