

**ORIGINATOR: POLICY & COMMISSIONING  
OFFICER**

**DECISION NUMBER: 18 - 2023**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: SUFFOLK DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME  
(AMENDED 7 JULY 2023)**

**SUMMARY:**

1. The Home Office have awarded grant funding of £652,014 to the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver a multi-year Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme, from April 2023 to March 2025. Funding is split into two years: 2023/24 (£320,059), 2024/25 (£331,955).
2. An additional £566,889 in match-funding from partners will support the continued delivery of the programme between April and September 2023.
3. The programme offers multiple perpetrator interventions and enhanced options for further victim support. In sum, the programme will look to prevent violence and abuse by fostering behaviour change in those who harm. In total, the programme aims to reach up to 624 beneficiaries over the grant period (311 Perpetrators, 313 Victims and Children).
4. To facilitate the programme, this paper recommends that the multi-year grant be distributed to Icení and the Suffolk Constabulary DA Perpetrator Unit to expand their work with perpetrators and victims, as well as Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse services for enhanced victim support work with children. An expanded monitoring and evaluation process will take place to reduce delivery risk, which will include additional data collection and review meetings with the providers.
5. The programme supports Objectives 2 & 4 in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. By investing in this initiative to support victims and reduce crime/reoffending (Objective 2), the PCC will be working with partners to understand gaps in services, improve criminal justice outcomes, and enhance community safety (Objective 4).

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner notes the grant offer from the Home Office and accepts the £652,014 for the programme outlined in this Decision Paper.
2. It is further recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to distribute the multi-year grant across 2023/24 and 2024/25 as follows: Icení (£298,888), Suffolk Constabulary DA Perpetrator Unit (£246,960), Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services (£80,029), Suffolk OPCC (£26,137).

**APPROVAL BY: PCC**

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



**Signature:**

**Date (amended): 09.07.2023**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 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 in Suffolk;
  - b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2. 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. The grant was extended by the Home Office up until April 2023.
- 1.3. This report sets out the background to the new Home Office ‘Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund’ and Suffolk PCC’s newly successful bid of £652,014 to expand the Suffolk DA Perpetrator Programme for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The report outlines Suffolk’s successful bid to the fund, and the proposal to fund the Suffolk Constabulary DA Perpetrator Unit (DAPU), Icení, and Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services to fulfil the delivery of the project.

## **2. HOME OFFICE DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR INTERVENTION FUND**

- 2.1. In November 2022, the Home Office announced £36.29 million of funding, over two years, for local policing areas to continue working with perpetrators via interventions - through the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund.
- 2.2. This funding is in support of the Government’s overarching objective for PCCs to deliver on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), in which the national strategy was published back in 2021, as well as the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan in 2022.
- 2.3. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Suffolk submitted a successful bid, totalling £652,014 [2023/24 (£320,059), 2024/25 (£331,955)]. To be successful in the bid to the Fund, the Home Office have outlined the following essential criteria:
  - a) A minimum bid value of £300,000 per annum, a maximum of £1,000,000 per annum;
  - b) Victims, survivors, and their children must be at the centre of any intervention and ensure adequate provision;
  - c) Any bid must highlight value for money;
  - d) A clear theory of change for proposed interventions must be demonstrated;
  - e) Risks underpinning delivery must be fully considered;
  - f) To demonstrate an understanding of the potential benefits, but also the potential harms that interventions may cause;
  - g) To be deliverable, sustainable, and scalable;
  - h) To enable information sharing with other providers in the framework;
  - i) To align with the guidance and principles of the National Statement of Expectations, VAWG Commissioning Toolkit and Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance;
  - j) To demonstrate working successfully with other organisations.
- 2.4. In 2022, Suffolk Constabulary recorded 6,155 victims of Domestic Abuse (DA) – however the actual scale will be much higher due to unreported incidences. One in five crimes in Suffolk is DA, with 26% of victims being repeat victims – meaning more than one offence reported in a 12-month period. With the prominence of cases, and repeat cases, in Suffolk, the OPCC is concerned that only 1% of perpetrators nationally get specialist intervention to prevent future abuse.

