

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

Decision Record Number: **33/2022**

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

**Executive Summary:**

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

**Decision:**

That funding at the level provided in 2021/22 be approved and discussions take place with key stakeholders and the NPS regarding future funding and commissioning arrangements up 2024/25.

**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 11/08/2022**

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

**SUBMISSION FOR DECISION**

**OPEN**

**Title: Circles of Support Regional (YaTH) Commissioning Arrangements**

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

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**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 OPCC.

**2. Background:**

2.1 Managing people convicted of sexual offences is a key priority for the Probation Service. Sexual offending cause's significant harm to victims and it is essential that we are able to use the most appropriate and effective measures available to manage risk, and support individuals to reduce their likelihood of further sexual offending in the future. Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) offer a way of engaging communities in a positive way to rehabilitate and hold to account those convicted of serious sexual offences. This involves engaging trained and well supported Volunteers to offer social contact, guidance and accountability.

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

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

2.3 The service has always been jointly commissioned by Humberside Police and Probation and subsequently NPS and OPPC. There has been continued service provision in Humberside over the previous 10 years, even though other areas had retrenched from service provision. The service has been continually grant administered and now requires a tendered service approach.

2.4 Under newly introduced MoJ Co- commissioning rules The National Probation Service wishes to work with the OPCC to co commission the COSA service on a national service framework, maintaining the funding commitment from OPCC up until 2025.

### **3. Recommendations:**

- 3.1 That consideration is given to supporting the revised arrangements as detailed in option 3

### **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 who are committing funding and has the support of key organisations and one that is proving successful and can make a contribution to delivering outcomes set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

The service compliments 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.

#### **4.2 Option 2 - Continue to support under current arrangements**

Humberside OPCC continue to provide NPS with 51% funding under lead commissioner arrangements. This option is not advised as the service has reached procurement thresholds and requires a tendered service approach for legal standing. Should current arrangements continue post March 2023 then the legality of the arrangement is questionable.

#### **4.3 Option 3 – Endorse support as requested**

This option would provide the opportunity to continue to provide support with increased resilience and sustainability. 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 has been co-commissioned with NPS for some time, following probation reunification and change in national policy, the Probation Service can no longer be lead commissioner so have asked us to take this on. Continuing existing arrangements for this year so there is no interruption to service, but will consider future years in due course and re-tender in line with procurement policy if it's decided to continue it.

## **5 Finance:**

- 5.1 Under a revised funding agreement the OPPC would be responsible for Providing £30,000 per annum, £90,000 for whole life of the contract, funded from core budget.

## **6 Legal:**

- 6.1 There are no legal issues to consider other than the need to have regard to the contractual arrangements should option 3 be endorsed. There is an existing arrangement with the NPS, with which an MOU and SLA is in place.

## **7 Equality:**

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

## **8. Consultation:**

Claire Selman and Katie Leon – NPS.

## **9. Communication Issues**

- None

## **10. Background documents**

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

## **11. Publication**

- Open