

<b>Approved By:</b> Greg Myddelton, Assistant Director Commissioning)	<b>Classification of Paper:</b> Not Protectively Marked
<b>Report to PCC</b>	<b>Report reference number</b> PCC/ 0028/15
<b>Date of Report</b> 4 March 2015	<b>Area of County/Stakeholders affected</b> Countywide
<b>Title of report</b> PCC Victims Fund – Mental Health triage pilot	
<b>Report by</b> Greg Myddelton	
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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £47,174 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the Victims Fund to Essex Police for an extended pilot of the mental health triage project.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of the Victims' grant to expand and extend the existing mental health triage pilot in Essex, Southend & Thurrock.

**3. Benefits of Proposal**

- 3.1. Street Triage is the term used to describe schemes where mental health nurses join police patrols to respond to incidents where a person is presenting as being in a mental health crisis and in need of urgent support/intervention where detention under the Mental Health Act may be an option. The availability of a mental health professional working with the police enables an initial assessment to take place by a skilled mental health professional.
- 3.2. Our proposal is to extend and expand the existing small scale pilot on a greater scale to test the model with a view to it becoming business as usual activity.
- 3.2. Based on the demand profile and the associated costs, Section 136 detentions represent a financial commitment (relevant to Essex Police) of approximately £123,648 annually. This pilot will seek to avoid these unnecessary costs and free-up officers to engage in other policing activity.

#### **4. Background and proposal**

4.1 The purpose of these triage schemes is to improve service provision to those experiencing mental health crisis whilst diverting individuals not requiring acute care to other community based services. It is planned to reduce by half the number of people inappropriately detained in police cells by next year, after it was revealed 8,667 people were detained in such facilities in England in 2011/12 (Source: Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat).

4.2 Street Triage has already produced a number of significant benefits – these include;

- Significantly improved relationships between police and mental health services
- Decreased waiting times for MHA assessments (as a result of AMHP's and s12 Dr's having greater capacity)
- An emerging shift in police culture from being risk adverse to positive risk management
- Increased officer knowledge and effectiveness when dealing with incidents of mental illness.
- Greater understanding within both Police and Mental Health of each agency's respective powers and authorities – including improved understanding of mental health service pathways.

4.3 The key benefit however, is experienced by members of the public - those who do require detention are able to access a faster assessment and care whilst those who could be managed by crisis teams or diverted to other services receive a more appropriate response to their crisis.

#### **5. Police and Crime Plan**

5.1 Supports priorities in the Police and Crime Plan as follows;

- Improving crime prevention
- Supporting Victims of Crime
- Ensuring local solutions meet local problems
- Increasing efficiency in policing through collaborative working and innovation

#### **6. Police Operational Implications**

6.1 Operational implications have been considered and are planned as part of the ongoing pilot.

#### **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 The PCC would fund a £47,174 contribution to Essex Police. This funding would be split as £13,687 from the victims' capacity building fund, and £33,487 from the victims' commissioning fund.

#### **8. Legal Implications**

8.1 The award of the grant is subject to the PCC's standard funding agreement.

#### **9. Staffing and other resource implications**

9.1 There are no staffing issues

**10. Equality and Diversity implications**

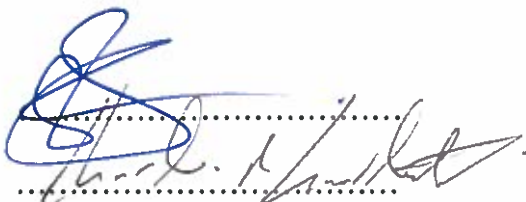
10.1 There are no equality and diversity implications

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**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the Chief Executive and CFO and the PCC Solicitor where legal implications arise.

Chief Executive/M.O



Chief Financial Officer

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PCC Legal Advisor

..... (As necessary)

**Decision**

I agree the recommendations to this report



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**PCC/Deputy PCC**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because

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**PCC/Deputy PCC**

**Publication**

**Reasons for non-publication** (*state 'None' if applicable*)

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication

YES

NO

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.