- 2.5. The successful bid proposed by Suffolk OPCC aims to expand provision of DA perpetrator interventions through two aspects of delivery: expansion of one-to-one behaviour change work delivered by Suffolk Constabulary DAPU, and continuation of the Venta programme coordinated by Iceni. In addition, an increase in provision for victims and those closely associated will enhance the support this programme will provide.

### **3. SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY DA PERPETRATOR UNIT (DAPU)**

- 3.1. Suffolk Constabulary work with perpetrators via their DA Perpetrator Unit (DAPU), which is co-located with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This currently comprises an experienced PC with 2 Respect trained Behaviour Change Workers (each with over 2-years' experience).
- 3.2. From the £652,014 successfully won, the Suffolk Constabulary DAPU would be awarded £246,960 (£122,220 in 23/24, £124,740 in 24/25). In addition, £97,454 match-funding has been provided by the Constabulary, as well as £97,200 from PCC Precept investment.
- 3.3. The increased funding will help to grow the volume of the work DAPU currently do. Furthermore, it allows DAPU to increase those who are eligible for support to expand to all aged 16 and above and flexibility in delivery hours. To facilitate the increased volume, funding will be provided to employ an additional Behaviour Change Worker, as well as an IDVA trained worker.
- 3.4. DAPU will be delivering one-to-one behaviour change work, through a long-term programme involving 20 sessions aimed to sustain a reduction in the frequency and severity of abuse. The aim of these will be to focus on changing patterns of thinking, providing perpetrators with the tools for self-reflection – including emotional and behavioural management, as well as more effective communication.

### **4. ICENI – THE VENTA PROGRAMME**

- 4.1. Iceni is a well-established charity based in Ipswich who offer care and support to families who are affected by abuse.
- 4.2. From the £652,014 successfully won, Iceni would be awarded £298,888 (£145,799 in 23/24, £153,089 in 24/25). In addition, £79,600 match-funding will be provided by Iceni.
- 4.3. While their work has been independently evaluated by the University of Suffolk as 'positive', without this new funding, Iceni would be limited in the number of programmes they can offer. Previous funding from the PCC and Home Office allowed for four programmes – however this new funding will mean six programmes can be run each year.
- 4.4. The increased funding will be used to expand Iceni's Venta programme to tackle DA 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 as drug misuse, poor mental health, and Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- 4.5. The expansion will mean more 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. While the Venta programme is normally a 16-week programme, the new funding will increase this to 20 weeks.

- 4.6. As well as working with those who have harmed, the increased funding will mean Iceni can provide enhanced support to victims through specialist interventions via psychotherapy and counselling.

## **5. LEEWAY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SERVICES – ENHANCED VICTIM SUPPORT**

- 5.1. Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services is a charity that has been established for 48 years. They provide the Suffolk 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.
- 5.2. In accordance with the Home Office's standards for DA perpetrator interventions, the programme will offer comprehensive support to victims to build resilience and reduce the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- 5.3. The new funding would allow Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services to recruit a CYP Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA), to engage in approximately 100 children where the parent(s) is undertaking a DA Perpetrator Programme (DAPP).
- 5.4. The child-centred approach through Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services will offer essential practical and emotion support, as well as safety planning for those aged 5-15 – including work on their experiences of witnessing and involvements of being harmed via domestic abuse.

## **6. MONITORING, EVALUATION & OUTCOMES**

- 6.1. The bid outlines the following objectives for the proposed Suffolk DA Perpetrator Programme:
- a) Sustained reduction in the frequency and severity of abuse;
  - b) Reduction in risk posed by perpetrator;
  - c) Improved safety and protections for associated victims and their children;
  - d) Improved evaluation of perpetrator interventions;
  - e) Improved collaboration in the provision of interventions and victim support.
- 6.2. The bid envisages that a new Partnership Board (April 2023) and a local perpetrator strategy (Jan 2024) will be created to ensure efficient collaboration between partners and strengthened data collecting. The proposed governance and delivery of the programme can be found at Appendix A.
- 6.3. Additional resources will expand availability of the programme, increase retention rates and offer support to 100% of victims and children. Furthermore, the programme will provide unsocial hours to improve accessibility, deliver for protected characteristics, increase the age range for eligibility, and enhance pre and post programme engagement to improve assessments.
- 6.4. To facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation, the OPCC will require the following data from Suffolk Constabulary, Iceni, and Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services:
- a) An update on progress every quarter, for the OPCC to report 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).

