



Cumbria Office of the Police and Crime  
Commissioner

## Memorandum of Understanding

Between:

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria

And

Barnardo's



This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between the following parties:

- (1) **The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria** of Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Carleton Hall, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 2AU, (“the Commissioner”)
- (2) **Barnardo’s** of Cat Bells Suite, Dovenby Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0PN (“Barnardo’s”)

This MoU sets out the terms and understanding between the Commissioner and Barnardo’s in relation to the funding of the Missing from Home Project.

## **1 Background**

Barnardo’s Cumbria has had a series of meetings with the Constabulary, NSPCC and Children’s Services about the issue of children missing from home in Cumbria. From these meetings it has become clear that the current approach to this serious issue is not working as well as it could. This is of concern when there is a clear link between those missing from home and the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. Barnardo’s and Cumbria County Council have both indicated a willingness to fund work to explore why children were going missing from home. An approach has been received from Barnardo’s seeking funding from the Commissioner.

## **2 Purpose**

The purpose of this MoU is to formally record that the Commissioner wishes to work in partnership with Barnardo’s by providing funding for the ‘Missing from Home’ project to enable the following outcomes:

- a. Ensuring that all children or young people who go missing from home are offered a return interview to establish what they are running from or running to and work with them and other agencies to address the issues around this risky behaviour;
- b. Building relationships with children and young people who repeatedly go missing with a view to establishing whether this is indicative of more serious issues, such as CSE and working with the young person and linking with initiatives such as the specialist piece of work targeting CSE that NSPCC are launching, etc.;
- c. Share trends and intelligence information with the Commissioner, Constabulary and Children’s Services so that they are able to “join up” the different experiences of young people to establish whether there are potential perpetrators, etc. that the young people are meeting up with and who require a law enforcement or monitoring response .



### **3 Work to be undertaken**

- 3.1 Barnardo's to carry out the work entailed in the Missing from Home Project as outlined in the attached Decision Note – Decision 038/2014.
- 3.2 The scope of the Project will include children aged 0-12 years old living either at home or in care, and 12-18 years old living in care.
- 3.3 A written report summarising the results of the Project to be provided to the Commissioner at the end of the Project.

### **4 Funding and Payment**

- 4.1 As a contribution to the Missing from Home Project, the Commissioner agrees to pay Barnardo's the sum of £20,000 (Twenty Thousand Pounds)
- 4.2 In order for any payment to be released, the Commissioner will require Barnardo's Cumbria to:
  - sign and return a copy of this MoU to the Commissioner;
  - provide the appropriate bank details, and
  - be in compliance with the terms and conditions of this MoU.

### **5 Termination**

- 5.1 This MoU will commence upon a signed copy being returned, and will expire on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015.
- 5.2 This MoU may be terminated forthwith by either Party on giving notice in writing to the other.

### **6 Confidentiality and Freedom of Information**

- 6.1 The Parties acknowledge their own obligations in relation to confidentiality.
- 6.2 Each Party shall ensure that it complies at all times with the DPA 1998 in respect of personal data processed by it under the terms of this MOU.
- 6.3 Each Party shall be responsible at its discretion for determining whether any information provided to it under the terms of this MOU is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). However the Parties agree that upon receiving a request for information under FOIA or EIR they shall consult with the Parties that provided information to which the request relates and take account of the comment of those Parties
- 6.4 Where applicable, the Parties are required to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act"), any subordinate legislation made under the FOI Act and any guidance issued by the Information Commissioner.



**7 Publicity**

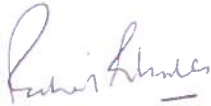
- 7.1 The Commissioner may wish to make a press announcement regarding the decision to fund the Missing from Home Project. If this is the case, the OPCC will agree the wording with Barnardo's prior to any release being issued.

**8 Law**

- 8.1 This MoU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of England and Wales and the Parties hereby submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

SIGNED for and on behalf of **The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria**

By: Richard Rhodes



Title: Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria

Date: 8 December 2014

SIGNED for and on behalf of **Barnardo's**

By: Richard Simpson

Signature



Title: Assistant Director (Children's Services)

Date: 11 December 2014







## Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

**REQUEST FOR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER DECISION - (N° 038 / 2014)**

**TITLE:** Missing From Home/Child Sexual Exploitation in Cumbria – Barnardo's Funding Request

**Executive Summary:** Barnardo's have had a series of meetings with the Constabulary, NSPCC and Children's Services about the issue of Missing From Home in the County. It is clear from these meetings that the current approach in the County is not working well and this is concerning when there is a clear link between Missing From Home and the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Barnardo's and Cumbria County Council have both indicated a willingness to fund work to explore why children were going Missing from Home. An approach has been received from Barnardo's seeking funding from the Commissioner.

