

Suffolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (April 2026 – September 2026)

Subject: Suffolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (April 2026 – September 2026)

Originator: Commissioning Officer

Decision Number: 16 - 2026

Reason for Submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Summary

1. The Home Office has awarded grant funding of £165,977.50 to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to continue delivery of the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme, from April 2026 to September 2026.
2. Additional match-funding from partners will support the continued delivery of the programme between April 2026 and September 2026.
3. The programme will continue to offer multiple perpetrator interventions and enhanced options for further victim support. The programme will look to prevent violence and abuse by fostering behaviour change in those who are at risk of perpetrating domestic abuse and help victims recover and improve their sense of safety. In total, the programme aims to work with 57 perpetrators and 63 victims including children and young people.
4. To facilitate the programme, this paper recommends that the grant funding be distributed to Icení and Suffolk Constabulary's Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit (DAPU) to continue their work with perpetrators and victims, as well as Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse services for enhanced victim support work with children.
5. This decision paper also seeks approval to extend the above arrangement to 31 March 2027, should the Home Office exercise its right to do so under the Grant

Agreement, in event of delays in the planned competitive funding process for funding from October 2026 onwards.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner accepts the grant offer from the Home Office of £165,977.50 for the programme outlined in this decision paper.
2. It is further recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to distribute the grant for April – September 2026 delivery as follows: Icení (£76,544.50), Suffolk Constabulary's Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit (£68,915.47), Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services (£20,517.53).
3. The Police and Crime Commissioner agrees that the above arrangements can be extended to 31 March 2027, should the Home Office exercise its right to extend the agreement. The additional money received with an extension would be distributed to the delivery partners at the same proportion as set out in recommendation two above.

Approval by PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signed: Tim Passmore

Signature: 

Date: 3 June 2026

Detail of Submission

1. Objective

- 1.1 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;
 - b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by offences and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2 In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the [Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#).
- 1.3 As such this report sets out the background to the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme and proposes to accept the Home Office grant for continuation of the current model of operation.

2. Background

- 2.1 According to data from the [Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#), 13,075 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes in Suffolk were recorded in the year ending March 2024 – equating to 17 incidents and crimes for every 1,000 people in Suffolk. However, the actual scale will be much higher due to unreported crimes and incidences, as the ONS estimate the police are aware of only 37% of all victims of domestic abuse.
- 2.2 In October 2020, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) led a programme via a successful bid to the Home Office, for a Domestic Abuse (DA) Perpetrator Programme – supported by Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Council, and a local charity named Icení.
- 2.3 In 2023, the OPCC was successful again in bidding for a multi-year grant from the Home Office, totalling £652,014. This was to continue the existing provision and respond to evaluation recommendations, including the need to strengthen victim support for adults and children.
- 2.4 In 2025, the OPCC succeeded in securing further Home Office funding of £331,955, enabling the continuation of the existing provision and the development of a Conditional Caution programme for standard risk first time offenders.
- 2.5 The current programme has made significant progress in supporting the PCC's and government's objectives to reduce harm to domestic abuse victims. In the last

three years, 303 new perpetrators have been supported and 303 victims – including 136 children and young people (CYP).

- 2.6 Beneficiaries of the programme to date were 88% white British and 96% male. 65% were aged 25-39. Additional factors of those engaging with the programme include mental health (64%), parenting responsibilities (91%), substance misuse, learning difficulties and neurological conditions.
- 2.7 Overall, the current programme has contributed to a reduction in abuse, police callouts, and social care interventions, ensuring that every affected victim receives dedicated support and safety planning. Suffolk Constabulary has reported an 80% non-offending rate among programme participants, while Icenii has indicated a 90% reduction in police callouts.
- 2.8 Additionally, the focus on victim support has enhanced children’s understanding of unhealthy relationships, improved their communication skills and confidence, and equipped them with knowledge on how to seek police assistance when needed.
- 2.9 The Government has set a national ambition to halve Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) within ten years and, in December 2025, published a new VAWG strategy outlining how this will be achieved. A key element of the strategy focuses on perpetrators, aiming to ensure that all areas of the UK have access to effective perpetrator programmes.
- 2.10 This announcement was followed by confirmation from the Home Office of its intention to extend Domestic Abuse (DA) Perpetrator Funding for a further six months (1 April–30 September 2026) to maintain continuity of frontline services while a multi-year, competitive funding process for future delivery is developed. Monthly funding and delivery levels will remain consistent with those in FY 2025–26. This equates to £165,977.50 for the six-month period, supporting 57 perpetrators and 63 victims in Suffolk.

3. Areas for Consideration

Suffolk Constabulary Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit (DAPU)

- 3.1 Suffolk Constabulary work with perpetrators via their Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit (DAPU), which is co-located with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This currently comprises an experienced police constable, 2.8 FTE (full time

equivalent) grant funded Behaviour Change Workers (BCW) and 1 grant-funded Victim Support Worker – all ‘RESPECT’¹ trained.

