

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE
DECISION RECORD**

Decision Record Number: **262021**

Title: **Circles of Support – Request for Revised Funding and Commissioning**

Executive Summary:

Report outlines a request for funding and lead commissioning arrangements for Circles of Support that had previously been under leadership of the National Probation Service (NPS).

Decision:

That the PCC takes on the role of lead co-commissioner for Circles of Support for 2021/22 and provides funding as set out in the report, and that discussions take place with key stakeholders and the Probation Service regarding future funding and commissioning arrangements beyond 2022.

Background Report: Open

Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above decision has my approval.

Signature



Date 11/11/2021

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

SUBMISSION FOR DECISION

OPEN

Title: **Circles of Support**

Date: **2021**

1. Purpose

1.1 To consider a request for funding and lead commissioning arrangements for Circles of Support which has previously been facilitated by the NPS.

2. Background:

2.1 Circles of support is a service for registered sex offenders and has been in existence for the past 8 years. It is provided by Humbercare and covers all Humberside, dealing with referrals, they work closely with a range of organisations involved in offender management, MAPPA, Hull Prison and with Safeguarding Boards in the Humberside area.

2.2 They have paid staff and trained volunteers, all whom are engaged with these circles. Recruitment has involved Lincoln University and the University of Hull, all of the unitary authorities, Voluntary Services.

2.3 The service has always been jointly commissioned by Humberside Police and Probation and subsequently NPS and OPPC.

2.4 The service operates with in the context of support circles as follows:

Regulated agreed activities:

- Provision of Circles of Support for Registered Sex Offenders
- Training and provision of volunteers
- Supervision of volunteers to required standards to ensure effective risk management health and safety
- Provision of a co-ordinator and administrative support

Agreed targets:

- 8 circles operating per year across Humberside
- Attendance at Level 2 and Level 3 Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels (MAPPPs) when required

- 1-1 Mentoring of service users within scope
- Audits undertaken to ensure effective practice

2.5 Under newly introduced MoJ Co- commissioning rules the reunified Probation Service cannot be the lead co-commissioner. Effectively this requires a revised funding and commissioning relationship.

3. Recommendations:

3.1 That consideration is given to supporting the revised arrangements as detailed in option 2

4 Options / Risks / Implications:

Option 1 – Not to provide support

4.1 This could jeopardise a project which is well established and well regarded, currently supporting and managing offenders. It has the support of the Force and Probation Service (who are committing funding). It is one that is proving successful and can make a contribution to delivering outcomes set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

The service complements and supports Force MOSOVO department. Officers do not want to see momentum lost in terms of the support available through this service and have identified the need for additional requirements to manage risk individuals within the community and to help to reduce crime.

Option 2 – endorse support as requested

4.2 This option would provide the opportunity to continue to provide support with a view to leading a commissioning exercise during 2022. This option enables the service to continue and to develop with a view to the scheme being reviewed, expanded and re-commissioned with the OPCC as lead commissioning partner.

The service was co-commissioned with NPS for some time, but following probation reunification and change in national policy, the Probation Service can no longer be lead commissioner so have asked the OPCC to take this on. Continuing existing arrangements for this year would mean there is no interruption to service. Future years would be considered in due course and re-tendered in line with procurement policy if it is decided to continue similar provision.

5 Finance:

5.1 Under a revised funding agreement the OPCC would be responsible for 51% of contract and Probation Service 49% .This equates to total annual cost of £50,668.99. OPCC to pay £25,841.18 and Probation Service to pay £24,827.81. £25,500 is already allocated in the current core budget.

5.1.1 There are unpaid grants to be settled from previous financial years and commitments made to NPS. This is budgeted for and available.

6 Legal:

6.1 There are no legal issues to consider other than the need to have regard to the contractual arrangements with the current Humbercare SLA with NPS.

7 Equality:

7.1 There are no equality issues in the context of this report.

8. Consultation:

- Kate Munson, Head of Hull and East Riding Probation Delivery Unit, Probation Service

9. Communication Issues

- None

10. Background documents

- NPS and OPCC Memorandum of Understanding Circles of Support
- NPS and Humbercare SLA

11. Publication

- Open