6.5 In January 2023, the Home Office published the Standards for Domestic Perpetrator Interventions. It offers principles and guidelines for delivering our programme. The standards have been reviewed and our successful bid ensures that the proposed programme aligns with the Government's expectations in quality of service. In addition, the standards will be used throughout to draw out key deliverables and improve on our best practice.

6.6 The Head of Commissioning will provide oversight of the project, meet quarterly with the delivery partners, and liaise with Constabulary finance to comply with monitoring and evaluation requirements. The successful bid provided part-funding for a Commissioning Officer, who will provide additional assistance throughout.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The Home Office have awarded grant funding of £652,014 for a 2-year programme between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The amount is split into the following:

- a) Year One: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (£320,059)
- b) Year Two: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (£331,955)

7.2. Funding will be distributed as follows to support delivery of the programme:

Providers	Year One	Year Two	Total
Suffolk Constabulary DAPU	£122,220	£124,740	£246,960
Iceni	£145,799	£153,089	£298,888
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services	£39,290	£40,739	£80,029
OPCC	£12,750	£13,387	£26,137
<b>Total</b>	<b>£320,059</b>	<b>£331,955</b>	<b>£652,014</b>

7.3. Funding to Suffolk Constabulary DAPU includes: 1.5 Behaviour Change Worker (Basic Pay, NI and Pension), 1 IDVA trained worker, staff training, ICT equipment, and clinical supervision. In addition, funding will provide new staff with a Respect accreditation to improve quality and service delivery.

7.4. Funding for Iceni includes running and facilitation costs for 6 Venta groups a year, 20-sessions per beneficiary, victim support, training, clinical supervision, administrative and staffing costs, and venue hire.

7.5. To add, Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services will receive funding for an IDVA trained CYP worker, and the OPCC will have a newly appointed Policy & Commissioning Officer partly funded to support the programme's governance and strategy.

7.6. In addition to the Home Office grant, match funding of £278,000 has been secured for Year One – equating to 89% of Year One's bid. Furthermore, match funding of £289,000 has been secured for Year Two – equating to 87% of Year Two's successful bid. The match funding is predominately resource in kind from each partner organisation.

- 7.7. A value for money assessment by the University of Suffolk (2020) indicated public value benefits of £16 for every £1 invested in Icení's Venta group work.
- 7.8. Regarding the DA Perpetrator Programme, the average cost per beneficiary is £1,953. This includes all funding and all perpetrators, victims, and children who are projected to receive services from the programme – totalling 624 users.