- 3.2 Since the launch of the current programme in April 2023, DAPU has engaged with 101 perpetrators and provided support to 160 new victims. The complexity of cases has presented challenges in expanding referral numbers. However, DAPU’s work has demonstrated significant impact, achieving an 80% non-offending rate, reducing police callouts, and substantially decreasing the need for social care intervention.
- 3.3 From the £165,977.50 grant for April – September 2026, it is proposed that £68,915.47 will be allocated to Suffolk Constabulary. An element of match-funding will be provided through policing resource.
- 3.4 DAPU will continue delivering its structured 20-session one-to-one behaviour change programme, aimed at reducing the frequency and severity of abuse by reshaping thought patterns and building skills in self-reflection, emotional regulation, and communication.
- 3.5 DAPU will also continue to deliver their ARC (Accountability, Respect, Change) Conditional Caution programme which went live in October 2025. Designed for individuals facing a first offence (and assessed as standard risk), the programme consists of two days of group-based intervention work delivered four weeks apart. Since its introduction, 15 individuals have participated, with 31 associated victims offered support. Early outcomes are positive, with 70% of participants reporting an increased commitment to behaviour change, 85% feeling less stressed, and 70% of associated victims reporting that their relationships feel more respectful and equal.

ICENI – The Venta Programme

- 3.6 IcenI is a well-established charity based in Ipswich who offer care and support to families who are affected by abuse.
- 3.7 Since the beginning of the current programme (April 2023), IcenI has worked with 202 new perpetrators and supported 122 new victims. Evidence has been consistently provided of the programme’s impact on increasing awareness of abusive behaviours and providing greater safety to victims, showing a 90% reduction in police call outs.
- 3.8 From the £165,977.50 grant for April – September 2026, it is proposed that IcenI will be awarded £76,544.50. In addition, £43,938 match-funding will be provided by IcenI.

¹ RESPECT is a UK charity stopping perpetrators of domestic abuse. They provide a quality assurance framework outlining a set of principles that guide nationally recognised accreditation.

- 3.9 The funding will be to continue Icení's Venta programme to tackle domestic abuse through perpetrator engagement. The objective is to allow those who have harmed to take personal responsibility for their actions and work on contributing factors – such a drug misuse, poor mental health, and adverse childhood experiences.
- 3.10 The aim will be to retain current levels of referrals and ensure existing outcomes continue. This involves running 1.5 programmes (within the 6-month period) with 20-weeks of support through motivational interviews, group work, and one-on-one sessions for those who need it – allowing self-referrals and delivering a lower cost per beneficiary through group work. The remaining 0.5 of the second programme will be delivered via match funding should the Home Office funding end.
- 3.11 In addition, the funding will mean Icení can provide enhanced support to victims through specialist interventions via psychotherapy, counselling and post programme support

Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services – enhanced victim support

- 3.12 Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services is a charity that has been established for 50 years. They provide the Suffolk Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service, as well as the Children and Young People's Outreach (CAYPO) project. Their services help children come to terms with their experiences, working with them on safety, and recognising unacceptable behaviour.
- 3.13 In accordance with the Home Office's standards for domestic abuse perpetrator interventions, the programme will continue to offer comprehensive support to victims, including the children of those undertaking the programme, to build resilience and reduce the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences.
- 3.14 Since the programme's launch in April 2023, Leeway has supported 40 children and young people. Leeway's support has demonstrated clear improvements in children and young people's awareness of unhealthy relationships, communication skills, and understanding of emergency procedures. Case studies have shown children experiencing a reduction in anger as well as calmer communication.
- 3.15 The proposed funding for April – September 2026 of £20,517.53 would allow Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services to retain the worker, to engage with children where the parent(s) is undertaking a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme.
- 3.16 The child-centred approach through Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services will offer 8-weeks of essential practical and emotion support, as well as safety planning for those aged 5-15 – including work on addressing their experiences of witnessing and being harmed by domestic abuse.

Monitoring, evaluation and outcomes

- 3.17 The current Partnership Board consists of an OPCC chair alongside a representative from each provider, as well as Suffolk County Council's Community Safety team. This mechanism will continue to be used to monitor progress and ensure effective delivery.
- 3.18 To facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation, the OPCC will complete Home Office monitoring returns and will continue to require the following data from Suffolk Constabulary, Icen, and Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services on a quarterly basis:
- a) An update on progress every quarter, for the OPCC to report back to the Home Office;
 - b) The number of intervention sessions delivered and the type of session (one-on-one, group etc.);
 - c) Number of actual/projected perpetrators to be supported by interventions;
 - d) Programme completion rate;
 - e) Key beneficiary information – including appropriate demographics (alongside protected characteristics), level of risk, subject to court mandate(s), nature of abuse history, and relationship with victim;
 - f) Number of specialist intervention referrals;
 - g) Outcomes for perpetrators and victims;
 - h) Supporting case studies;
 - i) Financial updates (underspend/overspend, details of costs).
- 3.19 The Commissioning Officer will provide oversight of the project, meet quarterly with the delivery partners and liaise with Constabulary finance to comply with monitoring and evaluation requirements.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 The PCC has two options: to accept Home Office funding and continue the current provision in Suffolk, or to cease funding altogether.
- 4.2 The option to de-commission / stop funding current provision would leave Suffolk without any domestic abuse perpetrator provision, reducing the opportunity to prevent crimes. This option would undermine progress towards the local and national aims outlined below.

