



# Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission

## Freedom of Information Act

### Request Response

No. 03072015-2

### Question

Please regard this request as a Freedom of Information Request made under the Freedom of Information Act. We draw your attention to obligations under the Local Government (Transparency Requirements) (England) Regulations 2015 to publish information about all expenditure exceeding £500.

We would be grateful to receive all information you hold on and in relation to the following:

1. All contracts awarded through the commissioning of sexual violence/abuse services or sexual violence/abuse related services in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. Please include the following details:

- 1.1. Names of organisations awarded contracts
- 1.2. Financial amounts awarded
- 1.3. The duration of the contracts (including breakdown of amount awarded per year)

In relation to the above, please specify the category of the contracted services, i.e.:

- (i) advocacy, including independent sexual violence (ISVA) advice services
- (ii) face to face services: counselling, emotional support, group support
- (iii) forensic sexual assault services, including Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs).

2. Plans, strategies or other public documents that relate to spending and investment in sexual violence/abuse services or sexual violence/abuse related services.

### Answer

I am writing to advise you that, following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is held by this Department.

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## QUESTION 1

### 2012-13

Since the Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission came into existence in November 2012 we have administered grants and contracts which support victims and witnesses of sexual violence and abuse throughout the county including a new interpersonal violence helpline.

In 2012/13 funds that were allocated to support victims and witnesses of sexual violence and abuse throughout the county were administered by the now defunct Northamptonshire Police Authority. Details of their final budget can be found [here](http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20121121111426/http://www.northants.police.uk/policeauthority/default.aspx?id=docs&inafolder=yes&foldername=Agendas%20Reports%20and%20Meeting%20Dates/Agendas%20and%20Reports/Reports/20110217):

<http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20121121111426/http://www.northants.police.uk/policeauthority/default.aspx?id=docs&inafolder=yes&foldername=Agendas%20Reports%20and%20Meeting%20Dates/Agendas%20and%20Reports/Reports/20110217>

### 2013-14

In 2013/14 The Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission received £915k Community Safety Fund (CSF) grant funding. This un-ringfenced grant replaced a number of funding streams most of which were previously paid to partner authorities such as District and Borough councils. The total funding in CSF for 2013-14 was around 25% less than the amount paid under the previous regime in 2012-13.

<b>NCC contributions</b>	<b>2013-14 £000</b>	<b>2014-15 £000</b>	<b>2015-16 £000</b>	<b>2016-17 £000</b>	<b>2017-18 £000</b>
	300	0	0	0	0
<b>Annual change</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

In 2013/14, the OPCC's new approach to commissioning services aimed to ensure measurable results. A [commissioning framework](http://northantspcc.org.uk/docs/exec/PCC%20Executive%20Order%2026.pdf) (<http://northantspcc.org.uk/docs/exec/PCC%20Executive%20Order%2026.pdf>) set out how our police and crime plan was to be delivered into action. It applied to all

services commissioned by the Police and Crime Commission, whether from the police force or elsewhere.

Where services were commissioned jointly with partners, the Commission applied the principles of this framework to the commissioning process:

- Outcome-based. Focused on 'what we achieve' rather than 'what we do'
- Value for money. The most efficient and effective service to deliver the outcomes specified.
- Fair and transparent decision making. In line with the decision-making policy of the Commission.
- Capacity building. A commitment to delivering sustainability in service provision.
- Participative. A commitment to consult and engage during the design and procurement process and through the monitoring of the service.
- Clear process and governance. Including clear procurement processes.
- Promote improvement and innovation. To deliver the best possible services to service users in Northamptonshire.

The organisations commissioned by the OPCC were:

- Borough and district councils through the new Local Solutions Fund
- Crimestoppers
- Children and Young People's Board
- Dedicated substance intervention programme (Northamptonshire Police and C2C)
- Drugs eradication project jointly with Northamptonshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Interpersonal violence services, including the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Sunflower Centre, multi-agency public protection arrangements and multi-agency risk assessment conference pooled budget
- Local Safeguarding Children Board
- Victim Support (to October 2014 when newly commissioned Victims and Witness Service goes live)
- Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service

## **2014/15**

In January, 2014 the Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission informed all borough and district councils and chairs of community safety partnerships of the OPCC's commissioning intentions following the removal of the Home Office Community Safety Fund. The [\*Local Solutions Fund\*](#) was created as a replacement. This included partnering elements that have traditionally been funded directly by the force and those projects and organisations outside of the police force that have been funded through force grants either as a one-off or as an on-going

arrangement. The intention was to have evidence-based, innovative work leading to real and measurable results. We recognised that the best approach to identifying and understanding local problems is through local problem-solving and the delivery of local solutions. This provides the rationale for the Local Solutions Fund.

This represents a significant sea change for policing and partnering for community safety, but is necessary in the current financial climate where significant financial savings need to be made to meet the projected force budget deficit of over £21million by 2017-18.

The *Local Solutions Fund* is made up of:

- Second Home funding allocation and
- Council tax discounts and exemptions,

An agreed proportion is allocated to the Borough and District Councils that raised these elements Supplemented by:

- £150,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner's commissioning budget allocated to Borough and District Councils at the Commissioner's discretion.
- Additional funds from the Police and Crime Commissioner's commissioning budget is also be allocated to the appropriate Borough or District Councils to balance the additional Housing Revenue Account costs incurred, on the understanding that this element of the fund is invested in the council housing communities.

