



**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING AND GOVERNANCE**

**DECISION NUMBER: 10 - 2025**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME 2025/26**

**SUMMARY:**

1. In accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Police and Crime Commissioner can commission services that:
  - a) secure, or contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
  - b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
2. This Decision Paper sets out proposals to enable the delivery of support to victims of crime in Suffolk.
3. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) accepts the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) 'core' and 'general' grants and commits funding from his commissioning budget to award grants and support existing contracts to victim support organisations in Suffolk.
4. The proposed funding will support delivery of Theme 2, Objective 1 of the Suffolk PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029; to commission services which support victims of crime. The decision will also support the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

For the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026, it is recommended that the PCC:

1. Accepts the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) 1-year extension of victims' services 'core' grant funding totalling £841,209 and approves its use towards victim support services including the current contracts with:
  - a. Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services for the Suffolk IDVA service, and;
  - b. Victim Support for the Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care service (NSVC).
2. Accepts the MoJ 1-year Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support services 'general' grant funding totalling £791,528 and approves continuation grant funding towards:
  - a. Community-based DA/SV victim support services totalling £291,804, and;
  - b. Independent Sexual/Domestic Violence Advisors (ISVAs/IDVAs) totalling £499,724.
3. Approves a 1-year extension of existing victim service grants, totalling £339,374 from his commissioning budget towards domestic abuse and sexual violence (DA/SV) support services in Suffolk.

#### APPROVAL BY PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

**Signature:**



**Date:** 1 April 2025

## DETAILS OF SUBMISSION

### 1 BACKGROUND

#### Support Services for Victims of Crime

- 1.1 From 1 October 2014 the locally commissioned landscape of support for victims of crime changed with all Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) starting to fund the majority of services to support victims in their areas.
- 1.2 Services commissioned by PCCs also support delivery of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime. In 2021, the Code was revised to set 12 over-arching rights and provide greater details on each right and the timescales that have to be adhered to. Right 4 is: To be referred to services that support victims and have services and support tailored to your needs.

#### Ministry of Justice 'Core' Grant

- 1.3 With the power conferred under section 56(1) of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) awards victim services grant funding to Police and Crime Commissioners each year.
- 1.4 In Suffolk the PCC has historically utilised this MoJ 'core' grant funding to support existing contracts with victim support services. The PCC currently has contracts with Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services for the Suffolk IDVA service, supporting high-risk victims of domestic abuse and Victim Support for the Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care service (NSVC), supporting standard-risk victims of domestic abuse and victims of all other crimes. This service is co-commissioned with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk.

#### MoJ Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (MOJ DA/SV) 'General' Grant

- 1.5 In 2020, the MoJ announced the 'National Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Fund' to provide emotional and practical support to victims of rape and domestic abuse and guide them through the criminal justice process. This fund has expanded service capacity and increased the number of specialist ISVAs and IDVAs available to victims.
- 1.6 In 2022, the MoJ also awarded the Suffolk PCC a 3-year ringfenced grant to provide or commission dedicated emotional and practical support services for victims of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV) to help them cope and build resilience from the effects of DA and SV (PCC decision [26-2022](#)).

#### PCC Grant Funding

- 1.7 In 2022, the PCC committed 3-year grant funding from his local commissioning budget to victim support services in Suffolk (PCC decision [11-2022](#)). This increased the funding available to services in response to an assessment of demand and delivered on the Police and Crime Plan ambition, providing longer-term funding to sustainably support victims' services.

1.8 The provision of funding to victim support services enabled:

- Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care to make an offer of support to over 10,000 victims of crime in Suffolk in 2023/24. Of the victims supported, 21% had been the victim of violent crime; 12% of theft and 15% fraud.
- Specialist services to support 978 victims of sexual violence; 5,010 victims of domestic abuse and 219 victims of child sexual abuse.
- Data collected from 16,484 victims of crime in 2023/24 shows:
  - Services supporting victims of domestic abuse, child sexual abuse and sexual violence predominantly supported women however 12% of DA victims supported were men.
  - Support was provided to over 1,000 children and young people (aged under 18), 7% of the total. Those aged 75 or over equated to 3% of victims.
  - 7% of victims supported stated they had a disability.
  - 5.6% of victims supported were from an ethnic minority group with a higher than average proportion recorded for domestic abuse (12%) and for hate crimes (42%).

1.9 All services are provided to victims confidentially and free of charge to the service user. Further detail on services, their impact and outcomes are reported in the [PCC's annual report](#).

## **2 2025/26 GRANT FUNDING**

2.1 In October 2024, the MoJ announced to PCCs the new Government's commitment to continue grant funding to support victims of crime. In December 2024, the MoJ advised PCCs of its intention to extend the core grant to the PCC for one year although the funding has been reduced by 4.2% compared to 2024/25. In addition, the MoJ advised they would award 'general' grant funding for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 at the same rate as previous years to support DA and SV services. The ringfencing of funding for IDVAs and ISVAs has been removed.

