

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – Decision Making Record

Report Title: **Proposal for embedding a Surrey Police employee in the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) CPS office in Canterbury, Kent**

Decision number: 150/2016

Author and Job Role: **Alison Bolton, Chief Executive**

Protective Marking: **OFFICIAL**

Background

The PCC is aware that, at present, there are considerable delays in bringing cases of rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) to justice in Surrey (and other south east areas). Contributory factors include the length of time taken for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to reach a charging decision, as well as issues relating to court scheduling and the quality of police files submitted to the CPS. Ultimately, these delays will have a significant impact on victims and their willingness to support prosecutions, hence all parties are committed to delivering improvements in this area.

Following a recent meeting of representatives from Surrey and Sussex Police/OPCCs, the CPS and HM Courts and Tribunal Service, it was agreed to establish a trial arrangement where a senior police employee would be embedded within the CPS offices with RASSO lawyers. Essentially, this person would be charged with improving the quality of file submissions from Surrey Police to the CPS, developing performance indicators on timeliness and file quality, forging better relationships between Surrey Police RASSO teams and relevant CPS lawyers and help develop best practice. Other activities on the part of the Police and partners will also be necessary and the lead Assistant Chief Constable is drawing up a more detailed action plan to address this problem.

The recommendation is that this is for a 12 month basis, reviewable after 6 months. The person would be of Detective Inspector equivalent status and have relevant experience at DI/Detective Superintendent level within the public protection arena. The member of staff would be based at CPS offices in Canterbury, Kent as the Guildford CPS offices are used only by a small number of lawyers. The individual would spend at least 1 day a week with Surrey Police RASSO teams and would be line managed by the DCI force RASSO lead.

This model is one that has been in place in the Metropolitan Police area for a number of years and is being replicated in Sussex and Kent as well. The Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor has agreed to house the person in the Canterbury CPS office and to consider offering them access to the CPS Case Management System.

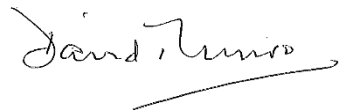
Should the role become permanent in future, a more formal recruitment process with a fully evaluated job profile will need to be considered. The total cost of this post for the trial period of 12 months would be in the region of £62,000 which will be split between the OPCC and Surrey Police.

Recommendation

That the PCC agrees to part fund the cost of embedding, on a trial basis, a Surrey Police member of staff into the RASSO CPS team in Canterbury.

Police and Crime Commissioner Approval

I approve the recommendation(s):

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Tunnicliffe", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Signature:

Date: 22/09/2016

All decisions must be added to the decision register.

Areas of consideration

Consultation

This has been discussed with the Chief Constable, Assistant Chief Constable, Head of Public Protection and Head of Sexual Offences Investigations Team. It was also discussed at a joint meeting with CPS, HMCTS and Surrey Police.

Financial implications

Around £62k to fund the post on a 12 month basis which would be split between Surrey Police and the OPCC.

Legal

None.

Risks

None.

Equality and diversity

None.

Risks to human rights

None.