

## **GRANT OPPORTUNITY DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS 2026 - 2028 GRANT GUIDANCE AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **1. Introduction**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Suffolk has the statutory power to commission services to support victims and reduce crime and disorder. It enables the PCC to provide direct support to victims to cope and build resilience, to move forward with daily life and to reduce crime and disorder, which can also have direct benefits for policing and the wider community. Since 2013 the PCC has invested over £20m on crime and disorder reduction and victims' services.

In December 2025 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) announced a 2-year funding commitment to PCCs for the provision of victim services. The PCC will utilise this funding and the local commissioning budget to support a range of victim services which respond to local need and support the intentions in the PCC's [Police and Crime Plan](#) under Theme 2, objective 1: Commissioning services which support victims of crime.

It should be noted that with the publication of the national Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy "[Freedom from Violence and Abuse: A Cross Government Strategy to Build a Safer Society for Women and Girls](#)", there is likely to be significant change in the commissioning landscape. The associated action plan sets out the planned investment in victim support services, increased awareness of services available, preventative activities, further support through the Department for Health and Social Care and the expansion of Home Office national helplines.

While these changes take place, and in order to continue the provision of domestic abuse services locally, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk is inviting applications for grant funding for the provision of community based domestic abuse services in Suffolk from 2026/27 to 2027/28 (i.e. two years of funding reflecting the Ministry of Justice funding to the PCC).

This grant opportunity specifically relates to services for victims of domestic abuse in Suffolk that support victims to cope and build resilience to move forward with daily life and complement services already in place.

## **2. Background to domestic abuse services in Suffolk**

PCC commissioned domestic abuse services which will continue in 2026/7 include:

- The Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisors IDVA service for high-risk victims.
- DA Next Steps: support for standard-risk victims following referral from the Police.

Safe accommodation for victims of DA is commissioned by Suffolk County Council as well as the Domestic Abuse Outreach Service (DAOS) – for medium-risk victims – and a 24/7 DA helpline and live chat service for victims, families and professionals.

Community support services have historically been grant funded by the PCC and include centres located across the county and services for those with specific needs and protected characteristics. PCC funding for these services is currently in place until [31 March 2026](#).

The key outcome for these services is to help victim-survivors continue their journey of coping and building resilience to move forward with daily life.

Services in place:

- Enable self-referral and access to services without reporting to the police (fulfilling Victim Code and MOJ grant requirements).
- Support physical spaces for victim support in each area of the county enabling face-to-face support and access to services in rural areas.
- Support children and young people who are victims of domestic abuse.
- Provide specialist services and support for specific protected characteristics.
- Provide interventions for perpetrators to change their behaviour and reduce reoffending.

## **3. Needs assessment - summary**

A needs assessment has been undertaken to refresh the scope of services required. This assessment has reviewed local and national policy and research including the local VAWG victim voice, data on domestic abuse from national surveys, police and service providers.

Estimates from the [Crime Survey of England and Wales](#) year ending March 2025 showed that nationally,

- 26% of people aged 16+ had been victims of Domestic Abuse at least once since the age of 16 – broken down as 30% for women and 22% for men.
- 7.8% of people aged 16 years and over experienced domestic abuse in the last year (around 3.8 million people).

In the 12 months to June 2025, recorded domestic abuse crimes in Suffolk have decreased, sitting 7.5% below the three-year average, with an average of 631 crimes per month. The solved rate for domestic abuse crimes over the past 12 months was 13%. Around 50% of victims who report to the police are not ready to support a case, which is a key barrier to providing a positive criminal justice outcome. Non-crime investigations have increased over the same 12-month period, averaging 604 per month — a 7.7% rise above the three-year average.

A [Safelives report](#) in 2023, on a public health approach to ending domestic abuse, found that for every £1 invested in DA support, £7.72 is returned in terms of savings to public finance.

In 2024/25 services in Suffolk funded by the PCC supported 4,734 victims of domestic abuse with 2,564 supported in the six months, April – September 2025.