2.2 In 2025/26, the total MoJ grant funding awarded to the PCC for Suffolk is £1.6m.

2.3 The MoJ is providing a 'core' grant of £841,209.49 toward victim support services which the PCC will utilise toward existing contracts to the Suffolk IDVA service (de-restricted PCC decision [C18-2023](#)), which supports high-risk victims of DA; and, the Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care Service (PCC decision [8-2023](#)), which supports standard-risk DA victims and victims of all crimes. The current contract for NSVC concludes on 30 September 2025. A procurement process is underway for a new contract commencing 1 October 2025, the cost for the period to 31 March 2026 is estimated at around £125,000.

2.4 The MoJ DA/SV 'general' grant funding totals £791,528, of which, £291,804 is proposed to continue supporting community-based DA/SV victim support services and £499,724 will support IDVAs and ISVAs in Suffolk.

2.5 It is recommended that the PCC accepts the offer of funding from the MoJ through the two grants (core and general) and commits £339,374 of his local commissioning budget to bolster MoJ grant funding toward community-based support services for victims of DA/SV in Suffolk.

### **3 DETERMINATION OF GRANT AWARDS AND PROPOSED USE OF FUNDING**

- 3.1 Following the MoJ funding announcement in December 2024, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk (OPCC) advised current grant recipients that continuation funding was available in 2025/26 at the same annual rate as previously awarded for the 3-year period between 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2025. Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care, IDVA and ISVA funding are considered separately (see 2.3-2.4 above).
- 3.2 Current grant recipients were invited to apply for a 1-year extension of grant funding providing there was evidence of demand and continued need for this funding. Applicants were asked to set out what the service would achieve in the extension period, outputs and outcomes, how they work with partners, how they specifically support victims with protected characteristics and how services are promoted to victims of crime in particular those with protected characteristics.
- 3.3 Eleven applications were received at the end of the application period. Service providers applied for grant funding totalling £680,437 which exceeded the available amount of £651,896 (by 4.4%) reflecting cost pressures on organisations in providing their services.
- 3.4 The PCC's Head of Commissioning and Governance assessed the 11 applications against local need, value for money, the ability to report on MoJ monitoring requirements, and the PCC's priorities and key principles as set out in Theme 2, Objective 1 of his [Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#). The assessment also considered the Suffolk VAWG strategy 2022-25 objective "Supporting Victims" which sets out the intention: We will endeavour to meet the needs of all our communities across the spectrum of protected characteristics and help break the cycle of abuse.
- 3.5 Following review of the applications, the Head of Commissioning is recommending to the PCC that an extension of grant funding is awarded for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 to the 11 organisations who have benefited from 3-year grant funding (2022-2025). Grant awards are at the same rate as previous years.
- 3.6 In mid-February, the OPCC advised applicants of its intention to grant funds. Final grant awards are subject to this Decision Paper and Conditions of Grant Award.
- 3.7 The below table sets out the recommended PCC and MoJ grant funding, the services provided and the total award to each provider:

Service Provider	Detail of the Service	PCC Grant	MoJ Core Grant	MoJ General Grant	Total Funding
Victim Support - Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care service (NSVC)	The NSVC service provides victims and witnesses of all crime types (except high and medium risk DA which other county-wide services support) with emotional and practical support whether or not the crime has been reported to police. Onward referrals are made to other specialist services. Geographical focus: county-wide.		£293,876		£293,876
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services – IDVA service	Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) safeguard high-risk victims of DA through safety planning and early intervention with the aim to reduce that risk. IDVAs also provide specialist support in court, for young people, male victims, and victims from minority communities. Geographical focus: county-wide.		£526,615	£163,400	£690,015
Suffolk Constabulary - ISVAs	Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) provides impartial information and support to victims and survivors of SV. The ISVAs work general cases, engage with under-represented groups, young people, individuals with learning disabilities and survivors of domestic abuse. Funding supports 6.33FTE ISVAs in Suffolk. Geographical focus: county-wide.			£336,324	£336,324
Alumah	Towards the trauma-informed 'Horizon' programme to children aged 7–11 years who have experienced DA to understand emotions, build self-esteem and develop coping strategies. Geographical focus: West Suffolk (Brandon and surrounding areas).			£6,500	£6,500
Anglia Care Trust	Towards ACT's Money Advice service supporting victims of DA to manage their finances and avoid future economic abuse. Victims are often unable to flee situations due to financial constraints. Geographical focus: county-wide.	£25,000		£10,000	£35,000
Brave Futures	Towards tailored and 1:1 therapeutic treatment with children or young people who are victims of sexual abuse. The service aims to address the short- and longer-term impacts of trauma. Geographical focus: county-wide.	£10,374	£20,718	£28,908	£60,000

