



OPCC Record of Decision

The PCC's decision to award North Devon Hospitals Trust £46,619 to fund a children's trauma therapist for one year, supporting those affected by sexual abuse.

Decision Record prepared by	
Name:	Esther Bonfield
Role:	Commissioning Officer
Date of Decision:	28 th July 2023

1. Background

- 1.1 The OPCC funds a number of organisations to deliver therapeutic support to those affected by sexual violence and abuse.
- 1.2 A number of other partners across Devon and Cornwall also fund therapeutic support, but demand and complexity continue to grow, with both the Children's Society and SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) reporting concerns about increasing numbers of children awaiting therapeutic input.
- 1.3 Recruitment challenges are adding to the pressure, with voluntary sector partners in particular facing staffing difficulties in the light of short-term funding and the cost of living crisis.
- 1.4 There are currently over 200 children who have been sexually abused on the joint SARC / Children's Society waiting list. SARC have recently taken responsibility for this waiting list given the high number and growing concern.
- 1.5 The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) recently notified the OPCC of its intention to award an uplift to the Victims Grant of £70,868.10

2. Decision Record

- 2.1 The PCC intends to award £46,619 of the £70,868.10 MoJ uplift for victims to Royal Devon Hospitals Foundation Trust to allow SARC to recruit a children's trauma therapist.
- 2.3 SARC are already out for recruitment for one post. Awarding this money will enable them to appoint an additional therapist, which will mean greater capacity to deliver trauma focused therapeutic interventions to children. More children will be seen, and waiting times for essential support will reduce.



3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication

3.1 This decision has come about as a result of numerous conversations with SARC and voluntary sector partners who are supporting victims of childhood sexual abuse; it is felt that allocating the money in this way will enable a constructive and efficient use of additional funds.

4. OPCC Monitoring Officer advice

4.1 Legal, Management, Equality and GDPR Implications – Current and Future

- a. No legal advice was required prior to the PCC taking this decision.
- b. The PCC's CEO and Monitoring Officer has advised that this decision is within the powers of those making it and that, from the information provided, there would not appear to be any adverse legal, managerial, equality or GDPR implications arising from the proposal.
- c. GDPR obligations have been considered when taking this decision and on this occasion, it is not necessary to complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment

4.2 Financial and Commercial – Current and Future

The PCC's Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer has advised that the arrangements are consistent with good governance and ensuring value for money.

The requirements of the MoJ grant mean the funds need to be spent in the current financial year. Allowing SARC to recruit an additional therapist means time is saved as the recruitment is already underway.

The provision will be reviewed throughout the year and continuity of funding will be considered as part of commissioning intentions planning. Currently there is no confirmation of continued funding from the MoJ.

5. Supporting documents:

5.1 None

6. Official approval

6.1 Following the appropriate approval, this decision sheet will be published, subject to FOIA classification, on the OPCC website.



For OPCC office use:

If FOI Closed at the current date under Section 22, please provide details of the future date by which this decision can be reconsidered for publication:	n/a
Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published at a later date in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision.	no

The Recommendation for Decision as outlined in this report is formally approved and subject to Freedom of Information Classification will be published on the OPCC website:

Police and Crime Commissioner

**Governance Signature by
Chief Financial Officer**

Handwritten signature of Alison Hernandez in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Nicola Allen in blue ink.

Signed
Print: Alison Hernandez
Date: 10th August 2023

Signed
Print: Nicola Allen
Date: 10th August 2023