

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE



Decision No 2015/18

Appendix A

Introduction

As part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's role to provide victims' services in Lancashire, funding has been approved for a children's and young person's counselling service to be delivered by Trust House and The Birchall Trust.

This service will operate pan-Lancashire, and will support children and young people who have been the victim of sexual violence, abuse or exploitation.

Currently, the service is grant funded by the PCC until the end of March 2016.

Proposal

As part of the new service delivery, Trust House and The Birchall Trust have been asked to investigate the possibility of partnering with other organisations, in order to find accommodation county-wide which is suitable and cost-effective for housing the counselling service.

As a consequence, the organisations have agreed to use facilities at the Princes' Trust, in Burnley, free of charge as a base for delivering services in that area.

This is an excellent example of partnership working, facilitated by the OPCC, and making best use of community resources for the benefit of victims.

However, in order to make the facilities suitable for counselling children and young people, improvements are needed in the form of additional furnishings and equipment.

Trust House has indicated it would require a one-off grant of around £1,000 in order to make the rooms more appropriate, including:

- Armchairs
- Coffee table
- Cushions
- Bean bags
- Sand tray and toys
- Children's table and chairs
- Play and art therapy items

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It is proposed this funding be taken from the monies received by the PCC through the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). This would mean money from criminals would be channelled positively to help support victims of crime to better cope and recover.

Recommendations

That the Commissioner approves a one-off grant of £1,000 to Trust House and The Birchall Trust to allow the counselling rooms to be furnished appropriately.

That this money be drawn from the POCA funding which is available to the Commissioner, in order to positively support victims of crime to cope and recover.