

Victim Services Grant Funding 2026 – 2027: Support for Victims of Sexual Violence

Subject: Victim services grant funding 2026-2027: support for victims of sexual violence

Originator: Head of Governance and Commissioning

Decision Number: 24 - 2026

Reason for Submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary

1. This report seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to award grant funding to three providers of sexual violence support services in Suffolk for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.
2. This funding will help meet the local need for services to support victims of sexual violence so they can cope and build resilience to move forward with daily life. It supports the intentions in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan under theme two, objective one: commissioning services which support victims of crime.
3. The services will support an estimated 244 victims (adults, children and their families) directly affected by sexual violence.

4. The total grant funding amount recommended is £270,000. It is proposed that the PCC's commissioning budget is used to fund these grants.

Recommendation

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves the award of grant funding from 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027 to three community based sexual violence support services.
 - Brave Futures £60,000
 - Restitute £30,000
 - Survivors in Transition £180,000
2. It is recommended that funding of £270,000 be allocated from the PCC's commissioning budget.

Approval by PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signed: Tim Passmore

Signature: 

Date: 16 July 2026

Detail of Submission

1. Objective

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to award grant funding to three providers of specialist sexual abuse services for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.
- 1.2 This funding will help meet the local need for services to support victims of sexual violence and support the intentions in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan under theme two, objective one: 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 The Crime Survey for England and Wales¹ estimates 3.0% of females and 0.7% of males aged 16 years and over experienced sexual assault (including attempts) in the year ending March 2025.
- 2.4 Data from ONS² for the 12 months ending December 2025 indicates a crime rate for sexual offences of 3.2 per 1000 population in Suffolk (2,543 recorded crimes), which is below the average for England and Wales of 3.5.

¹ [Sexual offences in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics](#)

² [Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics](#)

- 2.5 Suffolk Constabulary³ recorded 1,977 rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) and 918 child sexual abuse (CSA) cases in the 12 months to January 2026. In 45.1% of RASSO and 26.8% of CSA cases an outcome of ‘victim does support police action’ was recorded.
- 2.6 The lifetime cost of CSA has been estimated as over £507k and adult abuse (sexual violence) as over £267k, across a range of services, per victim in Suffolk⁴.
- 2.7 Utilising PCC funding in 2025/26 services in Suffolk supported 2,130 victims of sexual violence and child sexual abuse (1,700 in 24/25) of whom:
- 71% were female;
 - 21% were aged under 18;
 - 7% were LGBTQ;
 - 6% were from a minority ethnic community;
 - 14% reported a disability.
- 2.8 All these services are available whether the victim-survivor chooses to report and engage in a police investigation or not.
- Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care service is co-commissioned with the Norfolk PCC to provide emotional support to cope and recover from crimes, including sexual violence and abuse. They provide information on and referrals to other agencies, advice and tailored safety planning advice and practical support such as a personal alarm. The service operates without a waiting list.
 - Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) are specially trained workers providing survivors of sexual violence with a non-judgemental, safe and

³ https://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/assets/documents/2026/02/ed9172b68c/AP26_12-Supporting-Vulnerable-Victims.pdf

⁴ The ‘Estimating the costs of sexual violence calculator’ was developed as a collaboration between the UK Prevention Research Partnership, VISION consortium and the Women’s Budget Group. Information, guidance on interpreting the findings and limitations of the calculator tool can be found here: [Sexual Violence Cost Estimate - City Vision](#).

confidential space to access support across a wide range of issues including support at court. The service is non-therapeutic and operates without a waiting list.

- Specialist sexual violence and child sexual abuse charities, Survivors in Transition, Brave Futures and Restitute, provide therapeutic support to adults and children as well as practical and emotional support to families.
- The Ferns Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is co-commissioned with NHS England, with other services (e.g. talking therapies) commissioned and delivered by a variety of organisations.

2.9 In 2025 the PCC joined with other local commissioners of sexual violence services to commission the University of Suffolk (UOS) to produce the ‘Mapping of Sexual Violence Service Provision in Suffolk’ report⁵. The report provides an evidence base and needs assessment using national and local literature and data and interviews with victim-survivors, practitioners and commissioners.

2.10 The report summarises a number of strengths which are valued by victim-survivors, practitioners and commissioners in Suffolk as well as key issues and gaps in provision. Eight recommendations for sexual violence provision in Suffolk were developed and have been progressed by partners. There have been notable improvements in coordinated access to services and support for victims and more accurate collection and recording of data.

2.11 As part of the response to the research, the proposed funding set out in this decision paper will support activity to achieve a collaborative and joined up systems thinking approach to benefit victim-survivors and providers. The funding will maintain the strength of specialist support in the voluntary sector, delivering specialist therapeutic support, to help meet demand and relieve waiting lists.

⁵ [Mapping of Sexual Violence Service Provision in Suffolk](#) Cooper, Linda, Allen, Katherine, Hermolle, Megan, Webb, Abigail, Malloy, Ella, Heath-Collins, Lucy, Gladwell, Valerie and Horvath, Miranda (2025) Mapping sexual violence service provision in Suffolk. Project Report. University of Suffolk, Ipswich, UK.