5. Strategic aims / objective supported

- 5.1 The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme meets several objectives/aims listed within the Police and Crime Plan 2025-29 (Theme 2 objective 2), most specifically:

- Consider next steps and learning from domestic abuse perpetrator provision to prevent abuse and reduce reoffending.
- Support problem-solving in local communities, by investing in local solutions and commissioning local assets which reduce reoffending, prevent crime and disorder, or improve community safety.
- Consider match-funding opportunities, particularly with Community Safety Partners, where there are shared priorities to prevent ASB and crime, and raise awareness.
- Consider initiatives which reduce the demand on the police.

5.2 The government’s 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’](#) published in December 2025 places a deliberate shift away from solely managing victims’ risk and toward changing perpetrator behaviour and preventing repeat harm. Domestic abuse perpetrator programmes sit squarely within the strategy’s “relentless pursuit and prevention of perpetrators” pillar, which emphasises reducing abuse at its source.

5.3 The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme also directly supports Ambition 3 from the [Suffolk VAWG Strategy \(2025-28\)](#); holding abusers accountable, while also contributing to prevention and survivor safety across the system.

6. Financial and other resource implications

6.1 The Home Office have awarded grant funding of £165,977.50 for an extension and continuation of the current programme between 1st April 2026 and 30 September 2026. Funding will be distributed as follows to support delivery of the programme:

Providers	Grant amount
Suffolk Constabulary – DAPU	£68,915.47
Iceni – Venta	£76,544.50
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services	£20,517.53
Total	£165,977.50

6.2 Funding to Suffolk Constabulary DAPU includes: 2.8 FTE Behaviour Change Workers (Basic Pay, NI and Pension), 1 FTE Victim Support Worker, staff training, and clinical supervision.

- 6.3 Funding for Iceni includes running and facilitation costs for 1.5 Venta groups in the 6-month period (20-sessions per beneficiary), victim one-to-one support, training, clinical supervision, administrative and staffing costs, and venue hire.
- 6.4 Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services will receive funding for a CYP worker.
- 6.5 Match funding, which is predominantly provided as in-kind resources by partner organisations and the OPCC, will be monitored throughout the duration of the project. For the 2025–2026 period, total match funding amounted to £262,398.21. Based on these figures, an estimated match funding contribution of £130,237.09 is anticipated for the corresponding period.
- 6.6 The Home Office intends to undertake a competitive, multi-year funding process to support the continuation of funding beyond September 2026. However, should this not complete in time for provision to start in September 2026 the Grant Agreement for the period 1 April to 30 September 2026 includes the following provision:

‘The Authority has the right to extend the provisions of the Grant Agreement to enable continuance of the Purpose for up to a further Six Months in any combination thereof until 31.03.2027.’

- 6.7 In light of the above, this decision paper seeks approval that, should the Home Office exercise its option to extend the Agreement for a further six months, the acceptance and continued distribution of funds may be authorised in writing by the PCC, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Finance Officer. This approach is proposed to minimise additional resource implications.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific environmental implications to include within this decision report.

8. Other implications and risks

- 8.1 The Home Office requires all projects funded through its intervention fund to demonstrate sustainability. Providers are expected to evidence the potential for long-term impact both during the funding period and beyond its conclusion. While the Police and Crime Plan commits to reviewing next steps and capturing learning from the programme, it is important to recognise that, despite proactive efforts to embed sustainability within these projects, ongoing financial uncertainty presents significant risks to their long-term delivery and impact.

- 8.2 This paper sets out the funding position for continuation of the existing project over the next six months, with the potential for a further six-month extension should the Home Office elect to proceed. There is also the possibility that the PCC may be successful in the forthcoming competitive grant round. However, if this future funding does not materialise, there will be no provision for domestic abuse perpetrator programmes in Suffolk. The likelihood of this risk is assessed as 'medium', but the potential impact on victims, offenders, society, and policing is considered high. In anticipation of this risk, the PCC and partners, including Suffolk Constabulary, VAWG leads, and reducing reoffending partners and providers, should consider their appetite for continuing to fund existing or revised provision within a longer-term strategic framework.
- 8.3 Equality impact is reviewed quarterly and Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) considerations discussed at partnership monitoring meetings; however, a more comprehensive assessment will be completed during the bid design phase of the imminent competitive funding process.
- 8.4 There are no other implications or risks to be considered.

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?	No
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: 3 June 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: 3 June 2026

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