

**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING  
AND GOVERNANCE**

**DECISION NUMBER: 22 - 2025**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: SUFFOLK DOMESTIC ABUSE PERPETRATOR PROGRAMME (2025/26)**

**SUMMARY:**

1. The Home Office has awarded grant funding of £331,955 to the Police and Crime Commissioner to continue delivery of the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme, from April 2025 to March 2026.
2. Additional match-funding from partners will support the continued delivery of the programme between April 2025 and March 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 105 perpetrators and 125 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. As a part of the new funding, the DAPU will look to transition their model of referrals by using Conditional Cautions to facilitate attendance for appropriate perpetrators of standard-risk domestic abuse. This is intended to widen the scope and volume of interventions.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner accepts the grant offer from the Home Office of £331,955 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 2025/26 delivery as follows: Icení (£153,089), Suffolk Constabulary's Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Unit (£137,831), Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services (£41,035).

**APPROVAL BY: PCC**

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

**Signature:**



**Date:** 3 July 2025

## **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:
  1. secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
  2. are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2. According to data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), 13,690 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes in Suffolk were recorded in the year ending March 2024 – equating to 18 incidents and crimes for every 1,000 people in Suffolk<sup>1</sup>. 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 DA.
- 1.3. This report sets out the background to the Home Office ‘Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund’ and Suffolk PCC’s successful bid of £331,955 to continue the Suffolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme for 2025/26. The report outlines Suffolk’s proposal to continue funding the Suffolk Constabulary DA Perpetrator Unit (DAPU), Icení, and Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services to fulfil the delivery of the project.
- 1.4. Overall, the programme supports Themes 2 & 3 in the PCC’s [Police and Crime Plan](#). By investing in this initiative to support victims and reduce crime/reoffending, the PCC will be working with partners to improve criminal justice outcomes and enhance community safety.
- 1.5. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) will continue to engage with and update Suffolk Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) partners on the progress of the project and how it is contributing to the delivery of the [Suffolk VAWG strategy 2025-2028](#). This project is an important part of delivering against the Strategy and specifically achieving the shared vision to ‘collaborate to change abuser behaviour and advocate for justice through the criminal justice system’ and the ambition to ‘support perpetrator interventions that focus on behaviour change and accountability’.

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

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. The current programme has made significant progress in supporting the PCC’s and government’s objectives to reduce harm to domestic abuse victims. It has engaged with 211 new perpetrators and provided support to 183 victims – including 65 children and young people (CYP).
- 2.4. Beneficiaries of the programme to date were 87% white and 95% male. 65% were aged 25-39 but there has been a marked increase during the programme of referrals of older perpetrators including those in the 70s. Additional factors of those engaging with the

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<sup>1</sup> [Domestic abuse in England and Wales – Data tool - Office for National Statistics](#)

programme include mental health (55%), parenting responsibilities (90%), substance misuse, learning difficulties and neurological conditions.

- 2.5. 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 Iceni has indicated a 90% reduction in police callouts.
- 2.6. 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.
- 2.7. The new government has set a national objective to halve VAWG within ten years. Therefore, the Home Office has sought to continue the funding for perpetrator interventions in order to reduce abusive behaviours and support victims. The OPCC submitted a successful bid to extend the current programme in Suffolk for an additional year utilising £331,955 of Home Office funding.
- 2.8. The successful bid aims to continue the provision of DA perpetrator interventions through two aspects of delivery: continuation of one-to-one behaviour change work delivered by Suffolk Constabulary DAPU, and continuation of the Venta programme coordinated by Iceni. In addition, the funding will continue to allow an offer of support to be made to all victims and associated children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- 2.9. While the grant extension is a continuation of provision, the Constabulary have successfully requested two changes to their funding and model:
  1. DAPU will transition its perpetrator programme from voluntary to mandatory participation through the use of Conditional Cautions. This Out of Court Resolution will require eligible perpetrators to attend the programme as a condition set by the court. It is intended that this provision will be in place by October 2025 and will apply to standard-risk domestic abuse cases, with the potential to expand to medium-risk cases in the future.
  2. From October 2025, reallocating funding to ensure 2 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Behaviour Change Workers (BCW) remain in post from October 2025-March 2026.
- 2.10. The Constabulary's proposals have potential to enhance the programme's reach and deliver improved value for money.

### **3. SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY DOMESTIC ABUSE 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, 2 base-budgeted Behaviour Change Workers (BCW), 1 grant-funded BCW and 1 grant-funded Victim Support Worker – all 'RESPECT'<sup>2</sup> trained.
- 3.2. Since the launch of the current programme in April 2023, DAPU has engaged with 79 new perpetrators and provided support to 92 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

- 3.3. From the £331,955 grant for 2025/26, it is proposed that £137,831 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. With the planned introduction of Conditional Cautions in October 2025, referrals are expected to rise. In response, a tailored in-house course will be developed to offer a shorter, yet effective, intervention.
- 3.5. This transition will significantly benefit the Suffolk programme by reaching a cohort previously underserved. To complement this, Iceni will continue delivering a community based, voluntary, self-motivated model.
- 3.6. In addition, the new funding will be used to retain 2 FTE Constabulary base-budgeted Behaviour Change Workers from October 2025 onwards. Retaining these posts will be important to manage demand and ensure perpetrators receive the correct level of sessions.
- 3.7. The previous Home Office funding allocated for 2023/24 and 2024/25 aimed to expand eligibility for support to individuals aged 16 and above and introduce more flexible delivery hours. However, this objective has not been fully realised due to the need for specialist training and challenges in generating referrals. Consequently, for 2025/26, funding will focus on maintaining current referral and session numbers rather than expansion to younger beneficiaries.

