

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey – Decision Making Record

Report Title: Section 22A Agreement – Forensic Capability Network
Decision number: 2020/032
Author and Job Role: Johanna Burne, Head of Performance and Governance
Protective Marking: OFFICIAL

Background

A Section 22A agreement has been developed for all Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners (and equivalent) to sign in relation to the delivery of forensic science services in England and Wales.

The Transforming Forensics Programme was established in 2017 to support police forces in England and Wales in delivering sustainable, high quality forensic science capabilities in support of Policing Vision 2025 and the Home Office’s Forensic Science Strategy. The Transforming Forensics Programme itself is not a formal collaboration arrangement and is not the subject of any formal collaboration agreement.

As a result of work carried out by the Transforming Forensics Programme the Parties now wish to enter into a collaboration agreement pursuant to section 22A of the Police Act 1996 (as amended by the PRSRA) to establish a Forensic Capability Network (FCN), containing provision relating to the delivery of forensic science services by each of the Parties and/or the collaboration between one or more of the Parties in relation to such delivery. This Agreement also contains provision relating to:

- the support by a policing body for another policing body (“policing body collaboration provision”); and / or
- the support by a policing body for the police force which another policing body is responsible for maintaining (“policing body and force collaboration provision”).

The Section 22A Agreement sets out the arrangements for the discharge of the Parties’ functions under this collaboration and the appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset to act as the initial Host Policing Body on the terms set out in this Agreement.

Recommendation:

That the PCC signs the Section 22A agreement for the Forensics Capability Network

Police and Crime Commissioner Approval

I approve the recommendation(s):

Signature:

Jared Tunno

Date: 6th July 2020

All decisions must be added to the decision register.

Areas of consideration

Consultation

The agreement has been reviewed by NPCC, APACE and PATTs and the template agreed has been by APACE and is recommended for PCC signature.

Financial implications

The Parties agree that one of the general principles of this Agreement is that each Party is to share fairly the benefits, risks and liabilities of this collaboration. Consequently, although the Host Policing Body and Host Chief Officer are hosting this collaboration, any costs, expenses or other liabilities incurred by them in relation to the FCN should rest with the Parties and should be shared between the Policing Bodies in accordance with the Funding Principles. The Funding principles are set out in the Agreement.

Legal

As covered in the Agreement.

Risks

The Agreement seeks to reduce risks with regard to lack of national forensic capability and costs of provision. Risk management is covered in the Agreement.

Equality and diversity

Equality standards are covered in the Agreement.

Risks to human rights

None.