

Award of funding – county-wide youth social action project

Subject: Funding contribution for youth social action project in collaboration with Suffolk County Council

Originator: Head of Governance and Commissioning

Decision Number: 17 – 2026

Reason for Submission: For decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary

1. The Suffolk Youth Social Action programme is a partnership project, led by Suffolk County Council which aims to strengthen youth voice, civic participation and community resilience across Suffolk.
2. Local and national funding will be used to expand and embed youth social action activity across Suffolk.
3. It is recommended that the PCC allocates a contribution of £20,000 from his 2026-2027 commissioning budget as match funding to support the delivery of the project across Suffolk. The agreed contribution will support:
 - Delivery of hackathon events;
 - Young people to design and implement social action projects;
 - Programme coordination and associated delivery costs;

- Learning, evaluation and partnership development activities linked to the programme.
4. The funding will support themes two and three in the Police and Crime Plan 2025-29 by improving engagement with young people, with a view to understand their views about policing and crime, and cooperating with statutory, voluntary and private sector partners to support initiatives which benefit young people and reduce reoffending.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the PCC:

1. Enters into the Memorandum of Understanding with Suffolk County Council to formalise provision of match funding and support for the delivery of the youth social action project.
2. Approves funding of £20,000 towards the project from the commissioning budget.

Approval by PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signed: Tim Passmore



Signature:

Date: 18/06/2026

Detail of Submission

1. Objective

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for a contribution of £20,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner's 2026-2027 commissioning budget towards the Suffolk Youth Social Action project in Suffolk.
- 1.2 The project will be led by Suffolk County Council but delivered in partnership with the aim of embedding youth social action in Suffolk so that young people can identify and take action on issues that matter to them.
- 1.3 Delivery of the project will support the [Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#) by improving engagement with young people with a view to understand their views about policing and crime, and cooperating with statutory, voluntary and private sector partners to support initiatives which benefit young people and reduce reoffending.

2. Background

- 2.1 Youth social action enables young people to identify issues that matter to them and take collective action to improve their communities, with the right support, resources and shared decision-making.
- 2.2 Evidence shows that high-quality youth social action strengthens:
 - Mental wellbeing, confidence and sense of purpose.
 - Social connection and belonging.
 - Civic participation and skills for life.
- 2.3 The 2025 Suffolk Annual Public Health Report focused on youth social action as a public health approach. It was co-produced with young people through a series of youth-led hackathons and creative engagement.
- 2.4 The report provided an evidence base and mandate for scaling youth social action across Suffolk. Suffolk County Council and partners have taken this forward through a county wide youth social action programme underpinned by a successful bid to the national lottery #iwill fund.
- 2.5 The project builds on the youth social action that has been taking place in Ipswich with the intention to scale up the approach across Suffolk.

2.6 Challenges for young people across Suffolk include:

- **Rurality:** Around 40% of Suffolk's population live in rural communities, often with limited access to services and opportunities. 77% of young people aged 18–24 say their volunteering helped them feel less isolated.
- **Transport:** Gaps in public transport infrastructure affect access to education, jobs, and social activities.
- **Employment:** Youth unemployment and rates of those not in education or training (NEET) remain a concern, especially in areas with fewer entry-level opportunities.
- **Mental health:** Suffolk has significantly higher rates of hospital admission due to self-harm amongst young people.
- **Social Mobility:** Historic data highlights persistent challenges in social mobility and whilst recent data highlights Suffolk to be in a 'middle group' across a range of domains this masks geographical variation particularly in rural and coastal communities.
- **Deprivation:** Around 84,000 people live in the parts of Suffolk that are in the 20% most deprived areas nationally. Of these around 33,000 are children and young people under 30 years old (IMD 2025 and 2022 Population Estimates from the ONS). Around 23,000 children under 16 lived in absolute low-income families during 2023/24 (Dept of Health and Social Care 'Fingertips').

2.7 Some of these challenges are also risk factors for crime and disorder and victimisation with low educational achievement, employment issues and children in social care cited as risk factors in serious violence according to Suffolk's Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment Refresh (January 2026).

2.8 The project will deliver at least 12 hackathons across the county between April 2026 and March 2027 and focus on involving young people with different needs and experiences. The hackathons will provide a safe space where young people have a set time to collaborate, identify issues that matter to them and build creative solutions. They will be able to engage with local voluntary sector organisations for support in delivering their ideas and projects successfully.