- 86% of domestic abuse victims supported were female.
- 7.4% of those supported were young victims aged 17 or under.
- 11% of domestic abuse victims supported were aged 55 – 74 and just 1% aged over 75.
- 18% stated they had a disability.
- 8.6% were from an ethnic minority community.

Analysis of PCC funded services in Suffolk indicates that provision has been proactively tailored to victims with protected characteristics including gender, sexual identity, disability, ethnicity and age. However, it remains the case that most research finds gaps in provision for victims from ethnic minority communities, those with no recourse to public funds, LGBTQ+ victims, and male victims. Safelives research reports that 95% of female victims report experiencing financial abuse and 75% of survivors with children had not been offered support for their children.

The number of people waiting for their preferred domestic abuse service in Suffolk reduced in 2025 — however, the average waiting time has not and, excepting one outlying service, is now around 36 days.

Victim feedback from services suggests positive experiences with services overall. The VAWG victim-survivor consultation undertaken in December 2024 supported the development of the Suffolk strategy [“Ending Violence Against Women and Girls+”](#). The research set out many positive experiences of support but also cites barriers to support including eligibility and long waiting lists, as well as lack of awareness (not knowing services existed).

Recommendations from this and other recent research that should be considered in future PCC commissioning include the need to continue domestic abuse services which provide:

- Knowledge of, and warm referrals to other services.
- Education and information on the impacts of VAWG.
- Support which builds wellbeing and confidence for victims including programmes and group support.
- Accessible and confidential services for children and young people.
- Support for the wider family.
- Funded counselling provision.<sup>1</sup>
- Access to solicitors and legal advice.

Additionally, there is a need to:

- Increase service reach to rural areas, including hub and spoke models and utilising existing community spaces and partnerships.
- Continue to reduce barriers and improve accessibility through ensuring:
  - Victim-survivors can access support at a time that meets their needs and have their childcare needs provided for.
  - A range of online and face-to-face options are available.
  - Services and courses meet the needs of specific demographic groups including those who are neurodiverse or have language barriers, rather than providing a 'one size fits all' model.
  - Provision is trauma-informed.
- Ensure that services are free at the point of access.
- Work to reduce local waiting lists (size and waiting times).

The PCC is therefore calling for grant applications that will enable a response to some of the needs set out above. We note the strong evidence suggesting funding counselling provision is a priority for victims, and a current gap. It is unlikely that a holistic response to this need will be met through a grant funding round. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk (OPCC) will continue to monitor and liaise with partners on a future solution to this need.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Domestic Abuse Commissioner research '[A Patchwork of Provision](#)'.

#### **4. Objectives of the grant**

The purpose of the fund is to support capacity in organisations delivering specialist services to victims of domestic abuse in Suffolk.

Services must work towards the key outcome that victims are better able to cope and build resilience to move forward with daily life.

Additional outcomes can include:

- Improved confidence, resilience and feelings of safety.
- Increased education, skills, training and employability.
- Reduced offending, violence & exploitation.
- Improved mental health, reduced addiction & homelessness.

Key objectives:

- Ensure the continuity of services in the community for victims of domestic abuse and sustain the support that victims have been able to access over previous years.
- Complement, not duplicate, the delivery of existing domestic abuse services in Suffolk and enable efficient onward consent-based referrals from core commissioned services (IDVA, DAOS, DA Next Steps).
- Improve awareness and accessibility for self-referrals.
- Address the issues arising from the needs assessment (highlighted above) primarily:
  - Improve accessibility for underrepresented or marginalised groups including children and young people.
  - Reduce waiting times for services and support programmes.

Any other gaps in service provision, or emerging needs that a grant application seeks to address should be supported with evidence.

