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**To:** Kent Community Safety Partnership – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Classification:** For Decision

**Subject:** Review of the funding arrangements for the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) process.

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**Summary:** This paper recommends that ongoing commitment for multi-agency contributions to the DHR budget are sought to enable the current DHR processes and procedures to continue.

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## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The agencies required under statute to participate in DHRs are:
- Chief Officers of police for police areas in England and Wales;
  - Local Authorities (the council of a district, county or London borough);
  - NHS Commissioning Board;
  - Clinical Commissioning Groups;
  - Providers of probation services;
  - Local Health Boards.
- 1.2 Agencies with a statutory responsibility to co-operate with DHRs across Kent and Medway contribute annually towards a partnership fund; it is in all partner's interest to ensure that the DHR process is resourced sufficiently to ensure that all statutory requirements can be met in the future. All DHR funding partners were contacted in July 2016 requesting an enhanced level of funding for 2016/17 to resource the increasing levels of activity due to receiving 5 DHR notifications during 2015/16 and 2 notifications for 2016/17, to date. The DHR budget for 2016/17 is @£61,000.
- 1.3 Due to this increase in DHR activity, funding contribution levels for 2017/18 onwards have been reviewed by the Kent and Medway DHR Steering Group.

## **2.0 Future Funding Options**

- 2.1 Looking ahead to 2017/18 and beyond a number of options to fund DHR activity have been considered.

### ***Option 1: Continue to Fund at 2016/17 Level – cost of £61,000 p/a***

DHR activity levels have fluctuated over the years however this level of funding is likely to sustain average levels of activity. It would also allow for the continuation of the provision of central KCC CSU administration and co-ordination to manage DHR processes and enable 3 multi-agency lesson learned seminars to be held each year, reaching approximately 350 front line workers.

***Option 2: Cease Provision of Lessons Learned Seminars – saving of £6,778 p/a***

All DHRs are published and therefore available to all agencies/professionals to use in their learning. Individual agencies or local areas may wish to provide seminars at their own discretion in the future.

***Option 3: KCC CSU Cease Support of DHR Processes – saving of £10,928p/a***

Another agency may be in a position to take over the administration and co-ordination tasks associated with DHR processes at no cost. This relies on another agency having sufficient spare capacity in their teams, with the appropriate knowledge and experience, to take on this work.

***Option 4: Combine Options 2 and 3 – saving of £17,318 p/a***

If another agency can take over the administration and co-ordination tasks associated with DHR processes at no cost and lessons learned seminars are no longer held this would generate savings of this level.

***Option 5: Cease Use of Paid Independent Chairs – saving of £30,000 p/a***

To enable this option agencies would need to be willing to release senior members of staff for 15 – 20 days (depending on complexity of each DHR) to complete this work in the place of the independent chair/report writer. This has been discussed in the past at it was decided that no agency had capacity to release staff for the necessary time commitment, however agencies may now wish to review their position.

***Option 6: Termination of the Kent and Medway DHR Protocol – local areas to fund as and when necessary***

Partners may wish to terminate the current protocol which centralises all DHR processes and costs. DHRs would have to then be commissioned by local Community Safety Partnerships who would have to negotiate local agreements with partners to fund/resource this work. It is likely that this approach would lead to inconsistencies in approaches and generate ad-hoc funding requests to partners to deal with unpredictable local demand.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 After discussion of all the options, the DHR Steering Group recommends that Option 1 is implemented; this would enable the continuation of all current DHR processes.
- 3.2 To maintain the levels of funds required by Option 1, the DHR Steering Group suggests that consideration is given to requesting local districts/boroughs contributing to the DHR partnership fund from 2017/18 onwards; £2,500 per district/borough.

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