- 2.9 It is expected that around 1,200 young people will participate in the series of hackathons, following which a number of projects will be taken forward using intervention funding of up to £10,000 per project.
- 2.10 Whilst it is difficult to estimate participant numbers for each project, based on 15 young people per project, this would equate to 360 young people leading projects.

3. Areas for Consideration

- 3.1 The project is based on a partnership between Suffolk County Council, the PCC, Volunteering Matters, University of Suffolk, and Suffolk Community Foundation.
- 3.2 Funding is recommended due to the partnership nature of the project that will leverage £200,000 of national lottery funding into the project.
- 3.3 The recommended contribution from the PCC of £20,000 will support the overall programme of youth social action and specific projects which arise out of the programme which deliver against the Police and Crime Plan.
- 3.4 Further to the core delivery with young people the project will fund the recruitment and employment of an apprentice to work on youth social action delivery.
- 3.5 The Memorandum of Understanding between the PCC and County Council sets out the respective responsibilities and opportunities for the PCC and his office to be involved in hackathons, the programme delivery group and support with communications and engagement.
- 3.6 The Head of Governance and Commissioning will engage with partners to shape the engagement activity and promote the inclusion of young people at higher risk of becoming involved in criminal activity or exploitation.
- 3.7 The project provides an opportunity for the PCC to engage with and hear from a wide range of young people in Suffolk, and as well as contributing to direct delivery of the project, this engagement can be used to inform other areas of PCC activity e.g. commissioning and the Serious Violence Duty.
- 3.8 Furthermore it is considered that the proposed youth social action engagement and activity builds community cohesion and resilience therefore, contributing to

the reduction of risk factors that can lead to crime and disorder or increased risk of exploitation and victimisation.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 This is a one-off partnership project, led by Suffolk County Council, and as such no other options have been considered. The PCC could choose not to support this project but that could lead to the loss of significant sums of external funding for Suffolk which will support initiatives which will deliver against important elements of the Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029, such as prevention and youth engagement.

5. Strategic aims / objective supported

- 5.1 The Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 sets out that support for young people and projects which reduce re-offending and support crime prevention remain at the heart of the plan and the PCC's grant awarding activity.
- 5.2 To deliver on the plan, the PCC's crime and disorder reduction funding will focus on initiatives and services which directly support young people (as well as to reduce re-offending).
- 5.3 The recommended funding and youth social action delivery will specifically support the delivery of the following parts of the plan
- Supporting young people – for example initiatives which divert young people from criminality, enhance their skills or provide crime prevention advice and support so they do not become victims. (Theme two, objective two)
 - Improve our engagement to hear from a wide range of communities (particularly to improve our engagement with young people). (Theme three, objective one)
 - Co-operate with statutory, voluntary and private sector partners to support initiatives which benefit young people and reduce offending. (Theme three, objective three)

6. Financial and other recourse implications

- 6.1 The recommended contribution from the PCC of £20,000 will add to that provided by Suffolk Community Foundation (£30,000) and Suffolk County Council (£150,000) to match the funding request from the national lottery #iwill fund.
- 6.2 It is recommended that the PCC funding is allocated from the commissioning budget for 2026-2027, which has been supplemented by £100k from the Crime and Disorder Reduction reserve in 2026/27.
- 6.3 Funding will be used for:
- Delivery of hackathon activity.
 - Project administration (includes project manager costs, travel, office overheads, related management costs).
 - Project apprentice recruitment and salary.
 - Grant fund (for youth led projects resulting from hackathons).
 - External evaluation.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 None to be considered.

8. Other implications and risks

- 8.1 The requirement to have due regard to the public sector equality duty has been considered and the principles of how this is embedded in the delivery of the project were set out by Suffolk County Council in the bid for lottery funding. This project, will in particular, support young people and help build understanding between people with different protected characteristics.

Originator Checklist (must be completed).

Please state 'yes' or 'no'

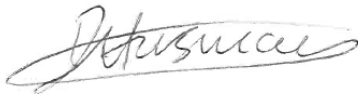
Checklist Item	Yes / No
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered, including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	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:

Signature: Darren Horsman

Date: 18/06/2026

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

Colette

Signature:

Date: 18/06/2026

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.