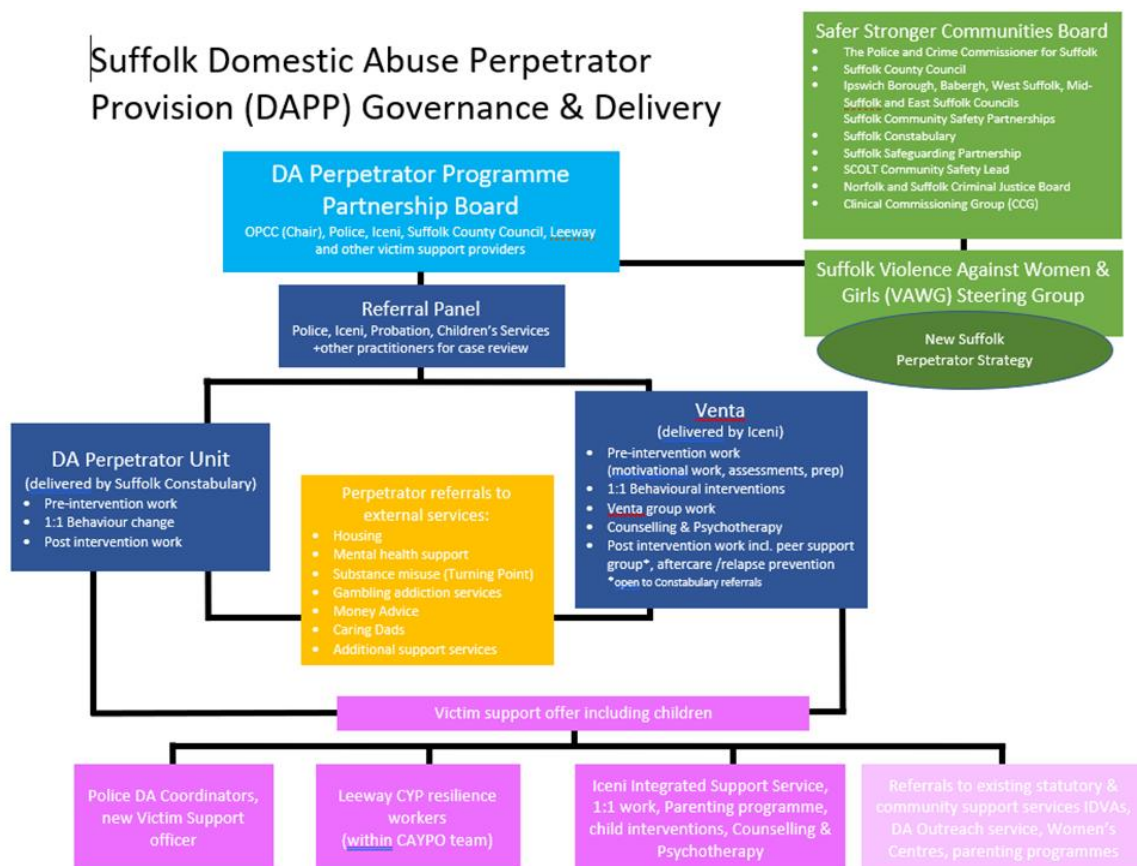
## **8. KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 8.1. The Home Office stipulates that any funded project from their intervention fund is required to be sustainable. It is key that providers of the programme can effectively show their long-term potential for impact during and after the funding has ended. The programme has significant streams of match funding, and the enhanced monitoring and governance will ensure a continued wider stakeholder engagement when tackling DA.
- 8.2. In addition to sustainability, the programme must show good value for money – meaning not necessarily the cheapest, but the greatest extracted value from our investment into the programme. Providers will report quarterly on over/underspend, and the DAPP Partnership Board will ensure strong financial principles are undertaken.

## **9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 9.1. The bid to the Home Office has been approved and, subject to the PCC's approval of this decision paper, the funding provides the opportunity to continue and expand DA Perpetrator Programmes in Suffolk - delivering on the Police and Crime Plan. Without this funding and delivery there would be a clear gap in provision which would require alternative solutions to address the gaps in service.
- 9.2. The successful bid highlighted that the OPCC has effective procedures in place to manage risks associated with the programme – operational, financial, external factors, compliance, safeguarding, and ethical issues. Risks will be actively monitored and reported by partners, identifying impact and mitigating actions.
- 9.3. The main risk will be the potential failure to identify and/or recruit additional staff for the expansion of the programme. It is intended for Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services to recruit additional staff for the enhanced victim support, as well as DAPU recruiting a Behaviour Change Worker and Victim Support Worker. An option to use secondment to reduce recruitment times has been classified as viable mitigation.

## Appendix A – Governance and Delivery of Suffolk DAPP



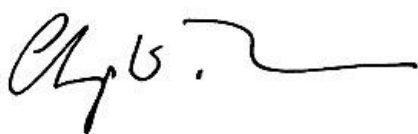
<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>NO</b>
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>YES</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	<b>YES</b>
Have human resource implications been considered?	<b>YES</b>
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	<b>YES</b>
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	<b>YES</b>
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	<b>YES</b>
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	<b>YES</b>

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

#### **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 and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



**Signature:**

**Date (amended): 07.07.2023**