

Victim Services Grant Funding 2026 – 2028: Domestic Abuse

Subject: Victim services grant funding 2026-2028: Domestic Abuse

Originator: Head of Governance and Commissioning

Decision Number: 15 - 2026

Reason for Submission: For decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary

1. Following an assessment of local need and a call for grant applications, this report seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to award grant funding to seven providers of domestic abuse (DA) services in Suffolk for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028.
2. This funding will help meet the local need for services to support victims of domestic abuse to cope and build resilience to move forward with daily life. It supports the intentions in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan under theme 2, objective 1: commissioning services which support victims of crime.
3. The services will support an estimated 2,000 adult victims and 300 children affected by domestic violence and abuse each year.
4. The total grant funding amount recommended for year 1 is £366,796 and £365,696 in year 2. It is proposed that Ministry of Justice (MOJ) general grant

funding to the PCC is used to support these grants, supplemented by the PCC's local commissioning budget.

Recommendation

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves the award of grant funding from 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2028 to seven community based domestic abuse services.
2. It is recommended that funding of £366,796 should be allocated in 2026/27 and £365,696 in 2027/28 and that the MOJ general grant to the PCC should be utilised with the remainder of the funding allocated from the PCC's local commissioning budget.

Approval by PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signed: Tim Passmore

Signature:



Date: 27 May 2026

Detail of Submission

1. Objective

- 1.1 Following a call for grant applications and assessment of these against local need, this report seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to award grant funding to seven providers of domestic abuse services for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028.
- 1.2 This funding will help meet the local need for services to support victims of domestic abuse and support the intentions in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan under theme 2, objective 1: commissioning services which support victims of crime.

2. Background

- 2.1 The PCC has the statutory power, through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, to commission services to support victims and reduce crime and disorder.
- 2.2 Since 2014 the PCC has utilised grant funding from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) supplemented by his own local commissioning budget to fund services to support victims of crime in Suffolk.
- 2.3 In December 2025 the MOJ announced a 2-year funding commitment to PCCs to support the continued provision of victim services. The PCC has accepted the grant from the MOJ and will utilise most of the funding towards services already in place in Suffolk. Decision 9-2026 provides more information on these services.
- 2.4 The renewed MOJ grant has provided the opportunity to undertake a new funding round for provision of domestic abuse services, utilising the remaining grant.
- 2.5 A needs assessment was undertaken to refresh the scope of domestic abuse services required and a call for applications was published on 25 February 2026. See Appendix A for more details.
- 2.6 The call for applications included the intentions to:

- 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 including the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service.
 - Improve awareness and accessibility for self-referrals.
 - Address the issues arising from the needs assessment including improved accessibility for underrepresented or marginalised groups including children and young people and reduced waiting times for services and support programmes.
- 2.7 Nine applications were received and were assessed against the following criteria, as set out in the application guidance: service delivery, organisation, workforce and ability to deliver, partnerships, performance and quality assurance and financial information.
- 2.8 Two applications are not recommended for grant awards in this decision paper as further information is required.
- 2.9 The recommended grant awards and services are set out below.

Organisation	Service	Year 1	Year 2
Anglia Care Trust	Money Advice Service to provide a specialist advice and guidance provision for victims of domestic abuse throughout Suffolk. The grant will provide for a full time Money Adviser to support victims across Suffolk using a blend of telephone and face-to-face support.	£35,000	£35,000
Compassion	The grant will provide a contribution to staffing costs for trauma-informed recovery programmes and wrap-around community support in Babergh, West Suffolk and surrounding rural communities.	£20,000	£20,000
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Service	The grant will support the delivery of the Children and Young Persons IDVA service for dependent children of high-risk victims of domestic abuse. The service provides essential practical and emotional, holistic support and safety planning for children and young people ages 5 to 18, around their experiences of living within a domestic abuse household using a trauma-informed Think Family approach.	£109,496	£109,496
Lighthouse Women's Aid	The grant will provide a contribution to staffing costs for the provision of crisis and advice appointments and a range of therapeutic programmes and courses in Ipswich and surrounding areas.	£75,000	£75,000
PHOEBE	The grant will provide a contribution to culturally appropriate community-based support to Black and minoritised women and their children across Suffolk who are experiencing or recovering from domestic abuse. Support includes practical and emotional support, safety planning, advocacy and basic counselling, alongside referrals to specialist services.	£42,300	£41,200
Restore Women's Aid	The grant will provide a contribution to Bury St Edmunds Community Domestic Abuse Support Service through funding a community support worker and children's support worker delivering one-to-one support, peer support groups and a range of therapeutic and educational programmes. Services are delivered through a network of hubs in west Suffolk.	£50,000	£50,000
Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum	The grant will provide a contribution to the charity supporting survivors in the Lowestoft and surrounding area with advice and guidance, providing one to one support and helping them access services, programmes and courses. The service also provides training and raises awareness of domestic violence and abuse.	£35,000	£35,000

