



Victim Services Grant Funding 2026-2028

Subject: Victim Services Grant Funding 2026-2028

Originator: Head of Commissioning and Governance

Decision Number: 9 - 2026

Reason for Submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary

1. Since 2014 the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has funded the majority of services to support victims of crime in the county. This has been enabled through grant funding from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and supplemented by the PCC's local commissioning budget.
2. This report seeks approval from the PCC to accept the offer of new grant funding from the MoJ of £3,364,092 covering the financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28.
3. It further recommended that the PCC approves the allocation of the MoJ funding to the following victim support services: the Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service; the Domestic Abuse Next Steps service; the Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care Service (NSVCS) and the Suffolk Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service.
4. The remainder of the MoJ grant funding, supplemented by the PCC's local commissioning budget, will be distributed through grants to domestic abuse and sexual violence support services.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the PCC:

1. Accepts the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) 'formula-based' and 'general' grant funding of £3,364,092.06 covering the financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28.
2. Approves the use of the funding for the following victim support services: the Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service; the Domestic Abuse Next Steps service; the Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care Service (NSVCS) and the Suffolk Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service.

Approval by PCC

The recommendations outlined above are approved.

Signed: Tim Passmore



Signature:

Date: 27 March 2026

Detail of Submission

1. Objective

- 1.1 Since 2014 the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has funded the majority of services to support victims of crime in the county.
- 1.2 This is enabled through grant funding from the Ministry of Justice and supplemented by the PCC's own local commissioning budget.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval from the PCC to accept new grant funding from the MOJ and allocate funding to victim support contracts and services.

2. Background

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 In Suffolk, the PCC has historically used this funding to commission local victim support services to deliver on the Police and Crime Plan and in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which states 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.
- 2.3 A full list of current services can be found on the Police and Crime Commissioner's [website](#).

3. Areas for consideration

- 3.1 The Ministry of Justice announced in December 2025 it would continue to grant fund PCCs to support victims of crime. Funding will be distributed through a 'formula-based' and 'general' grant award.
- 3.2 The formula-based grant (also known as core victim funding) is based on population and a grant offer of £1,733,228 has been offered for Suffolk, covering the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028. This grant must be used to provide or commission dedicated emotional, therapeutic and practical support services for

victims of crime, to help them cope with and, as far as possible, recover from the effects of crime.

- 3.3 The general grant of £1,630,864 has been offered from 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2028. This grant is ring-fenced for specialist support to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the PCC accepts the total grant funding on offer of £3,364,092 and utilizes most of the grant funding to support the following commissioned services in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- 3.5 The [Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor \(IDVA\)](#) service safeguards high-risk victims of DA through safety planning and early intervention with the aim of reducing that risk. IDVAs also provide specialist support in court, for young people, male victims, and victims from minority communities. The current contract is £690,000 per annum and expires on 30 September 2026. An option to extend the contract for up to two years is currently under consideration.
- 3.6 The [Domestic Abuse Next Steps](#) service was introduced in 2025 on an initial two year grant period and provides targeted support to victims of standard-risk domestic abuse, offering practical help, emotional support and pathways to safety. The service cost in 2026/27 is £91,000.
- 3.7 [Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care Service](#) provides emotional and practical support to victims of all crimes, whether or not it has been reported to the police. The service scope includes provision for the local response to a major crime incident. This service is co-commissioned with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk. The current contract for NSVC commenced on 1 October 2025 and the cost per annum for Suffolk is £250,000.
- 3.8 The Ferns [Independent Sexual Violence Advisor \(ISVA\)](#) service provides free impartial information and support to victims and survivors of sexual abuse. The funding contribution from the PCC is £352,000 for 2026/27.
- 3.9 In 2024/25 these core services delivered services to over 11,500 victims of crime in Suffolk.
 - Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care made an offer of support to 9,500 victims of crime in Suffolk including 944 young victims of crime.
 - Support was delivered to 1459 high risk victims of domestic abuse and 566 victims of sexual violence and abuse.
 - Key outcomes of improved confidence, resilience, and feelings of safety were achieved. 85% of victims receiving IDVA support said they were better able to cope and build resilience, while 75% of NSVC supported victims reported the same.

3.10 Data collected from 6,200 victims of crime (all services) in the first six months of 2025/26 shows:

- Services supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence predominantly supported women, however 13% of domestic abuse victims and 10% of sexual violence victims supported were men.
- Support was provided to 540 children and young people (aged under 18), 9% of the total.
- Older victims were more likely to be supported for burglary and theft, cyber-crime and fraud.
- 12.5% of victims supported stated they had a disability.
- 7% of victims supported were from an ethnic minority group with a higher than average proportion recorded within domestic abuse support services (10%) and hate crime (31%).

3.11 All services commissioned by the PCC 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, victim satisfaction and complaints received.

3.12 Further detail on these services, their impact and outcomes are reported in the PCC's [annual report](#).

4. Other options considered

4.1 The MoJ grant funding is a key factor in commissioning victim support services in Suffolk. The option not to accept the grant has been rejected as it would put undue pressure on the PCC's local budget to support services or alternatively de-commission key services that are required to fulfil the PCC's responsibilities to victims of crime.

5. Strategic aims / objective supported

5.1 This decision supports theme 2 objective 1 of the Police and Crime Plan: commissioning services which support victims of crime.

- 5.2 The key principles set out under theme 2 are adhered to in the commissioned services that this funding will support.
- 5.3 It also supports the [Suffolk VAWG strategy \(2025-29\)](#) and associated action plan and the [government's pledge](#) to halve violence against women and girls in the next decade.
- 5.4 Services commissioned by the PCC enable the delivery of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, including the right to be referred to services that support victims and receive support tailored to individual needs.

6. Financial and other resource implications

- 6.1 The recommendation to accept the grant award will contribute income of £1,665,392.11 in 2026/27 and £1,698,699.95 in 2027/28 to the PCC's commissioning budget. This is split as follows:
 - £858,033.68 income in 2026/27 and £875,194.35 in 2027/28 under the formula-based grant funding to commission local victim support services.
 - £807,358.43 in 2026/27 and £823,505.60 in 2027/28 from the general grant funding to commission local domestic abuse and sexual violence victim support.
- 6.2 The cost of the four commissioned services outlined in this decision paper, to be supported by MoJ grant funding, is estimated at just over £1.4m in 2026/27.
- 6.3 The remainder of the MoJ grant funding, supplemented by the PCC's local commissioning budget, will be distributed through grants to domestic abuse and sexual violence support services in due course, subject to application processes and PCC decision making.
- 6.4 The cost of managing the MoJ grant and associated victim services is borne by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's corporate budget.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 Environmental requirements are set out in the Ministry of Justice grant agreement and include the requirement to conserve energy, water, wood, paper, and other resources, reduce waste and pay due regard to the use of recycled products.
- 7.2 Environmental factors are included in individual contracts with service providers, for example within social value Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

8. Other implications and risks

- 8.1 The PCC's risk register contains an entry for Victim Services which is regularly reviewed to assess the financial and operational implications of how national policy interacts with local policing and commissioning objectives. Given this decision relates to continued funding for victim services until March 2028 it is considered a medium to long-term risk.
- 8.2 Liaison with service providers has highlighted cost pressures in contracts and grants. The MoJ funding reduction of over 4% in 2025/26 was managed by using the PCC's crime and disorder reduction reserve in order to minimize the impact on services. The increase of 2% per year in the grant awards for 2026/27 and 2027/28 is welcomed but will not cover the cost increases in contracts. The ability to award additional victim services grants and potential use of the reserve have been considered. 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 mitigate this risk by reallocating any known underspend.
- 8.3 An exit plan is required within the first three months of the agreement with the MoJ to allow for smooth closure of the funded activities. The PCC requires contracted services to have their own exit plan in place.
- 8.4 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 grant funding will need to be repaid to the MoJ at the end of the year.
- 8.5 It should be noted that the grant agreement states the value of the grant may be adjusted for the second year of the funding period, subject to agreement and reflecting either any unprecedented demand for support services or significant underspend in 2026/27.

Originator Checklist (must be completed).

Please state 'yes' or 'no'

Checklist Item	Yes / 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 Police and Crime Plan objectives?	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 environmental factors been considered?	Yes
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks section of the submission?	Yes
Is this report a Confidential Decision?	No

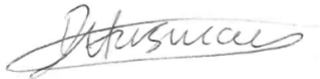
If yes, please state reasons below:

Approval to submit to the decision-maker (This approval is required only for submissions to the PCC)

Chief Executive

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

Signed: Darren Horsman



Signature:

Date: 18 March 2026

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
- Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
- Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
- And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signed: Colette Batson



Signature:

Date: 24 March 2026

Public access to information: Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential.' Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.