



Reference No: 24-2014

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST:

For Approval

Title:

Contribution to the Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board

Executive Summary:

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states that the PCC and criminal justice bodies “must make arrangements (so far as it is appropriate to do so) for the exercise of their functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police force area.” The criminal justice bodies included in this duty are those which currently comprise the LCJB. It is for local areas to establish working arrangements that will deliver an efficient and effective criminal justice system in that specific area.

In August 2010, the Ministry of Justice confirmed that from April 2011 LCJBs would become self financing. Since this time support to the LCJB in Cleveland has been provided by a Project Manager role funded from LCJB reserves.

In 2012 there was agreement to merge the Cleveland and Durham LCJBs and to further expand the remit of the Project Manager role to support the work of the combined Board. This role has continued to be funded from the remaining reserves held by both the Cleveland and Durham Boards. The Project Manager has been able to devote a full time role to the work of the Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board (C&DCJB) and remains the only dedicated support resource.

The reserves of the LCJB's will only have sufficient money available to continue to pay for this role until the end of June 2014.

The Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board mission is to maintain a powerful coalition of criminal justice and partner agencies who will identify opportunities to overcome crime and justice challenges through the effective combination of agency strengths and the efficient use of resources to support victims of crime and reduce reoffending, while recognising the rights of defendants; all of which is delivered on behalf of and with the support of the communities they serve. With this in mind the PCC's for both Cleveland and Durham have accepted the offer of being Executive Members of the Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board.

The Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board will focus on the following areas:
Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC) - The objective of this sub group is to bring together the Criminal Justice System (CJS), Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) and the voluntary sector within Cleveland and Durham to coordinate, improve, oversee and review the operation of the multi agency SDVC process in accordance with the overarching protocol and component parts.

Victims and Witnesses – The overall objective of this sub group is to deliver the best service possible to victims and witnesses of crime, making the best use of resources, from first contact with the Criminal Justice System through the criminal justice journey and beyond and in accordance with the overarching protocols.

CJS Efficiency – The overall objective of the CJS Efficiency sub group is to make changes to the way the criminal justice system operates in Cleveland and Durham so that the system works as efficiently as possible. This specifically includes reducing the level of attrition, particularly in the Cleveland force area and the Streamlined Digital programme to digitalise the Criminal Justice System.

To aid in delivery of these areas of focus the Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board will need to provide staffing support who will lead the implementation and development of the LCJB priority work streams and associated projects through a multi agency collaborative approach across Cleveland and Durham.

The Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board are seeking a contribution from the PCC's of both Cleveland and Durham to enable this work to continue throughout 2014-15.

Decision:

The PCC is asked to agree a contribution of £17,500 to the Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board to support their activities throughout 2014-15.

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(If yes please provide further details below)

Decision Required – Supporting Information

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

This area of expenditure was anticipated in setting the 2014-15 budget and therefore can be funded from within the PCC initiatives budget.

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

There are no legal implications arising from this decision.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this decision.

Human Rights Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this decision.

Sustainability Implications

This proposal, if agreed, will provide the Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board with sufficient funding to deliver its objectives within 2014-15 only. Beyond this it is likely that the total costs of continuing with the current arrangements will be £50k per annum. To continue will require the agreement between the PCC's for Cleveland and Durham to contribute £25k per annum from 2015-16.

Risk Management Implications

It is likely that the work of the Cleveland and Durham Criminal Justice Board will be reduced significantly if the support for the board can't be funded beyond June 2014. In addition the PCC needs to consider the implications if a decision is made not to continue with funding 2015-16 and beyond.

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Executive**

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: 13.03.14

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS / ~~DOES NOT HAVE~~ my approval.

Signed: 

Date: 19/3/14