In total, the Local Solutions Fund is **£420,920**.

<http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/#!/CommissionDocuments/23144>

The OPCC believed that there is a continuing strategic role for them, helping to shape and inform prioritisation of preventive work at district and borough level and providing a tactical and operational role in galvanising and marshalling local agencies and community resources. Community Safety Partnerships and the various related partnering arrangements must be fit for the 21st century. The process is a commissioning not a bidding one. Funds were allocated for each borough and district council, who will then act as the prime contractor, to deliver mutually agreed outcomes to tackle local crime and community safety problems against the stated outcomes in the [Police and Crime Plan](http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/docs/report/Police%20and%20Crime%20Plan.pdf) (<http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/docs/report/Police%20and%20Crime%20Plan.pdf>).

The relationship between the commission and prime contractor will be a contractual one and will be a matter of public record.

The Commission has published its commissioning framework that sets out its commissioning principles and approach. This is a departure from the previous arrangements of contributing funding to support community safety partnering and partnerships through grants that provided uncertain outcomes and unclear value for money. The commitment to partnering remains strong and is backed up with a financial commitment. However, the commissioning framework recognises the need to do this differently, with a focus on commissioning for outcomes rather than

commissioning of services. The net budget for these activities in 2014-15 will be £1.690m.

In 2013, The Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission undertook [The Victims' Voice consultation](#), which was the largest of its kind in the UK, and showed that, in too many cases, victims and witnesses are often let down by a system that places the focus on, and builds services around supporting, the offender or perpetrator.

(<http://www.northants.police.uk/images/mediapool/news/24-09-13-Victims-Voice-Report.pdf>)

This insight from the perspective of victims and witnesses also helped us [to commission a new victim and witness service](#) when the responsibility and funds were devolved by the Ministry of Justice to Police and Crime Commissioners from April 2015. Northamptonshire was first area in the country to take advantage of the opportunities this change brought, and our new service, Voice: for victims and witnesses, was launched in October 2014. This will provide an end-to-end service for all victims of crime and those significantly affected by anti-social behaviour and witnesses.

(<http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/docs/exec/PCC%20Executive%20Order%2041.pdf>)

Voice brings together for the first time services to provide integrated, high-quality support for victims and witnesses, who will also be actively involved in the design, delivery and review of services to create a genuinely victim-centred justice system in Northamptonshire. Voice has now re-located along with the county's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service provided by the Sunflower Centre and Restorative Northamptonshire will also co-locate with Voice.

To oversee the improvement of services being delivered to victims and witnesses, a new Voice Strategic Board has been formed, and is being independently chaired by Linda Lee, who is a former president of the Law Society. The Board is made up of senior executives from criminal justice agencies, provider services and service users, who will form a panel to which the Strategic Board is currently establishing. This will ensure that the voices of victims are heard and listened to as we develop and deliver our four strategic themes:

- Victim and witness involvement;
- Using support services;
- Service improvement;
- Justice reform.

Provision of specialist services to victims of 'Interpersonal Violence' (IPV), are currently provided in the main by voluntary and community sector organisations, and funded by a range of funding streams, including provision commissioned through Northamptonshire County Council's Supporting People contracts. These providers are members of the Northamptonshire Against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse (NADASA) network that seeks to coordinate and improve services by working together.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has [commissioned a helpline and support provision to victims of Interpersonal Violence](#), provided by Northamptonshire Rape Crisis. This became operational in February 2015 and work to formally establish the referral pathways between Northamptonshire Rape Crisis, Voice and other providers is ongoing.

(<http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/docs/exec/PCC%20Executive%20Order%2044.pdf>)

Safeguarding Children and tackling child sexual exploitation remain key priorities. Clearly a focus on improved partnerships and joint working is vital, therefore the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Reducing Incidence of Sexual Exploitation (RISE) team have been formed to provide a quicker, more effective multi-agency response following a referral, either from a professional or a member of the public, who has concerns about a child's welfare.

The Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission was also involved with a recent consultation on the Draft Northamptonshire Interpersonal Violence Strategy 2015-18. All public agencies in Northamptonshire are committed to tackling the issue of interpersonal violence and the draft strategy sets out the goals that agencies in the county are aiming to achieve and how they intend to do this for the period April 2015 – March 2018.

As a result of the feedback received during this consultation, in collaboration with partner agencies, further work will be undertaken on key areas such as:

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual violence
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)

A copy of the draft strategy can be found [here](#)  
(<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/consultations/Documents/PDF%20Documents/Draft%20Interpersonal%20Violence%20%20Strategy.pdf>)

## QUESTION 2

- **Northamptonshire Interpersonal Violence Strategy 2015-2018**  
<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/consultations/Documents/PDF%20Documents/Draft%20Interpersonal%20Violence%20%20Strategy.pdf>
- **Refreshed Police and Crime Plan**  
<http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/docs/report/Police%20and%20Crime%20Plan.pdf>
- **Online Safety Report**

<http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/docs/priorities/Online-safety-full-report.pdf>

- **Ten Point Pledge**

[http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/docs/priorities/PCC\\_10\\_point\\_pledge.pdf](http://www.northantspcc.org.uk/docs/priorities/PCC_10_point_pledge.pdf)

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Iain Britton, Chief Executive, Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, West Wing, Force Headquarters, Wootton Hall, Northampton, NN4 0JQ

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF