



DECISION: 2017-11	DATE: 29th June, 2017
TITLE:	FRAUD SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
REPORT BY:	LOUISE FAIRCLOUGH CRIME, REOFFENDING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEAD

Executive Summary

The Commissioner has a statutory duty to publish a Police and Crime Plan which sets out the priorities for Lancashire. The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021 outlines the following priorities:

1. Protect local policing
2. Tackling crime and reoffending
3. Supporting vulnerable people and victims
4. Developing safe and confident communities

Tackling serious and organised crime including modern day slavery and cybercrime feature strongly in the Commissioners plan and he is committed to the investment of resources that support the tackling of cybercrime recognising that this is now a large part of police officers roles.

Operation Signature is a national initiative having been piloted in Sussex and has been recommended for all forces.

Lancashire intends to embed this within the Intelligence department and considers this role identifying and supporting the most vulnerable victims of fraud and be in a position to provide a service to these individuals with internal and external partnerships including Lancashire Victim Services

Recommendations

The Commissioner is recommended to approve the establishment of an LC 7 post (£24,030 - £27,519 + on costs) from the Crime & Reoffending budget to support the victims of fraud within Lancashire.

Signature Clive Ashford
Police and Crime Commissioner
Date 3rd July 2017

Alth

Director OPCC

12-7-2017

PART I

1. Background and Advice

Action Fraud is the national reporting mechanism set up in 2013 for fraud/cyber offences in the UK. The system was designed to record all crimes, evaluate its suitability for further investigation and disseminated to the force where the offender resides. Only 20% of these crimes are forwarded for further investigation – these are likely to be those with good lines of enquiry and likely to have a positive outcome.

Therefore this leaves 80% of victims simply notified that their crime is not suitable for investigation and as such they receive no further service. Action Fraud systems are not equipped to deal with such volume and identification and as a result often the most vulnerable fall into this category. Research shows that these vulnerable victims are more likely to become repeat victims.

Lancashire averages around 400 victims of fraud offences per month that are reported through the Action Fraud system it is averaged that 10% are vulnerable.

It is therefore proposed that Operation Signature be adopted which will involve the standardised reporting and recording process to identify and support vulnerable victims of fraud.

The creation of this post will enable an excellent quality of service to vulnerable victims of fraud through face to face visits. Vulnerability would be identified at the earliest stage and those requiring additional support are referred to suitable partner agencies. Dialogue has already taken place with LVS and a plan put in place to co-ordinate the demand and criteria for referrals.

In addition the availability for investigative opportunities can be pursued through the investigators framework and preventative measures can be identified and implemented with emphasis on maximising protection for the victim and as such reduce the risk of repeat victimisation.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

The allocation of this funding demonstrates the Commissioner's commitment to supporting functions which help deliver the objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

Supporting this implementation within the Constabulary will increase the understanding of the fraud victim profile across Lancashire and improve the quality of service to all victims of fraud in Lancashire, particularly the most vulnerable. It will also prevent further offences of fraud to both existing victims and others by support and education and reduce the impact of fraud on all victims to such offences.

Priorities supported: Tackling crime and reoffending
 Supporting vulnerable people

3. Consultation

4. Implications

a. Legal

None to consider.

b. Financial

To approve the funding from the Crime and Reoffending budget.

c. Equality considerations



None to consider.

5. Background Papers

6. Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.

Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.

Officer declaration	Date
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above	
CONSULTATION – As above	
Director to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Monitoring Officer)	
I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.	
Signature..... Date.....12.7.2017.....	