**Recommendation:** That funding of £20,000 be provided to Barnardo's to undertake the work outlined in the report, the funding to be provided under the terms of a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

**Police & Crime Commissioner**

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for Cumbria Police & Crime Commissioner. Any such interests are recorded below.

I hereby approve the recommendation above

**Police & Crime Commissioner**

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pauline Anderson'.

**Date: 22/7/2014**



## **PART 1 – NON CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC**

### **1. Introduction & Background**

Barnardo's have had a series of meetings with the Constabulary, NSPCC and Children's Services about the issue of children Missing from Home in the County. From these meetings it has become clear that the current approach to this serious issue is not working as well as it could and this is of concern when there is a clear link between Missing from Home and the risk of CSE. Barnardo's and Cumbria County Council have both indicated a willingness to fund work to explore why children were going missing from home. An approach has been received from Barnardo's seeking funding from the Commissioner.

### **2. Issues for Consideration**

Barnardo's have had a series of meetings with the Constabulary, NSPCC and Children's Services about the issue of Missing From Home in the County. From these meetings it has become clear that the current approach to this serious issue is not working as well as it could and this is of concern when there is a clear link between Missing From Home and the risk of CSE. Barnardo's have identified that what is needed is a way of:

- d. Ensuring that all children or young people who go Missing From Home are offered a Return Interview to establish what they are running from or running to and work with them and other agencies to address the issues around this risky behaviour
- e. Building relationships with children and young people who repeatedly go missing with a view to establishing whether this is indicative of more serious issues, such as CSE and working with the young person and linking with initiatives such as the specialist piece of work targeting CSE that NSPCC are launching, etc
- f. Share trends and intelligence information with the Constabulary and Children's Services so that they are able to "join up" the different experiences of young people to establish whether there are potential perpetrators, etc that the young people are meeting up with and who require a law enforcement or monitoring response

Barnardo's met with the Commissioner on 1 July 2014. A representative from the Constabulary attended the meeting.

Barnardo's have explained that they are willing to invest in the areas or work outlined briefly above, because of the link to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). They are willing to commit £20k. In addition the County Council Children's Services Department has been approached about match funding this amount. Based on an analysis of the numbers provided by the Constabulary Barnardo's estimate that the work could be undertaken by two full-time staff members. They therefore approached the Commissioner to ascertain whether he would be willing to be a funding partner. This would provide sufficient funding for Barnardo's to be confident





enough to start recruiting staff, etc. It was not anticipated that there would be any office costs as they would look to base the staff in their existing offices.

It was considered that Barnardo's were best placed to undertake this work as, unlike the Constabulary or Children's Services, they were not a statutory agency. Experience showed that children were not always willing to share information with statutory agencies. The data obtained, that would all relate to under 18s, would be shared appropriately which would be beneficial for the triage MASH.

The proposed project would support one of the recommendations contained within the "Taking the Next Steps" report undertaken on behalf of the Commissioner in 2013.

Barnardo's were requesting £20,000 from the Commissioner to support the project.

### 3. Implications

(List and include views of all those consulted, whether they agree or disagree and why)

- 3.1. **Financial:** There is sufficient funding for this grant within the OPCC budget.
- 3.2. **Legal:** N/A
- 3.3. **Risk:** There is a risk that children missing from home could become victims of child sexual exploitation.
- 3.4. **HR / Equality:** N/A
- 3.5. **I.T.:** N/A
- 3.6. **Procurement:** N/A
- 3.7. **Victims:** This proposal addresses one of the areas for action identified in the "Taking the Next Steps" report commissioned by the Commissioner in 2013. Identifying where children have been whilst missing from home will help all the agencies involved address this particular issue.

### 4. Backgrounds / supporting papers

E-mails from Barnardo's and statistics provided by Cumbria Constabulary.

#### Public Access to Information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would not compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of this form to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason: N/A

Until what date (if known): N/A



Is there a **Part 2** form - NO

(If Yes, please ensure Part 2 form is completed prior to submission)

**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

I confirm that this report has been considered by the Chief Officer Group and that relevant financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

**Signed:** N/A      **Date:** N/A

**OFFICER APPROVAL**

**Chief Executive**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**Signature:** Stuart Edwards

**Date:** 22 July 2014

**Media Strategy**

The decision taken by the Police & Crime Commissioner may require a press announcement or media strategy.

Will a press release be required following the decision being considered? NO

If yes, has a media strategy been formulated? N/A

Is the media strategy attached? N/A

What is the proposed date of the press release: N/A