3. Areas for Consideration

- 3.1 In the year since the publication of the mapping report, a number of significant developments have taken place at national, regional and local levels. These include national initiatives such as the development of the Steps to Safety approach and the Child House model outlined in the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. Regionally and locally, key developments include the Integrated Care Board (ICB) Pathways Project and the establishment of the NHS England Regional Strategic Commissioning Board.
- 3.2 Within this complex landscape and being cognisant of the research findings and the intentions in the Police and Crime Plan, it is recommended that the PCC ensures the continuity of services in the community for victims of sexual violence and sustains the support that victims have been able to access over previous years.
- 3.3 Current grant recipients were invited to apply for a 1-year extension of grant funding.
- 3.4 Renewed applications for funding were received which set out service delivery (including awareness raising and supporting victims with protected characteristics), performance and quality assurance and financial information.
- 3.5 Following review, the recommended grant awards are:

Organisation	Service / Purpose	Funding 2026/27
Brave Futures	Support for an estimated 30 children/ young people who have experienced sexual abuse. Through tailored therapeutic treatment delivered through individual sessions, parent and carer support and information and guidance for families.	£60,000
Restitute	Supporting the parents, carers and families who have survived sexual violence and abuse and other serious violence. An estimated 40 adults and their families will be supported through this funding.	£30,000

Survivors in Transition	Specialist support for an estimated 174 survivors who have experienced sexual violence or abuse to cope and build resilience from the effects of crime through one-to-one therapy and group programmes.	£180,000
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- 3.6 The recommended grant awards specifically relate to services for victims of sexual violence across Suffolk that support victims to cope and build resilience to move forward with daily life and complement services already in place.
- 3.7 The recommended grant awards will support the provision of therapeutic and specialist services additional to the core sexual violence support services commissioned by the PCC and, as well as accepting self-referrals, will support referrals from the SARC and ISVAs as well as the proposed ICB pathways service.
- 3.8 This recommended grant funding will support an estimated 244 victims impacted by sexual violence in Suffolk in 2026/7.
- 3.9 The UOS research indicated there is a disproportionate impact on victims of sexual violence with specific protected characteristics (women, children, those with disabilities, the LGBTQ community) as well as those in care. It also highlighted the pressure on families and care givers. Data from the proposed providers of services shows they already use PCC funding to reach a larger proportion of those from ethnic minorities (15% of service users) and those with disabilities (21%) than other services supporting victims of sexual violence. The provision of services through the recommended grants will help ensure 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.
- 3.10 Grant recipients will have monitoring and reporting conditions that align with MOJ requirements for consistency. Monitoring data collected includes confirmation of grant compliance; financial information; referral and support data and demographics. The narrative on service delivery will include 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.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 The option to co-commission services with health commissioners is not deemed feasible at this point in time, but remains an option for the future, subject to funding considerations and scope of responsibilities.
- 4.2 If PCC grant funding was reduced or ceased this financial year, then a considerable number of victims in Suffolk would find accessing therapeutic and specialist support through these organisations more difficult, face increased waiting times and potentially a reduction in choice of services on offer. Therefore, the option to reduce or cease PCC grant funding for community based sexual violence support is not recommended.

5. Strategic aims / objective supported

- 5.1 The recommendation to award grant funding to sexual violence support services set out in this decision paper supports theme two objective one 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 sexual violence.
- 5.2 The recommendation to award these grants is based on evidence with a view to achieving key outcomes. As well as addressing theme two objective one, 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.

5.3 Furthermore, the proposed grants:

- Specifically address the findings in the UOS research;
- Support the government's pledge to halve violence against women and girls in the next decade;
- Deliver on the local Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2025-29, particularly the objective 'Supporting Victims' which sets out the intention to '...meet the needs of all our communities across the spectrum of protected characteristics and help break the cycle of abuse'.

5.4 Services commissioned by the PCC enable the delivery of the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, including the right for victims to be referred to services that support victims and receive support tailored to individual needs.

6. Financial and other resource implications

6.1 The budget for domestic abuse and sexual violence victim services grants awarded by the PCC has been set to broadly maintain the level of funding from previous years. For sexual violence services this is £270,000.

6.2 Ministry of Justice funding to the PCC has been fully allocated to victim services as set out in PCC decision reports 9-2026 and 15-2026. It is therefore proposed that the PCC's commissioning budget is used to support these grant awards. This continues arrangements used in previous years where the PCC commissioning budget is used to supplement MOJ funding for victim services.

7. Environmental Implications

7.1 None to note.

8. Other implications and risks

- 8.1 Multi-year funding is considered as the preferable approach, as set out in the Police and Crime Plan. However, given the changes and new commissioning arrangements for sexual violence and abuse services currently being developed a one-year funding award is recommended at this time.
- 8.2 Over the course of the recommended funding period, local and regional commissioning arrangements for sexual violence and abuse services are expected to become clearer. This will enable any future PCC investment, if required, to be targeted more effectively to identified gaps in service provision.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 Information from all victim service providers has highlighted cost pressures in delivery. 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 commissioning underspend to mitigate these pressures.

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

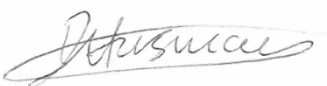
If yes, please state reasons below:

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: 16 July 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: 16 July 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.