

PCC Surge Fund

Subject: Ministry of Justice Police and Crime Commissioner Surge Fund for Financial Years 2026/27 to 2028/29

Originator: Head of Governance and Commissioning

Decision Number: 29 - 2026

Reason for Submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary

1. In August 2026 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) notified Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) of their intention to develop the PCC Surge Fund to bolster local frontline support and ensure that victims feel safe, informed and supported, in response to the implementation of the Progression Model as part of the Sentencing Act 2026.
2. Each PCC was subsequently offered £195,000 of additional funding, for the period October 2026 to March 2029, to commission local services and projects to support those impacted by the Progression Model.
3. This report seeks approval from the PCC to accept the offer of funding from the MoJ through the PCC Surge Fund for the purposes outlined in the proposal submitted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to the MoJ.
4. The total funding allocated is £195,000 for the financial years 2026/27 to 2028/29. The allocations per financial year are as follows:
 - 2026/27 £45,000

- 2027/28 £105,000
- 2028/29 £45,000

5. The funding will be delivered via an Addendum to the 2026-28 DA/SV General Grant Agreement for those financial years. Funding for 2028-29 will be allocated by the MoJ when the 2028/29 victims funding allocation is confirmed, with the amount uplifted by £45,000 to reflect the delivery of this Fund.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the PCC:

1. Accepts the MoJ PCC Surge Funding of £150,000 covering the financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28.
2. Delegates authority to the OPCC Chief Executive to accept the further grant of £45,000 for 2028/29 when this is available from the MoJ and on the basis that it is under the same terms as the 2026/27 and 2027/28 grant.
3. Approves the use of the funding for the following purposes:
 - Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care Service: additional case-manager capacity.
 - Enhanced access to specialist support.
 - Trauma-informed approaches training.
 - Communications and awareness raising.

Approval by PCC

The recommendation as outlined above is approved.

Signed: Tim Passmore

Signature: 

Date: 24 September 2026

Detail of Submission

1. Objective

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the PCC to accept new grant funding from the MoJ specifically to commission local services and projects to support those impacted by the Progression Model to feel safe, informed and supported, while strengthening local provision and partnerships.

2. Background

- 2.1 In August 2026 the MoJ notified Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) of their intention to develop the PCC Surge Fund to bolster local frontline support and ensure that victims feel safe, informed and supported.
- 2.2 This announcement has been made in response to the implementation of the Progression Model as part of the Sentencing Act 2026. The Progression Model restructures release arrangements and automatic release points for individuals serving Standard Determinate Sentences (SDSs) and is referred to in the media as the early release scheme.
- 2.3 Guidance on the progression model, changes to prison release dates and information for victims has been published by the government and can be found [here. Progression model: changes to prison release arrangements - GOV.UK](#)
- 2.4 The model has been amended following a government review that specifically considered victim impact and concerns.
- 2.5 In recognition that hearing about an offender's release can be distressing, and that some victims may need emotional support and practical advice the government has invested an additional £18.9 million in funding for victim support services.
- 2.6 This support will include a dedicated national helpline offering practical and emotional support and onward referral, a VAWG Surge Fund and the PCC Surge Fund.

- 2.7 The aim of the PCC Surge Fund is for PCCs to commission local services and projects to support those impacted by the Progression Model to feel safe, informed and supported, while strengthening local provision and partnerships.
- 2.8 Services and projects need to meet the following objectives:
- To ensure that those impacted by the Progression Model feel safe, informed and supported.
 - To ensure local support providers are well equipped to deliver appropriate support for those impacted.
 - To support join up between Victim Support's dedicated Helpline and dedicated local support funded through the VAWG Surge Fund, other local and relevant national services, and criminal justice agencies.

3. Areas for Consideration

- 3.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk considered the specification and developed a proposal through discussions with Probation (PDU/VLO), Police colleagues, and victim support providers across Suffolk as well as the information available on anticipated releases across Tranches 1 to 3 and the likely support needs of affected victims.
- 3.2 A proposal was submitted to the MoJ, outlining how the allocated funding would be used in Suffolk. The proposal outlined the activities to be delivered, the intended impact, the outcomes and outputs and the rationale for the proposals as well as indicative spend.
- 3.3 The activities cover four broad areas:
- Project 1 is a joint proposal with Norfolk OPCC to increase capacity within the Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care Service. There will be an additional 0.5FTE case manager dedicated to Suffolk victims to provide personalised advocacy, safety planning, risk management, practical support, and information relating to offender release arrangements and licence conditions. This will help ensure victims receive timely, consistent support and have a clear understanding of the criminal justice process, contributing

directly to the objective of helping those impacted by the Progression Model feel safe, informed and supported.

- Project 2 will provide additional capacity within specialist victim support services to deliver enhanced advocacy and emotional and practical support where victims of those subject to the Progression Model early release require it.
- Project 3 is a joint project with Norfolk OPCC to offer trauma-informed approaches training to professionals supporting victims. This will ensure a consistent, effective and appropriate response to those victims affected by the Progression Model.
- Project 4 will enhance communications and increase awareness of support available to victims in Suffolk and reinforce the Victims' Code principle that support can be accessed at any stage of a victim's journey

3.4 The proposed programme directly supports the aim of the PCC Surge Fund by strengthening local services and partnerships to ensure those impacted by the Progression Model feel safe, informed and supported.

3.5 In accepting the funding through the grant addendum, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will need to report to the MoJ on the activities completed and the outcomes/outputs achieved by the funding.

4. Other options considered

4.1 The option not to accept the funding has been discounted as it could put victims of crime impacted by the Progression Model at a disadvantage and would be inconsistent with the intentions set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

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 It also supports the Suffolk VAWG strategy (2025-29) and associated action plan.
- 5.3 The funding will reinforce 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 recourse implications

- 6.1 The total funding allocated by the Ministry of Justice is £195,000 for the financial years 2026/27 to 2028/29. The allocations per financial year are as follows:

- 2026/27 £45,000
- 2027/28 £105,000
- 2028/29 £45,000

- 6.2 The indicative funding per project is set out in the table below.

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Project 1	7,000	25,000	7,000
Project 2	21,000	60,000	21,000
Project 3	2,000	4,000	2,000
Project 4	15,000	16,000	15,000
Total	45,000	105,000	45,000

- 6.3 The funding will be delivered via an Addendum to the 2026-28 DA/SV General Grant Agreement for those financial years. Funding for 2028-29 will be allocated by the Ministry of Justice when the 2028/29 victims funding allocation is confirmed, with the amount uplifted by £45,000 to reflect the delivery of this Fund.
- 6.4 Match funding is not a requirement but will be provided through OPCC management of the grant and suppliers and reporting requirements.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 Environmental requirements are set out in the main MoJ 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. These factors are included in individual contracts and grants with service providers.

8. Other implications and risks

- 8.1 In accordance with the grant agreement, the PCC will receive payments from the MoJ in advance. Any unspent grant funding will need to be repaid to the MoJ at the end of the financial year.
- 8.2 It should be noted that the PCC Surge Fund allocation for 2028-29 is not included in the grant addendum which only covers 2026/27 and 2027/28. The MoJ have stated that it will be included when the 2028/29 victims funding allocation is confirmed, as an uplift of £45,000 to reflect the delivery of the PCC Surge Fund.

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

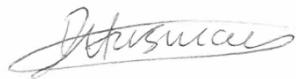
If yes, please state reasons below:

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: 24 September 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 September 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.