

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE



Decision No 2015/17

Appendix A

Support for victims of hate crime

1. Context

The work carried out through the OPCC Victims' Review indicated that support services for victims of hate crime were not consistent across the county, with a range of larger organisations – primarily for victims of disability hate crime – and smaller local organisations, but with no clear links between them. There is also insufficient evidence of their effectiveness.

Research has also clearly demonstrated that there is a high-level of un-reported hate crime in Lancashire, as victims are reluctant to engage with the Constabulary.

Victim Support currently receive referrals for hate crime victims from Lancashire Constabulary, but receive very low levels of self or none police referrals, and referrals onwards to specialist services are hampered by limited availability in some parts of the county.

2. Proposed model

In order to address the issues highlighted above, the PCC grant funded a consortium, Victims' Voice, to map out a provision for hate crime victims which would ensure support and advocacy was available to all victims county-wide.

As a consequence of this, Victims' Voice – comprised of Disability First and Smile Mediation – have requested funding for a service which would supplement what is offered by Victim Support and ensure greater co-ordination between existing organisations in the county.

The proposed victims' support and advocacy service would be delivered by three Specialist Case Workers – one based in each policing division - who would act as the prime point of contact for referrals into the service. It would also consist of an Outreach Worker, with responsibility for working alongside Victim Support to engage with other hate crime services, create a Lancashire-wide awareness raising network and encourage reporting of crimes and incidents to police.

The proposed service will run for 12 months, and will be able to commence immediately due to existing organisation staff taking on the Specialist Case Worker roles.

3. Recommendations

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The Commissioner is recommended to support the proposal outlined below to ensure the delivery of specialist support services for victims of hate crime in Lancashire.

- Victims' Voice to be granted £182,118.60 to deliver a county-wide hate crime support and awareness raising service for 12 months.
- That provision be available to extend the grant-funding agreement until March 31, 2017 – to tie in with the re-commissioning of Lancashire Victim Services – subject to satisfactory performance measures and outcomes being delivered by the service provider.
- That the grant be paid in two phases – straddling two financial years – as follows:
 - 9/12ths from the 2015/16 Victims' Funding - £136,950
 - 3/12ths from the 2016/17 Victims' Funding - £45,530
- That the OPCC Commissioning Manager be responsible for performance managing the service, through quarterly reports and meetings to review spend, outputs and outcomes.