

## THE POLICE CRIME & VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER (PCVC) FOR DURHAM

### DECISION RECORD FORM

#### REQUEST:

**Title: Establishment of a Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel**

#### Background

Ron Hogg, Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, and Barry Coppinger, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, held a consultation event on a refresh of the regional Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy on the 1st of December 2016. The consultation identified the need to replicate the now embedded Rape Scrutiny Panel process for domestic abuse as a key priority in the refreshed Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

The development of an Independent Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel – to review case files and provide structured feedback to first-line supervisors on engagement and evidential issues - is also a requirement within the 6 PCC Whole System Approach to Domestic Abuse Police Transformation Bid.

There is an already established CPS North East Violence Against Women Scrutiny Panel which critically examines CPS decisions for Violence Against Women prosecutions.

#### Proposal

The Durham PCVC Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel will work with Durham Constabulary to improve performance in the investigation of domestic abuse cases and improve the services offered by the Police to victims of domestic abuse. It should also provide a real benefit to improve the community's confidence in the police to deal with such serious incidences and therefore increase reporting.

The Panel will achieve this by scrutinising domestic abuse cases where the police decision was to No Further Action (NFA). Cases will include a variety of offence types which are flagged as domestic abuse, intimate partner relationship, medium and/or high risk, and will encompass any victim/perpetrator regardless of gender.

Whilst the panel will focus on the work of the police, it is inevitable that other agencies will also come under the spotlight. The office of the PCVC will make sure that lessons for other agencies are passed on.

We will seek to recruit a chair and panel members who are independent but who have an interest in supporting victims of domestic abuse. Panel members must be committed to maintaining strict confidentiality regarding the cases they scrutinise. The Panel is likely to be between 6 and 12 members and a fair representation of organisations working with victims of domestic violence throughout County Durham and Darlington, and will report to the PCVC.

**Decision: The PCVC agreed to the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel.**

**OPCC Lead Officer:** Charles Oakley, Head of Governance and Commissioning

**Contractor Details (if applicable):**

**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)

No specific financial implications

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

No specific legal implications

Equality and Diversity Implications

No specific equality and diversity implications

Human Rights Implications

No specific human rights implications

Sustainability Implications

No specific sustainability implications

Risk Management Implications

No specific risk management implications

Consultations

Consulted with Durham Constabulary.

**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.

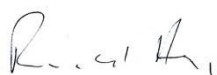
Signed:



Date: 23/02/17

**Police and Crime Commissioner:**

Signed:



Date: 23/02/17