

Decision Note – Dissolution: Staffordshire Commissioner’s Corporate Social Responsibility Fund.



STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Police | Fire and Rescue | Crime

REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

	Policing:	Crime:	Fire & Rescue:
This decision relates to:	X		

APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

Rationale for approval

STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Signature

Date

25/1/22

Date decision required by:

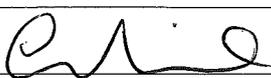
If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:

For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office only:-

Decision Number: SCP/D/202122/009

Date Received: 17 March 2022

	Yes	No
Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?	x	
Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?	x	
Who is empowered to make the required decision? Staffordshire Commissioner: Ben Adams		

Title	Dissolution of the Staffordshire Commissioners Corporate Social Responsibility Fund
Summary:	
<p>The trustees of the Staffordshire Commissioners Corporate Social Responsibility Fund (the charity) have determined that the charity is dissolved on the basis that Staffordshire Police have shown the commitment and capability to establish and then deliver a strategic Volunteer Police Cadet plan over future years, with the PFCC as part of their statutory role, holding the Chief Constable to account for delivery of this plan.</p> <p>The scheme is supported by a national policing framework and will be supported financially in the medium term by the transfer of funds from the charity to Staffordshire Police and ringfenced solely for the delivery of the VPC scheme.</p>	
Recommendation:	
<p>That approval is given to dissolve the Staffordshire Commissioners Corporate Social Responsibility Fund and that this dissolution be executed in line with the charities constitutional document and the requirements of the Charity Commission.</p>	
Chief Executive	
I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.	
Signature	
Date	<u>24/1/2022</u>

REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

1. Introduction and background

The Police Cadet Scheme for Staffordshire launched on 11th March 2013 to encourage young people to develop new skills and self-confidence in the service of their communities through becoming a Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC).

To support the scheme the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner applied for charity status under the banner of the 'Staffordshire Commissioners Corporate Social Responsibility Fund'. This supported the commitment of the then PCC to not call on direct public funds for the delivery of the scheme but to utilise the charity status to generate income from grants, subscriptions, patronage and sponsorship.

Charity Status was granted by the Charity Commission and since this point the Charity guided by its Trustees has delivered in line with its charitable purpose and objects:

'To promote good citizenship and civic responsibility; to prevent crime; to act as a resource for, help and advance in life children and young people; to advance education and training in particular of children and young people; to promote community capacity building; and to promote volunteering where to do so furthers a charitable purpose or purposes in particular but not limited to helping children, young people and adults develop new skills and self-confidence in the service of their communities by working alongside the police and partners and by supporting and promoting initiatives, schemes and projects which further these charitable objects all with the aim of making "Staffordshire safer".'

Seven years on from the initiation of the VPC programme, much has changed both nationally and locally. Indeed, the previous PCC in establishing the Staffordshire programme, with limited support from the policing family at the time, has been shown to be ahead of what is now a more standardised and consistent approach to VPC programmes.

At a national level, VPC programmes are now better supported and have been developed through a strong national approach, led through policing and the NPCC. That wasn't the case when the local programme work commenced.

The VPC spine has been developed nationally in response to feedback from those that deliver the VPC and police leaders who are responsible for ensuring it is delivered safely. It has been built with the assistance of experts in the youth sector, balancing the needs of operational policing with the skills needed to establish a voluntary youth organisation.

Staffordshire Police adhere to the national policy and practice and align with national policing governance structures to ensure that they deliver a high-quality experience for cadets. They are supported by the NPCC VPC Team to help ensure this e.g. through assisting with the development of robust safeguarding responsibilities.

2. Issues for consideration

There has been significant changes in the VPC environment since the inception of the programme in Staffordshire which is in a strong position. Trustees signed off a 2021 – 2024 Staffordshire Police Strategic Plan for Police Cadets at its February 2021 meeting, on the basis that this document set out a robust plan for the future.

An option considered by Trustees was that the charity is dissolved on the basis that Staffordshire Police have shown the commitment and capability to establish and then deliver a strategic VPC plan over future years, with the PFCC as part of their statutory role, holding the Chief Constable to account for delivery of this plan.

Assurances were received that current charity reserves can be transferred to Staffordshire Police and utilised in the future for the continued benefit of the Staffordshire VPC programme and Staffordshire Police can fully support the administrative and operational delivery requirements.

3. What other options have been considered?

Other options considered for management of the VPC programme included: -

- Maintaining existing arrangements with the charity and its relationship with policing in the current form, bearing in mind that this is as established in 2013/14 and much has moved on;
- Maintaining a layer of independent governance through a charity, but with a slimmed down model that still has the ability to promote the cadets and raise funds independently on their behalf which is a tried and tested approach in uniformed cadet forces.
- Looking to develop a charitable undertaking that is more aligned with the Constitution of the charity; this would mean a fundamental review considering an extension of the charitable reach, leadership, governance, finances etc.

4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken

Staffordshire Commissioners Corporate Social Responsibility Fund: Board of Trustees.

Staffordshire Commissioners Office Director of Finance: S151 Officer.

Staffordshire Commissioners Office Head of Governance & Assurance.

Staffordshire Police VPC Operational & Strategic Leads.

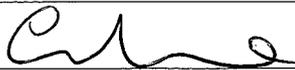
Charities Commission.

Report Implications

Monitoring Officer comments:

The dissolution of the charity will take place in line with the requirements of the Charity Commission, with future governance relying on 'in-force' management and the holding of the Chief Constable to account for delivery of a sustainable and effective programme.

Signature



Date

24/1/2022

Section 151 Officer comments:

The dissolution of the charity will take place in line with the requirements of the Charity Commission, reserves transferred from the charity will be earmarked to ensure sustainable effective delivery of the required Police Cadet Scheme for Staffordshire.

Signature



Date

5 January 2022

Yes

No

Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report?		X
Legal Comments: Not required.		
5. Equality Comments – please attach the completed EIA There are no EIA considerations regarding this decision. Operationally VPC are ran by Staffordshire Police: this decision deals only with the financial function completed by the charity.		
6. Background/supporting paper None supplied.		
7. Public access to information Allowed.		
8. Data Protection Impact Assessment - please attach the completed DIA Not required.		
9. Is the publication of this form to be deferred? No		
10. If the report is for publication, is redaction required?		
	Yes	No
Of the Decision Note?		x
Of the Appendix?		x

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Author	Victoria Farrar
Signed	Victoria Farrar
Date	13 January 2022

