

## PCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

**Report reference number:** PCC 090-17

**Classification (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted):** Restricted

**Title of report:** Regional Disaster Victim Identification Unit

**Area of County/Stakeholders affected:**  
Eastern Region Police Forces and Policing Bodies

**Report by :** Lisa Bird

**Date of report:** 13 September 2017

**Enquiries to:** Susannah Hancock

### 1. Purpose of report

To seek agreement on the Section 22a agreement in relation to the provision of an Eastern Region Disaster Victim Identification Unit.

### 2. Recommendations

To approve the Section 22a agreement in relation to the provision of a Regional Disaster Victim Identification Unit.

### 3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1 The collaboration of the Chief Constables of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies in the provision of a

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Regional Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) capability will be managed by a Regional DVI Co-ordinator and will provide a more effective and efficient Disaster Victim Identification provision for the Constabularies. The main benefit is to provide the most effective means of co-ordinating and delivering a key support function. The collaboration of the PCCs of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk will provide joint support to the function.

- 3.2 The provision of a Regional DVI capability will be more efficiently and effectively discharged by a regional team and will secure good value for money. Benefits include:
- Greater resilience and flexibility in the use of highly skilled specialist staff;
  - Reduction in the duplication of roles and resources; and
  - Enhanced capability and capacity.
- 3.3 This proposal is linked to the previous five year agreement, which was signed in 2012.

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

- 4.1 DVI is the term used to describe the process and procedures used to recover, identify and repatriate deceased people following a mass fatality incident.
- 4.2 The original Agreement was signed on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012. The agreement expired on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Prior to the agreement being signed each Force had a Legal Responsibility under the Civil Contingencies Act to provide a Response to Mass Disaster and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI). This resulted in each Force training hundreds of staff members in Body Recovery, Emergency Mortuary and Casualty Bureau in addition existing Family Liaison Officers needed to be trained in DVI. The Regional Agreement allowed a coordinated Response across the Eastern Region to be developed which significantly reduced the numbers trained significantly cutting costs. The Agreement allows staff to support each other if and when a DVI Incident occurs across the Eastern Region whereby the Local Force cannot cope with the size of the incident presented. This Model allows staff to be deployed across the Region and Nationally if required i.e. Essex Air crash and the Shoreham Air Disaster.
- 4.3 The current arrangements in relation to mutual aid and support allow for the temporary secondment of staff between forces in the region to respond to significant incidents.
- 4.4 The provision of a Regional Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) capability will be managed by a Regional DVI Co-ordinator (RDVIC), who will report to the Chief Officer Lead for the area of work within the region and will provide a more effective and efficient Disaster Victim Identification provision for the Constabularies.

4.5 The Regional DVI Unit is to develop and deliver a collaborative approach to disaster victim identification that meets the needs of all Force and Policing body requirements.

4.6 The operating procedures will be developed and maintained by the RDVIC in conjunction with the Chief Officer Lead and will be agreed by the Regional DVI Executive Committee.

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

5.1 This collaboration supports one of the key strategic aims of the Police and Crime Plan: that victims are at the heart of what we do.

5.2 The collaboration amongst Forces will help Essex Police to continue to build on the strong collaboration with police forces across the Eastern Region.

## **6. Police Operational Implications**

6.1 The provision of a Regional DVI capability will be more efficiently and effectively discharged by a regional team, which should see a reduction in the duplication of roles and resources.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 Savings and costs associated with staff, officers, on-costs and non-pay expenditure have been agreed as part of the shared budgetary arrangements determined by the Chief Constables will be apportioned based on the Net Revenue Expenditure (NRE) of each Force in any given year. This ration will be applied to any under-spend or overspend on the annual budget.

7.2 PCCs will require to be advised of the resourcing requirements year on year in order to consider the resourcing requirement in determining their annual budgets.

7.3 The RDVIC will be responsible for securing value for money.

## **8. Legal Implications**

8.1 There are no legal implications.

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

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

- 9.1 The function will be staffed by officers and staff from forces within the region and will be managed by the RDVIC.
- 9.2 The function will have an agreed establishment of two members of staff to be filled by officers and/or staff from forces within the region.
- 9.3 The Chief Constables will explore opportunities for the adoption of common policies and procedures in respect of working practices in the function, including common standards for the officers and staff.

## 10. Equality and Diversity implications

- 10.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications.

## 11. Background papers



DVI S22a signed CC  
Kavanagh.pdf



s22a DVI revised  
final nov13.pdf

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the OPCC Chief Executive and Treasurer, prior to review and sign off by the PCC / DPCC .

Chief Executive/M.O Sign: *[Signature]*

Print: S. HANCOCK

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Sign: *[Signature]*

Print: CHARLES A. GARDNER

**Publication**

Is the report for publication?

YES

Report yes but not appendices

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (state 'None' if applicable)

CONTAINS DETAILS OF OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO DISASTERS

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

**Redaction**

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet

YES

2. Of Appendix

YES

Not for publication

NO

NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

.....

Date redaction carried out: .....

**Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only**

If redaction is required, Treasurer or Chief Executive are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign: .....

Print: .....

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed: .....

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report;

Sign: ..... 

Print: ..... R. C. HIRST

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed: ..... 9/12/17

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

.....  
.....  
.....

Sign: .....

Print: .....

PCC/Deputy PCC

Date signed: .....