

# Record of Decision

**ORIGINATOR:** Head of Policy  
Coordination & Research

**REFERENCE:** OPCC.D.006.16

**TITLE:** Mind project – Force Control Room

**OPEN**  **CONFIDENTIAL**

**Reason if Confidential:**

Click here to enter text.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is nationally recognised that calls to police are often made by people in some form of mental health crisis, as the police service is one of few organisations that answer calls 24/7. To try and reduce demand on Kent Police and provide a more appropriate response to vulnerable people, a pilot project in conjunction with Mind has been trialled. It was introduced to deal with vulnerable people who contact the Force Control Room but do not require police attendance, but may benefit from talking to a Mind Wellbeing worker who can sign post them to appropriate services/organisations.

Initial funding has enabled the project to operate 2 shifts per week from December 2015 to September 2016, but after this it is unlikely that local or national Mind will provide funding. By being able to refer calls to the Mind worker, the pilot has reduced demand on Force Control Room call takers and reduced the demand on police patrols to attend incidents involving those with mental health issues. The project also represents a national first for a charity working in an operational policing environment, and as such there has been much national interest. The project is recognised within the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat and has also been nominated for a National Positive Practice in Mental Health Team Award 2016.

By providing £40k funding, the project can continue for another year, and wider proactive opportunities explored.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner is recommended to provide £40k funding to extend the pilot for another year and enable wider opportunities to be explored.

## DECISION

To provide circa £40k funding to enable the project to continue and wider opportunities to be explored.

**Chief Finance Officer:**

Comments: N/A

Signature: ..... Date: .....

**Chief of Staff:**

Comments: Commissioner, this fully supports one of your own documented priorities, and targets supporting these in mental health crisis whilst reducing demand on Police. The pilot will help establish what does and does not work in this challenging area. I fully support.

Signature: A. Hooper ..... Date: 26/8/2016 .....

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR KENT**

Comments: This supports my priorities for addressing the pressure on Kent Police resources and improving our approach. I hope that the proactive element of this plan will be of benefit, as proposed.

Signature: M. Pratt ..... Date: 26/8/16 .....

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** Cost benefits analysis of project.

<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT:</b>	
Police and Crime Plan <i>(please indicate which objectives decision/recommendation supports)</i>	Supports delivery of the Commissioner's Six Point Plan by providing an alternative for dealing with mental health issues and reducing resourcing demands. Also ensures those with mental health issues have access to more appropriate support.
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>(If yes, please include within background documents)</i>
Will the decision have a differential/adverse impact on any particular diversity strand? <i>(e.g. age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The project provides greater support to any caller who may have mental health issues. Therefore, it does not have a differential/adverse impact on any particular strand of diversity.