#### **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. Since the beginning of the current programme (April 2023), Iceni has worked with 132 new perpetrators and supported 84 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.
- 4.3. From the £331,955 grant for 2025/26 it is proposed that Iceni will be awarded £153,089. In addition, £81,218 match-funding will be provided by Iceni.
- 4.4. The funding will be to continue 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 a drug misuse, poor mental health, and adverse childhood experiences.
- 4.5. Previous funding from the PCC and Home Office looked to increase their group programmes to run 6 times a year. However, this has not been realised and it is in fact more realistic to run 3 group programmes a year. Upon reflection, the level of complexity of cases has impacted the ability to expand with the current resources available. Despite this, the outcomes noted at 4.2 shows significant impact.
- 4.6. For 2025/26, the aim will be to retain current levels of referrals and ensure existing outcomes continue. This includes 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.

- 4.7. In addition, the funding will mean Icení can provide enhanced support to victims through specialist interventions via psychotherapy, counselling and post programme support.

## **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 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.
- 5.2. In accordance with the Home Office's standards for DA 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.
- 5.3. Since the programme's launch in April 2023, Leeway has supported 26 children and young people. Recruitment challenges initially hindered service delivery. While the role was fully embedded in early 2024, further referral issues impacted uptake. However, these challenges have now been addressed, and the service is expected to operate more consistently moving forward. 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 from the father, as well as calmer communication.
- 5.4. The proposed funding for 2025/26 of £41,035 would allow Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services to retain the worker, to engage with approximately 20 children where the parent(s) is undertaking a DA Perpetrator Programme.
- 5.5. 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.

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

- 6.1. In order to show outcomes to the Home Office, the Suffolk DA Perpetrator Programme will evidence:
1. Sustained reduction in the frequency and severity of abuse;
  2. Reduction in risk posed by perpetrator;
  3. Improved safety and protections for associated victims and their children;
  4. Improved evaluation of perpetrator interventions;
  5. Improved collaboration in the provision of interventions and victim support.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. To facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation, the OPCC will continue to require the following data from Suffolk Constabulary, Icení, 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 to ensure that the proposed programme aligns with the Government's expectations around 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.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The Home Office have awarded grant funding of £331,955 for an extension and continuation of the current programme between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Funding will be distributed as follows to support delivery of the programme:

Providers	Year One
Suffolk Constabulary - DAPU	£137,831
Iceni – Venta	£153,089
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services	£41,035
<b>Total</b>	<b>£331,955</b>

7.2. Funding to Suffolk Constabulary DAPU includes: 1 FTE Behaviour Change Worker (Basic Pay, NI and Pension) for 12-months, 2 FTE Behaviour Change Worker (Basic Pay, NI and Pension) for 6-months starting Oct-25, 1 FTE Victim Support Worker 12-months, staff training, and clinical supervision.

7.3. Funding for Iceni includes running and facilitation costs for 3 Venta groups a year (20-sessions per beneficiary), victim one-to-one support, training, clinical supervision, administrative and staffing costs, and venue hire.

7.4. Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services will receive funding for a CYP worker.

7.5. Match funding, which is predominately resource in kind from each partner organisation and the OPCC, will be monitored through the course of the project.

7.6. In addition to sustainability, the programme must show good value for money – meaning not necessarily the cheapest, but the greatest extracted value from investment into the programme. A value for money assessment by the University of Suffolk (2020) indicated public value benefits of £16 for every £1 invested in Iceni's Venta group work.

- 7.7. Regarding the proposed extension to the DA Perpetrator Programme, it is anticipated that the average cost per beneficiary will be £1,383. This includes all funding and all perpetrators, victims, and children who are projected to receive services from the programme – totalling 230 users.

## **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 8.1. The OPCC bid has been approved by the Home Office and, subject to the PCC's approval of this decision paper, the funding provides the opportunity to continue the DA Perpetrator Programmes in Suffolk - delivering on the Police and Crime Plan and in support of the Suffolk VAWG strategy. Without this funding and delivery there would be a clear gap in provision which would require alternative solutions to address the gaps in service.
- 8.2. Successful delivery of Home Office funded perpetrator programmes since 2020 shows 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.
- 8.3. Previously, the main risk was the potential failure to identify and/or recruit additional staff for the expansion of the programme. However, as the proposal is a continuation, all posts have been recruited and fully embedded and therefore this is no longer considered to be a long-term risk.
- 8.4. Future funding for Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse (DA) perpetrator programmes—aligned with the government's 'Safer Streets' ambition for 2026 and beyond—remains uncertain.
- 8.5. The Home Office stipulates that any funded project from their intervention fund is required to be sustainable. Ideally providers of the programme should show the 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 continued stakeholder engagement when tackling Domestic Abuse. The Police and Crime Plan commits to considering next steps and learning from the programme but it should be acknowledged that despite proactive efforts to embed sustainability within these projects, this financial uncertainty presents significant risks to long-term delivery and impact.



<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>

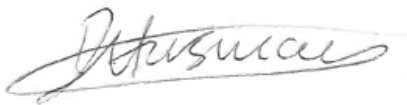
In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

## 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: 18 June 2025