

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

**Reference Number:**

**3886**

**Author:**

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**Department:**

**Children and Adults**

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**Subject:**

**Funding for Children in Care Police Officer**

**Total Value:**

**£79,947 (Type: Revenue)**

**Decision Being Taken:**

**To provide funding for a dedicated Police Officer to work directly with Children in Care. This post is jointly funded by the Council and the Police, at 50% each. In addition, the Police fund a further related, part-time Police Officer post at no cost to the Council. This funding is for financial years 2019/20 to 2022/23, with a review for further funding at the end of this period.**

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The role of the Children in Care Police Officer (CICPO) was established in 2006 to provide dedicated support to children on the edge of care or children in care, including those in children's residential homes and fostering placements. The post provides a liaison between the Council and the Police. The dedicated officer will enforce the law, explain consequences and guide our young people, and also to be an approachable role model for our young people to talk to. The officer is available for visits and calls from all of our young people, daily, often to guide young people, to check on their welfare, and to give praise and support where needed. The officer works with young people to offer a restorative approach to offending, reducing the risk of these young people becoming criminalised. The officer is also a safety mechanism for young people, liaising with all Police and Social Care staff, as well as outside organisations, to keep our young people safe and protecting them from sexual exploitation and becoming victims. The officer chairs the Concerns Network, which promotes inter-agency intelligence sharing.

Supervision of the role is shared between the Council and the Police. Funding for the role is from the base budget of the Targeted Support Team. When the post was established originally, there were four internal residential properties covered by the role. Currently there now over 71 establishments overseen by the CICPO, as the post holder works with private providers in the city. Due to the value of the funding, authorisation is required to ensure continuation of this vital role, which the Police Authority would not be able to fund alone.

Since the post came into effect in 2006, offending by young people aged over 10 and in care for over 12 months reduced from 13% in 2006/07 to 6% in 2014/15. This is directly as a result of this post being in effect. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 was implemented in December 2012, and meant that all children and young people remanded securely became looked after, with budgets for these placement devolved to Councils from the Youth Justice Board. Monitoring was introduced to reflect impact of this legislation on the Children in Care population.

The CICPO is core to reducing the offending behaviour of children in care and central to our Corporate Parenting strategy. In achieving this aim in liaison with the Youth Justice Service, a number of initiatives are being undertaken, including an arrest screening programme for children in care and the ongoing restorative justice programme. If this post does not continue, then there is a danger that this objective will not be met.

In addition, the CICPO attends various meetings and networks to represent both the Police and Council, including the City Council Missing Group, Big It Up, strategic meetings for Children in Care, multi-agency missing meetings and other associated processes. The post and role of CICPO has been recognised as an example of good practice by Ofsted in a number of inspections. The value of this post can be seen by the reduction in offending behaviours and the support and training offered by the post to achieve positive outcomes for children in care or at the edge of care.

**Other Options Considered:**

To not renew the post: the work undertaken by the CICPO is unique and could not be picked up by any other worker or Service. If we do not agree to continue with the match funding arrangement, this work vital would be difficult to maintain. For this reason, this option was rejected.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Published Works:**

None

<b>Affected Wards:</b>	Citywide
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	None
<b>Consultations:</b>	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	The key focus of this role is reducing criminal behaviour and promoting positive outcomes for children in care.
<b>Equality:</b>	EIA not required. Reasons: The proposals do not represent a change to a policy, service or function
<b>Relates to staffing:</b>	Yes
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Portfolio Holder
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	11/06/2020
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance, Human Resources
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	<p>There are no particular legal issues that affect this decision, which is a continuation of an existing arrangement.</p> <p>Advice provided by Natalie Grant (Team Leader, Children and Adults, Legal) on 13/05/2020.</p>
<b>Finance Advice:</b>	<p>The decision is to agree funding for the Children in Care Police Officer role. This will be a 50% contribution split with the Council and the Police. The cost to the council is £26,649 per year for 3 years. Total cost of the decision is £79,947, assuming no inflation. There is currently no specific budget to fund this post, however, the costs are currently met from underspends due to vacant posts and the cost is included in the outturn position and, therefore, there is no increase in the overall position within Children's Integrated Services. In order to maintain this position, the vacancy must be held for the three years, so there is no impact to the Medium-Term Financial Plan in future years.</p> <p>Advice provided by Stewart Clark (Commercial Business Analyst) and Christine Green (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 15/04/2020.</p>

**HR Advice:**

**This decision relates to the continuation of funding for the current arrangement, in which the Council provides half of the funding for a full-time Police Officer post. This is not a post that exists within the Council's establishment and the Council is not the employer of the post-holder. Employment liabilities do not therefore lie with the Council and, as such, there are no Human Resources implications. Management should, however, be aware of any agreements or contractual arrangements with the Police Authority in relation to this match-funded post, such as in the event of redundancy or in the event of claims linked to acts, faults or omissions on the part of the Council relating to its role in the supervision of the post-holder.**

**Advice provided by Joanne Zylinski (Service Redesign Consultant) on 21/04/2020.**

**Signatures**

**Cheryl Barnard (Portfolio Holder- Children and Young People)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 03/06/2020**

**Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 27/05/2020**