#### **5. Who can apply**

We encourage applications from:

- Voluntary, community, and social enterprises (VCSE) including registered charities, charitable incorporated organisations and social enterprises, including companies limited by guarantee and community interest companies.
- Organisations with demonstrable experience in trauma-informed support related to Domestic Abuse and those that support victims with protected characteristics. Specialisms and expertise should be demonstrated through evidencing quality marks / accreditation.



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- 'By and for' organisations, [defined as](#) specialist service providers that are led, designed, and delivered by and for the specific users and communities they serve.
- Partnerships or consortia, where a lead organisation is identified that fits the above criteria.

Eligible organisations must:

- Be formally constituted and financially stable.
- Demonstrate appropriate clinical governance and safeguarding policies.
- Deliver services to victims living or working in Suffolk.

## 6. What the grant can fund

Conditions of award will set out the range of eligible and ineligible expenditure. In summary funds may be used for:

- Direct costs associated with the delivery of services to meet the outcomes and objectives set out.
- Training and development for staff and volunteers related to trauma-informed practice.
- Reasonable management and administrative overheads.

The grant **cannot** be used to fund:

- Work unrelated to domestic abuse support.
- Capital costs.
- Retrospective expenditure.
- Political, campaigning, or lobbying activity.

## **7. Grant value and duration**

- Funding will be for all or part of the period 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2028, covering 2 financial years.
- Final confirmation of funding in Year 2 (financial year 1st April 2027 – 31st March 2028) will be subject to satisfactory delivery of services and reporting in line with the conditions of award.
- Subject to confirmation of future remit, funding for victim services and operational needs the PCC may consider extending grant funding into the financial year 2028/29.
- To ensure organisations are not overly reliant on PCC funding in the long term, the total value of the grant application would not usually exceed 30% of organisational turnover.

## **8. Monitoring and reporting**

Funded organisations will be required to:

- Provide 6 monthly monitoring reports detailing activity, outputs, outcomes, and challenges in line with MOJ and OPCC reporting requirements. Key requirements are set out in Appendix A.
- Provide regular financial reporting on actual and forecast spend. Any underspend should be identified early and returned to the OPCC.
- Notify the OPCC of any risks, safeguarding concerns, key personnel or organisational changes that may affect delivery.

## **9. Application requirements**

Applicants must submit:

- A completed application form and financial information using the template supplied.
- Their latest annual accounts or equivalent financial statements.

## **10. Decision-making process**

Applications will be assessed against the following:

- Service delivery
- Organisation outline, workforce and ability to deliver
- Partnerships
- Performance and quality assurance
- Financial information

The PCC reserves the right to request any additional information deemed necessary to make a decision on any proposal.

The PCC reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposals – or scale down, amend, or reduce the scope and value of proposals where necessary, to ensure a fair allocation of resources and maintain breadth of funding across the service landscape. This may include part-funding applications or adjusting scope to align with overall budget availability and strategic priorities.

Grant applications should be returned to [elisabeth.hollingworth@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:elisabeth.hollingworth@suffolk.police.uk) by 17:00 on 13 March 2026.

Clarifications should be directed to: [elisabeth.hollingworth@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:elisabeth.hollingworth@suffolk.police.uk) or +44 1473 613501 x88751

Decisions are expected by 27 March 2026.

**Core Outcomes**

- Coped and built resilience to move forward with daily life
- Feeling more informed
- Received all the support they needed when they wanted it
- Increased engagement with the criminal justice system (additional where crime is reported to police and statutory service)

**Core Metrics**

- Demographic metrics including gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability
- Referral Metrics including:
  - Number of new victims referred by crime type
  - Number of victims who engaged/received support by crime type (both new and existing)
- Waiting list numbers and length of time on waiting lists
- Number of victims departing the service; those who disengage or complete support
- Number of victims referred to other services (other victim support services, financial support, housing, healthcare or services for additional or complex needs)
- Number of victims who engaged with the criminal justice system, active and non-active cases and whether supported by the service to report.

Satisfaction with the service and additional qualitative information should be provided to reflect the value of the support provided to victims.