Compassion	Towards staff costs to deliver programmes supporting victims cope and build resilience from the effects of DA. Geographical focus: predominantly Babergh and Mid Suffolk.	£14,000		£6,000	£20,000
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services - CAYPO	The Children and Young Person's Outreach service (CAYPO) provides practical and emotional support and safety planning for CYP aged 5–18 years who have lived in a high-risk DA household. Referrals are from the Suffolk IDVA service. The service also aims to raise awareness with young people of healthy and unhealthy relationships. Geographical focus: county-wide.			£115,396	£115,396
Lighthouse Women's Aid	Towards the centre in Ipswich which facilitates specialist crisis and advice support, including safety planning and safeguarding, and programmes for women affected by DA. The service aims to support women and their families to move on to healthier and safer futures. Geographical focus: centre in Ipswich, county-wide referrals.	£60,000		£15,000	£75,000
P.H.O.E.B.E	Specialist support for black, ethnic minority and migrant women affected by DA with no recourse to public funds, on restricted spousal visas or skilled worker visas. The service aims to empower women's independence to leave abusive situations, live safe lives and build healthy relationships. Geographical focus: Ipswich, county-wide referrals.	£30,000		£15,000	£45,000
Restitute	This service provides practical support for families caring for a family members who have experienced sexual and domestic violence or abuse. The service aims to improve physical and mental well-being of the carers to improve outcomes for the primary victim they are supporting. Geographical focus: county-wide.	£15,000		£15,000	£30,000
Restore (formerly Bury Women's Aid)	Towards Community Support Hubs providing victims of DA with 1:1 support, trauma informed counselling service, programmes and peer support networks. The service aims to provide a safe space for victims to disclose DA. Geographical focus: West Suffolk	£40,000		£10,000	£50,000

	specifically, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Newmarket and Stowmarket				
Survivors in Transition <sup>1</sup>	Specialist support for survivors of all ages and genders who have experienced sexual violence or abuse to cope and build resilience from the effects of crime through therapy and group programmes. The aim is to improve self-esteem, well-being and reduce negative coping mechanisms. Geographical focus: county-wide.	£120,000		£60,000	£180,000
Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum	Advice, guidance, signposting and support for victims of DA in the Waveney area. The service aims to support victims to break free from DA, build resilience and avoid further abusive relationships. Geographical focus: Lowestoft and surrounding areas.	£25,000		£10,000	£35,000
	<b>Total Funding Allocated</b>	<b>£339,374</b>	<b>£841,209</b>	<b>£791,528</b>	<b>£1,972,111</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>£339,374</b>	<b>£841,209</b>	<b>£791,528</b>	<b>£1,972,111</b>

3.8 All contracts and grants have monitoring and reporting conditions that incorporate MoJ requirements. Monitoring data collected includes confirmation of grant compliance; financial information; referral and support data; demographics and narrative on service delivery including: innovation and best practice; challenges and risks; actions taken to meet the needs of victims with protected characteristics; evidence of outcomes and victim satisfaction and any complaints received.

3.9 Overall, the combined PCC and MoJ grant funding will support the employment of around 50 (full time equivalent) victims support posts in Suffolk and support around 13,000 victims of crime in 2025/26.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the total grant to Survivors in Transition (SiT) reflects the demand on their services following the closure of Suffolk Rape Crisis in 2024 as set out in PCC decision 22-2024.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The proposals in this decision paper recommend the PCC utilises £339,374 of his commissioning budget and fully allocates £1.6m from the MoJ 'core' and 'general' grants toward victim support services in Suffolk in 2025/26.
- 4.2 The service providers will be paid quarterly in arrears. In accordance with the grant agreement, the PCC is expected to receive payment from the MoJ in two stages on submission of the required monitoring information. Any unspent 'core' or 'general' grant funding will need to be repaid to the MoJ at the end of the year.

## **5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 5.1 The reduction of 4.2% in the MoJ core grant has been partially offset by removing the element of OPCC staff costs from the grant. This cost is now being borne by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's corporate budget.
- 5.2 The current procurement process for the new Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care contract means there is some uncertainty over expenditure against the core grant. The procurement budget envelope has been used in this decision paper.
- 5.3 Liaison with service providers has indicated that the increases in the National Minimum/Living Wage and employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) have resulted in significant cost pressures on the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector. This is in addition to inflationary pressures experienced by services over the past few years. Unmet cost pressures could result in organisations reducing staff numbers meaning fewer victims are able to access support services and wait lists increasing. Services have been asked to keep the OPCC informed of cost pressures and risks. The PCC will consider and bid appropriately for any additional funding made available during the year and will endeavour to mitigate this risk by reallocating any known underspend.
- 5.4 The MoJ extension of 'core' and 'general' grant funding for 2025/26 only limits the PCC's ability to apply the key principle within his Police and Crime Plan (Theme 2) to award longer-term funding supporting the sustainability and delivery of support to victims of crime. The Suffolk PCC is cognisant of Suffolk Rape Crisis's closure in 2024 which was largely attributed to the cessation of its significant funding streams at the end of 2024/25.
- 5.5 MoJ victim services funding for 2026 onwards is subject to decisions in the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review. This uncertainty poses financial risks for the PCC for current contracts and those that need to be awarded before the settlements are made. Victim Services Funding has been added to the PCC's risk register.

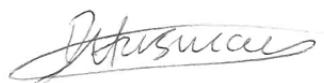
ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	NO
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	YES
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	YES
Have human resource implications been considered?	YES
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	YES
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	YES
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

**APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER**

**Chief Executive**

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



**Signature:**

**Date:** 1 April 2025