



Reference No: 2022-0007544

## THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

### DECISION RECORD FORM

**REQUEST:** For PCC approval.

**Title:** Bridging the Gap - Developing a more ethnically diverse approach to domestic abuse - small grants Fund

**Executive Summary:**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 highlights the need for commissioners of domestic abuse services to consider the support needs of Domestic Abuse victims from migrant and ethnically diverse communities and to give consideration to the provision of 'by and for services'. In response to this, Cleveland OPCC conducted a consultation with a wide range of 'by and for' voluntary and community sector organisations, ethnically diverse focused services, and providers of specialist domestic abuse and sexual violence services across Cleveland. This consultation informed an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to review the specific needs of victims of domestic abuse from ethnically diverse communities including, whether the needs of these victims in Cleveland are being met by the organisations currently available.

The EIA is published for transparency on the Cleveland OPCC website. The EIA identified a mixture of views from victims from ethnically diverse communities; some preferred a mainstream provider disassociated from their own communities, others wanted to see increased cultural capability and a more representative workforce within mainstream provision, and others wanted specific 'by and for' provision. Ultimately, victims from ethnically diverse communities wanted more choice and greater diversity than that currently offered.

Further, historical commissioning processes, especially in relation to funding or procurement for Domestic Abuse provision does not adequately reflect the needs of an ethnically diverse range of communities. Where both mainstream and ethnically diverse organisations have been funded by commissioners there is a frustration in some ethnically diverse community groups, including those that offer specialist services, that the funded services either signpost into non funded organisations without recognising costs, or do not refer at all where a more specialist or culturally appropriate service can provide greater understanding and support to victims. It is acknowledged that there is growing and dynamic diversity within the population demographic of Cleveland and as such there is need for service provision that is more flexible and responsive to these changes.

The EIA recommended the following actions be addressed to respond to the views of ethnically diverse communities:

- seek to provide an increased offer of support to a range of victims from ethnically diverse communities for a period of up to 12 months and gather evidence to inform future commissioning of domestic abuse services.
- explore how a more diverse range of voluntary and community sector organisations could be

grant funded to support ethnically diverse communities.

- Consider the feasibility of a voluntary development agency (VDA) brokering relationships and connections across Cleveland with voluntary sector organisations (VCOs) and groups, managing a small grants fund to support delivery and monitor the quality, capability and accountability of grass roots VCOs and contribute to evidence gathering to inform ongoing needs assessment and effectiveness of a more diverse range of services supporting Domestic Abuse victims from ethnically diverse communities.
- Conduct further research to understand ethnically diverse communities within Cleveland
- Map current ethnically diverse provision and conduct a gap analysis exercise
- Conduct a deep dive of community services for ethnically diverse communities to increase understanding of what support is available at different stages of the recovery journey and to identify where specialist victim provision is available beyond commissioned services
- Work with services that support migrants to understand specific barriers, including the impact on those without recourse to public funds
- Engage with victims/service-users from ethnically diverse communities across mainstream and by and for services in order to assess impact of current provision on the support and recovery journey of victims
- Review partnership arrangements between mainstream and services for ethnically diverse communities to better understand quality of collaboration and impact on victim's choice and support needs, and explore feasibility of how mainstream specific specialist services can access, or spot purchase victim support provision for ethnically diverse communities in response to victims preference for a worker/advocate from an ethnically diverse community to work alongside a specialist provider

Following discussions with the four VDAs across Cleveland, it has been agreed that Catalyst Stockton-on-Tees would lead on managing a Cleveland-wide small grants Fund of £30,000 on behalf of all four VDAs, available to ethnically diverse and migrant VCOs at an amount no greater than £5,000 per applicant/organisation, to support victims of domestic abuse from migrant and ethnically diverse communities by 'bridging the gap' between victims from ethnically diverse communities, the criminal justice system and commissioned domestic abuse services. Catalyst will be allocated a 15% management fee of £4,500.

Commissioned domestic abuse services across Cleveland and the North East Regional representative of the domestic abuse commissioner's office have been informed of our plan to deliver this project as a 12-month pilot to test the approach. Reassurances have been provided that this funding does not reduce funds committed to commissioned domestic abuse providers and whilst this approach offers increased support to Domestic Abuse victims from ethnically diverse communities, capability and competency around risk assessment practice of VCOs from non specialist organisations to deliver support will be assessed as part of the grant application process and in context of the proposed activity.

**Decision:**

To approved the allocation of £34,500 to Catalyst Stockton-on-Tees as per the detail referred to below.

**OPCC Lead Officer:** Tracey Brittain

**Contractor Details (if applicable):** Catalyst Stockton-on-Tees

**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"/>	
<b>(If yes please provide further details below)</b>			

### Decision Required – Supporting Information

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

The funding available to support this proposal is included within the 2022/23 budget

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

The Public Sector Equality Duty has been considered as part of this decision through the completion of a thorough and detailed Equality Impact Assessment which has been used to inform the development of this approach

### Equality and Diversity Implications

Full consultation with commissioned and specialist domestic abuse, sexual violence and victims services, ethnically diverse 'by and for' voluntary and community sector organisations and ethnically diverse focused delivery organisations or departments. Full Equality Impact Assessment conducted and published for transparency on OPCC website.

### Human Rights Implications

Consider as part of EIA process

### Sustainability Implications

This is a 12 month pilot to gather evidence and test an approach to inform future commissioning of DA which can be shared with wider DA commissioning partners.

### Risk Management Implications

This new approach will be closely monitored during the 12 month period to test learning, understand impact and any challenges.

**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 R. Kipling (DMO) Date 23/02/22

**Police and Crime Commissioner:**

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed [Signature] Date 23/2/22