



Our Ref: oPCC FOI 1222

Date: 20/07/18

Dear

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 1222

REQUEST

What budget has your Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner set aside for the costs associated with commissioning Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services? This might include staff costs, legal costs, cost of market engagement events etc. Please supply the answer as total budget for the financial year 2018/19.

RESPONSE

The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) does not directly commission specific VAWG victim services, so technically; the response is one of 'no information held'.

However, under Section 16 – 'Duty to Assist', please see the below:-

In relation to your request, victims have been considered as referenced in the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy (VAWG). Throughout his time in Office, the Commissioner has invested heavily into services for *all* victims to access, in line with his Police and Crime plan priorities, particularly '*protecting vulnerable people*'. This has been done by way of both capital and revenue spending. Investment has been made to develop a Victim Centre in South Yorkshire; this now houses our Sexual Assault Referral Centre service, vulnerable victim interview suites, the triage team for one of our victim service providers and the provision of a remote video link to court. The PCC has provided financial support to enable access to more services for victims covered below, as well as on a more personal level, by establishing the 'Victims & Survivors' panel, which now acts in an advisory capacity, as and when required.

In order to further your request, I approached the Partnerships & Commissioning manager, who explained that; the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) provides a grant to the PCC; a proportion of this has been utilised to fund additional Independent Domestic Violence support in each local authority area. The South Yorkshire PCC along with the Humberside PCC, has recently co-commissioned a Victims Services contract, from the MOJ funding, which has been awarded to Victim Support. Again, they provide support for *all* victims of crime which will include victims of violence.

They also explained that, PCC for South Yorkshire is the contract holder for the Regional Adult Sexual Assault Referral Service which is a co-commissioned collaborative service involving NHS England and all four Police and Crime Commissioners in the Yorkshire and the Humber Region. The service was commissioned for a three year period and is designed to put victim need at the heart of the service and to meet the health needs of the victim as well as evidentiary requirements for policing purposes.

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NHS England is the contract holder for the South Yorkshire Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centre which is based in Sheffield Children's Hospital. OPCC officers played an active role in developing the specification for this co-commissioned service. Changes have been made to the specification in order to increase the hours of service which gives additional cover on bank holidays and weekends. Again this service meets both the health and criminal justice needs of victims.

In addition to the above the PCC has commissioned an Independent Sexual Violence Advocate service (ISVA) for the county; which supports both adult and child victims alike. A 3 year contract has been commissioned with the intention of securing a service; which is delivered by passionate and committed individuals who have the time to develop and improve the service to best meet the needs of victims. A single referral pathway has been adopted by providers, which accepts referrals from the whole county but ensure the victim receives support in their preferred location.

All services commissioned by the PCC are equally available to victims who self-refer to the service. We actively encourage the providers to increase self referrals ensuring services are available to victims whether they have reported a crime or not. We endeavour to consult and engage with victims and survivors groups, when developing service specification.

I have also attached the below links, which list grants awarded across the county to various projects, for a variety of purposes. These projects however, may or may not have a direct impact on victims of violence.

Grants awarded:-

<http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Grants/2013-14-Grants.pdf>

<http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Grants/2014-15-Grants.pdf>

<http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Grants/2015-16-Grants.pdf>

<http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Grants/2016-17-Grants.pdf>

<http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/Grants/Commissioner-Grants-2017.18.pdf>

The total budget for commissioned services is £4.9 million.

The OPCC is more than happy to expand on any of the above. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact either; the office on 0114 2964150 or our Communications Officer, Samantha Mawson on 07833 483511.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request an internal review by emailing this office.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
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Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 545745
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

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Yours sincerely,

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