

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

Decision Record Number: **10/2022**

Title: **Young Victims and Witnesses Mapping**

Executive Summary:

This paper outlines the case for commissioning an Independent consultant to map the existing provision and gaps for children and young people within the context of delivery of interventions in respect of victims of MOJ Victims grant. Services specifically for young victims and witnesses.

There is scope and capacity within the MoJ Victims grant to fund this work

Decision:

That the request for commissioning an independent consultant to map the existing provision and gaps for children and young people at total cost of £30,000 be approved.

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 request has my approval.

Signature



Date 16/02/2022

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

SUBMISSION FOR: /DECISION

Open

Title: Young Victims and Witnesses Mapping

Date:

1. Executive Summary

This paper outlines the case for commissioning an Independent consultant to map the existing provision and gaps for children and young people within the context of delivery of interventions in respect of victims of MOJ Victims grant. Services specifically for young victims and witnesses.

There is scope and capacity funding from the MoJ victims grant for the service, reviewing and mapping over a Humberside footprint.

Recommendation(s)

That the request for extending the service for two twelve month periods at the value of £30,000 be approved.

2. Background

2.1 There are notable concerns arising within the absence of services available to vulnerable young victims and witnesses. Particularly in relation to an absence of therapeutic support in respect of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The proposal is to conduct primary and secondary research that identifies the current service offer for children and young people (CYP) in or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system in Humberside.

The objective is to Produce and present a report to the Police and Crime Commissioner that presents the findings of the research which should include local and national best practice and areas where there are opportunities for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to work with partners to the improve services for children and young people.

The scope includes:

- Children and young people who are victims of or otherwise affected by crime and;
- Those who are, or may become involved in criminality.
- Victims are supported by a variety of services, including the Humberside Young Witness Service, which supports young people who are asked to give evidence in court.

2.3 Each local area has a Youth Offending Team and there are various services on offer for early intervention, diversion from the criminal justice system and also Youth courts with both punitive and restorative sentencing options. These services include:

- Safer Schools/ Education Partnership
- Victim Support,
- Children’s Independent Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse Advocates,
- Victim Liaison Officers and the Restorative Justice Service.

It is apparent that there is no “one size fits all” approach to supporting children in or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system, and that there are a multitude of services, commissioned by a number of different agencies - as well as charities, community groups and other third sector organisations. It is anticipated that there are overlaps and gaps between these services.

3. Options:

Please see the options appraisal below, option 1 is considered as the preferred option based on least risk and most benefit.

Option 1: Commission research that identifies the landscape of interventions on offer for local young people; compares it with best practice and national strategies; and makes recommendations on how the OPCC may more effectively commission services that complement and improve outcomes for children and young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system. This will complement the current review of the young witness service, Achieving Best evidence and the current planning for the Victims and Witness Hub. Strategically this research connects with PHADA and the trauma informed delivery of interventions delivered through NHS Humber Coast and Vale. The Research also enhances the work of the OPCC education partnership and early intervention offer.

The research will include:

Desktop analysis:

- An overview of legislation, national guidance and local polices (including *inter alia* criminal justice agencies, Community Safety Partnerships and Youth Offending Teams.
- A landscape review of the services and provisions currently offered in Humberside
- Do local services cover all of the identified best practice, and is the nature of provision consistent across the four local authority areas?
- How are CYPs’ needs identified, assessed and shared between agencies and support services?
- What feedback to local services collect from people using their services? What do they say?

Performance Measurement Review:

- Is it possible to measure the demand for CYP services?
- How well do local CYP services meet that need –with respect to case volume and geography?
- What outcomes are measured with regard to CYP and to what extent do local services improve them?

Analysis and Action Plan:

- Wide-ranging scoping exercise using the most appropriate methodology to elicit the opportunities to commission or connect services that improve outcomes for young people in or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system.

Use of Management Tools and Techniques:

- The use of investigative methods such as path mapping, process mapping or Service User flow to map out the journeys of children and young people through the system is anticipated.

Outputs & Deliverables

- An interim report for internal use, setting out activities undertaken to that point and early indication of any emerging themes.
- A comprehensive final report, including, but not limited to Literature review and assessment and overview of the current landscape for children and young people in or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system in Humberside
- Summary of the research methodology and analysis used
- Conclusions and recommendations on what a first class service would look like for supporting children and young people across the Humberside area in their journey through the criminal justice system.
- Concise executive summary document suitable for use on internal/external website(s)
- The final report should be produced in Word and an executive summary

Option 2.

Request that Humberside Police include this research into the review of the young Witness Service.

This research is considered comprehensive and has urgency in terms of the informative position for the commissioning of Humberside Victims and Witness Hub. It is considered that Humberside Police may not have the capacity and resource to undertake a significant piece of research within the desired timescales.

However if undertaken via a commissioned approach then the research is seen as complimentary and enhances the review of the young witness Service.

Option 3

Do nothing. Don't fund the research.

This isn't considered a desirable option due to the perceived gaps in service for vulnerable young people. Doing nothing will not assist in improving the services available.

4. Financial Implications

Should option 1 be agreed then the costs are anticipated to be around £30,000

5. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications. A request for quote approach will be undertaken and an evaluation process has been agreed with Force regional Procurement.

6. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities issues to be considered.

7. Consultation

There has been stakeholder consultation to re consider current landscape around young victims and a fresh perspective on Key guiding principles:

- Achieving Best Evidence in criminal prosecutions
- Ensuring that victims centeredness in line with VCOP and special measures
- Leadership that will lead the delivery of the HYWS for CYP in Humberside.
- Person centered support / trauma informed
- Integrated in terms of delivering work in partnership to address wider issues such as (Anti-Social Behaviour, Modern Day Slavery, Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Health and well-being, vulnerability, requiring (the provider) to ensure that a strategy is in place to develop and increase access to wider support and victim and witnesses
- Targeted provision to those whose circumstances make them more vulnerable.
- Effective organisations (outcome 3 Humberside p and C Plan).

8. Media information

None.

9. Background documents

None.

10. Publication

Open

PLEASE COMPLETE AND APPEND THE FOLLOWING TABLE TO ALL REPORTS THAT REQUIRE A DECISION FROM THE COMMISSIONER

This matrix provides a simple check list for the things you need to have considered within your report. If there are no implications please state

I have informed and sought advice from HR, Legal, Finance, OPCC officer(s) etc prior to submitting this report for official comments	Yes
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget?	Yes
Value for money considerations have been accounted for within the report	Yes

The report is approved by the relevant Chief Officer	Yes
I have included any procurement/commercial issues/implications within the report	Yes
I have liaised with Corporate Communications on any communications issues	No –None required
I have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment and the outcomes are included within the report	No - None required
I have included any equalities, diversity and or human rights implications within the report	Yes – There are none
Any Health and Safety implications are included within the report	Yes
I have included information about how this report contributes to the delivery of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan	Yes