

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE
DECISION RECORD**

Decision Record Number: **DR59/2026**

Title: **Ministry of Justice Surge Funding – Victim Support Contract Variation**

Executive Summary:

This paper outlines the case for issuing a contract variation for services which increase the quality of response for victims in relation to the government's progression model for early release scheme, from prison (SDS 33). The Commissioner directly provides funding to Victim Support for the provision Victim Care Advocates who deliver trauma informed care and support to victims of crime through an existing contract; Affected By Crime. This service provides a high standard of support to victims within Humberside. Extending provision via a contract variation to meet a surge in demand resulting from the early release scheme (SDS33), ensures that victims across Humberside continue to receive quality assured care and support.

This directly supports the Police and Crime Plan in delivering services for victims and the most vulnerable.

Decision:

That the request for issuing a contract variation to Victim Support for 18 months from October 2026 to March 2028, inclusive of 1 break clause, at a total cost of £150,000 be approved.

Background Report: Open

Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date 12/10/2026

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

**SUBMISSION FOR: /DECISION
OPEN**

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1. Executive Summary

This paper outlines the case for issuing a contract variation for services which increase the quality of response for victims in relation to the government's progression model for early release scheme, from prison (SDS 33).

The Commissioner directly provides funding to Victim Support for the provision Victim Care Advocates who deliver trauma informed care and support to victims of crime through an existing contract; Affected By Crime. This service provides a high standard of support to victims within Humberside. Extending provision via a contract variation to meet a surge in demand resulting from the early release scheme (SDS33), ensures that victims across Humberside continue to receive quality assured care and support.

This directly supports the Police and Crime Plan in delivering services for victims and the most vulnerable.

Recommendation

That the request for issuing a contract variation to Victim Support for 18 months from October 2026 to March 2028, inclusive of 1 break clause, and total cost of £150,000 be approved.

2. Background

- Victim Support have delivered the Affected By Crime (ABC) service in Humberside since 2024. The service is valued locally and has developed considerably within this period to meet local needs.
- The Humberside Office for police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) were approached by the Home Office to partake in an application to provided additional resilience for victim support services to meet the added demand created from SDS 33. The OPCC successfully applied for the additional grant.
- The application requires a pan Humber victim service provider to integrate and collaborate with the Probation services across all business units, and as a priority, the Victim Liaison Unit. The aim is to provide added value to victim care and trauma informed support. The current service provided by Probation's Victim Liaison Officer's (VLO), informs of release dates and offers a victim voice in licence requirements. This project goes beyond statutory legislation requirements and offers trauma informed intervention and holistic support for victims, wrapping around the existing VLO offer.
- In light of the above, we will embed specialist, trauma-informed advocates alongside Probation Victim Liaison Units (VLUs). By handling intense emotional requirements, risk-mapping, and safety planning of victims and families, this surge resource allows VLOs to focus on core statutory duties: managing exclusion zones, tracking GPS tagging data, and

processing licence conditions, ensuring victim needs are not missed or overlooked and as such providing trust and confidence within the system.

- This activity requires a procurement decision, with a contract variation as favourable. There are several local and national rationales which support this approach:

3. Options and Risks

Option 1. Contract Variation

This option is recommended because it allows the OPCC to capitalise on the funding opportunity to provide additional resilience for local communities and service providers, supporting partnerships to meet identified risk areas, bringing increased service provision and interventions to the Humber region.

- Victim Support are sector specialists, the competition locally is extremely limited, with alternative providers delivering more specialist support, for domestic abuse or sexual violence. Utilising the contract variation enables swift progress against Home Office expectations of a go live date in October 2026 to meet the first release tranches.
- Late announcement and grant award and the requirement for a rapid mobilisation to meet the demand from the first tranche of releases. A contract variation prevents Re-Traumatisation: By translating complex, rapidly shifting legislative release dates (such as SDS33 adjustments) into clear, person-centred compassionate communication, this model breaks the cycle of secondary trauma caused by sudden systemic changes.
- Utilising a contract variation will also enable the service flexibility through an already mobilised and integrated provider to continue to provide a high standard of support to victims of high harm within Humberside. This directly supports the Police and Crime Plan in delivering effective services for victims.
- A contract variation allows additional time for national policy developments, there is a requirement to mobilise at pace but there is a lack of clarity over the index offences of the released prisoners, the volumes and the plans for future releases.

In light of the above, the funding and commissioning environment is difficult to predict currently, and tendering activity is likely to see limited responses, mainly due to uncertainties and vulnerability within funding commitments

In summary, mobilising at pace is a key requirement, as our key stakeholders face unprecedented caseload surges. The additional demands placed particularly upon the National Probation Service and victim services for high harm crimes, such as domestic abuse and stalking, and the additional requirements for effective safeguarding are a key area of concern. A contract variation enables the partnership to deliver effective and efficient services, and ensure children and families are safeguarded from the first release.

Option 2. Don't Progress Contract Variation.

This option is not recommended as it places Humberside at risk of not meeting demand and identified gaps, emerging risk area, resulting in absence of resilience, and a loss of opportunity for enhancing resilience across Humberside, impacting on delivery of the police and crime plan. There are already significant public confidence issues with the policy framework around

early release schemes, not awarding contributes to delays and frictions and further adds to confidence issues within the system.

4. Financial Implications

Should Option 1 be agreed then there is a requirement to fund for an initial 18 months at a cost of £150,000. Provided by the Ministry of Justice. Year 3 funding has been discussed with the Ministry of Justice but is yet to be confirmed and subject to 2029 settlement.

Year 1	£45,000
Year 2	£105,000

5. Legal Implications

The contract variation enables the OPCC to meet Contractual Procedural Rules (CPR'S'). Humberside Police Procurement support will be secured to ensure that the process is governed and legal.

6. Equalities Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken to support commissioning decision and procurement process. Equity in Victim Justice: The trauma-informed framework explicitly identifies and addresses the structural barriers faced by minoritised, isolated, or highly vulnerable victim cohorts. This ensures that safety, clear information, and justice are delivered equitably, directly answering national calls to repair public trust in the early release mechanism.

7. Consultation

There has been significant stakeholder consultation, particularly with the Probation service, who are appreciative and welcoming of the additional support and resilience. There was further consultation with the VAWG lived experience collective in September 2026, the group were equally as welcoming and supportive.

8. Media information

Opportunities for re launch for media posts in relation to supporting Police and Crime Plan aims and ambitions, all to be adhered with MoJ terms and conditions, a link to the support offer is currently going live on the OPCC and ABC webpage.

9. Background documents

None.

10. Publication

Open

11. DPIA considered

Yes - consulted with Mike Richmond.