3. Areas for Consideration

- 3.1 The recommended grant awards specifically relate 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.
- 3.2 The recommended grant awards are in addition to the core domestic abuse support services commissioned by the PCC, namely the Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service for high-risk victims of DA and the Domestic Abuse Next Steps service for standard risk victims of DA referred from Suffolk Constabulary.
- 3.3 Grants for services supporting victims of sexual violence are being considered separately.
- 3.4 Research still highlights gaps in provision of support for victims of domestic abuse from ethnic minority communities, those with no recourse to public funds, LGBTQ+ victims, and male victims. Analysis of PCC funded services in Suffolk to date indicates that recent service provision has been proactively tailored to victims with protected characteristics including gender, sexual identity, disability, ethnicity and age. See appendix A for further information.
- 3.5 These gaps were considered in developing the needs assessment and call for grant applications. The provision of domestic abuse services through the recommended grants will help fulfil the public sector equality duty aim to eliminate discrimination by ensuring services are available to all those with protected characteristics and advance equality of opportunity to access those services for those with a protected characteristic and those who do not share it.
- 3.6 For example, grant funding will support the provision of culturally appropriate community-based support to respond to a clear gap in provision for minoritised women who often face barriers when accessing mainstream services. Other services have made specific provision for victim-survivors with disabilities, male victims of domestic abuse and specific provision for children.
- 3.7 All grant recipients will have monitoring and reporting conditions that incorporate MOJ requirements.

- 3.8 This recommended grant funding will support an estimated 2000 adult victims and 300 children affected by domestic violence and abuse each year.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 Whilst core services which meet the victim code requirement for referral are available, they do not address either the volume or full scope of needs, particularly for ongoing recovery programmes, specialist support (e.g. for children), self-referral or local access. If PCC grant funding was reduced or ceased then it is likely that certain programmes would not be delivered, waiting lists would increase and service provision would be significantly reduced for victims requiring onwards support to recover from the impact of domestic abuse. This would particularly impact victims in rural areas, those with protected characteristics and children. Therefore, the option to reduce or cease PCC grant funding for community domestic abuse support is not recommended.

5. Strategic aims / objective supported

- 5.1 The recommendation to award grant funding to domestic abuse services set out in this decision paper supports theme 2 objective 1 of the Police and Crime Plan: commissioning services which support victims of crime. This objective sets out that the PCC will prioritise services for victims of domestic abuse.
- 5.2 The recommendation to award these grants is based on evidence with a view to achieving key outcomes. As well as addressing theme 2 objective 1, this grant funding will deliver on the following key principles for commissioning outlined in the Police and Crime Plan:
- All victims should have the opportunity to access practical and emotional support to help them build resilience and cope with everyday life.
 - All victims should be able to access support, whether or not they wish to report to the police.

- Provide longer-term funding to enable sustainability of services and support the voluntary and charitable sector in Suffolk.
- 5.3 Furthermore, the services funded are in line with the Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2025-29 and delivery of the associated action plan. It also supports 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 total requested funding in grant applications was £402,526 for year one and £418,986 for year two. Most applicants referenced rising costs for their workforce and for organisational overheads.
- 6.2 The budget for domestic abuse grants awarded by the PCC has been set to broadly maintain the level of funding from previous years. This reflects a 4.2% reduction in the MoJ general grant to the PCC in 2025/26 which was followed by a 2% increase in 2026/27 and an expected 2% increase in 2027/28.
- 6.3 Whilst the increase is welcome there are still cost pressures in the victim services contracts already committed to. Therefore, although grant awards have been recommended, most are being offered at a reduced amount to that set out in the applications received.
- 6.4 The total grant funding amount recommended for year one is £366,796 and £365,696 in year two.
- 6.5 It is proposed that the MOJ general grant is used to support these grant awards. The proposed grants would use £277,196 from the MOJ grant in year one, supplemented by £89,600 from the PCC's commissioning budget to fulfil the total grant funding required.
- 6.6 Given the cost pressures highlighted by most applicants it is recommended that the PCC reviews the option of a small uplift in grant values in year two subject to a number of factors, including satisfactory performance and reporting.

- 6.7 The cost of managing the recommended grants and reporting to the MOJ is borne by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's corporate budget.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 The environmental requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice grant agreement will need to be adhered to by PCC grant recipients 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.

8. Other implications and risks

- 8.1 The option for multi-year grant funding covering three years was considered but is not recommended given the uncertainty of victim services funding from the MOJ after March 2028. During the recommended two-year grant period we expect future policing governance arrangements and the future of MOJ victims commissioning to be determined. It is recommended that the PCC retains the option to extend these grant awards into 2028, should there be a need during any transition period. This will be reflected in the conditions of grant award.
- 8.2 The PCC's risk register contains an entry for commissioned services. This 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.
- 8.3 The applications received and discussion with existing service providers has highlighted cost pressures in victim services contracts and grants. 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 act flexibly to reallocate any known underspend.

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:

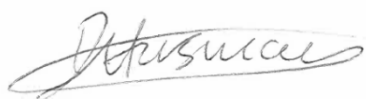
Approval to submit to the decision-maker

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: 27 May 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: 27 May 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.

Appendix A

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENT INCLUDING SUMMARY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Call for Grant
Applications DA 2026