

**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING AND  
GOVERNANCE**

**DECISION NUMBER: 34 - 2025**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION GRANT –  
IPSWICH TOWN FOUNDATION ‘DIVERT’**

**SUMMARY:**

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.
2. This report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant to Ipswich Town Foundation for £18,000. Working closely with Suffolk Constabulary’s Criminal Exploitation and Gangs team and Suffolk Youth Justice Service, Ipswich Town Foundation will support 36 young people aged 12 – 17 years old, through three, 10 week ‘DIVERT’ programmes. The programme will support young people on the periphery of, or entrenched in, serious youth violence and is designed to: develop tangible skills and confidence, positive attitudes and behaviour and provide a sense of belonging in their communities.
3. The funding will also support the introduction of six ‘Mini-DIVERT’ programmes in targeted primary schools, specifically designed for 9 – 11-year-olds who are at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System.
4. The funding will support Theme 2 in the Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 by investing in an initiative which prevents crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £18,000 to Ipswich Town Foundation for delivery of three 'DIVERT' programmes and six 'Mini-DIVERT' programmes between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026.

**APPROVAL BY PCC**

The recommendation set out above is agreed.

**Signature:**



**Date:** 25 November 2025

## DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

### 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:
- secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
  - are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.2 In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with Theme 2 in the [Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029](#).
- 1.3 This report seeks approval to award a Crime and Disorder Reduction Grant of £18,000 to Ipswich Town Foundation for delivery of the 'DIVERT' and 'Mini-DIVERT' programmes, for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

### 2. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2025-2029

- 2.1 In March 2025, a new Police and Crime Plan for the period 2025-2029 was published. Theme 2 sets out the intention to provide services which support victims of crime and invest in initiatives which reduce crime, disorder, offending and prevent victimisation.
- 2.2 The proposed grant to Ipswich Town Foundation is for the delivery of the 'DIVERT' and 'Mini-DIVERT' programmes which will contribute to the following activity within Theme 2, Objective 2 of the Plan:
- Support problem-solving in local communities, by investing in local solutions and commissioning local assets which reduce reoffending, prevent crime and disorder, or improve community safety.
  - 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 of exploitation.
  - Consider initiatives which reduce the demand on the police.

### 3. IPSWICH TOWN FOUNDATION

- 3.1 Ipswich Town Foundation is a registered charity that represents Ipswich Town Football Club within the local and surrounding communities, acting as an extension of the club to engage with local people and make a genuine impact on their lives.
- 3.2 They deliver an innovative and inclusive range of programmes, activities and initiatives to address the needs of the community, reaching over 9,000 young people and vulnerable adults across 29 diverse programmes delivered on a weekly basis.
- 3.3 By using the presence, power, and reach of Ipswich Town Football Club, the Foundation aims to build an empowered, inspired, and inclusive community to be proud of. This vision is delivered across four key pillars:
- Community Participation & Inclusion
  - Health & Wellbeing
  - Sport & Physical Activity

- Education & Employability

- 3.4 Ipswich Town Football Club and Ipswich Town Foundation position themselves as the cornerstone in the local community. Although they work closely with Suffolk Constabulary their programmes are delivered independently providing positive engagement with hard to reach young people.

#### 4. THE DIVERT PROGRAMME

##### DIVERT 2023

- 4.1 In 2023, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awarded funding of £14,500 to Ipswich Town Foundation for the delivery of the first three 'DIVERT' programmes that ran between September 2023 and May 2024.
- 4.2 The service focused on young people (aged 12-17) engaged in, or susceptible to serious violence and gang criminality. The aim being to support 36 young people across three 10-week projects to gain skills and confidence, increase employability and provide a sense of belonging. The young people were identified and referred by the police Criminal Exploitation and Gangs Team in conjunction with the Youth Justice Service, focusing on those who were on the periphery or vulnerable to gang activity in key areas across Ipswich. [PCC Decision paper 25 – 2023](#) provides full details of the 2023/24 programme.

##### Programme Success

- 4.3 At the end of 2024, all three PCC-funded programmes had successfully concluded, engaging a total of 21 young participants. A notable proportion of these individuals either reduced their involvement with the police or maintained a clean record throughout. Feedback from attendees was unanimously positive, with participants expressing enjoyment of the programme and disappointment that it had ended. Parents and teachers who attended the graduation ceremony consistently reported noticeable improvements in the young people's behaviour and attitudes—both at home and in school.

One father shared:

*"Since attending DIVERT sessions, T has become much more open and is showing increased affection, empathy, and understanding in family situations. He seems lighter, as if much of the anger he was carrying has lifted. T is spending more time with me, and our relationship is growing stronger."*

Another parent commented:

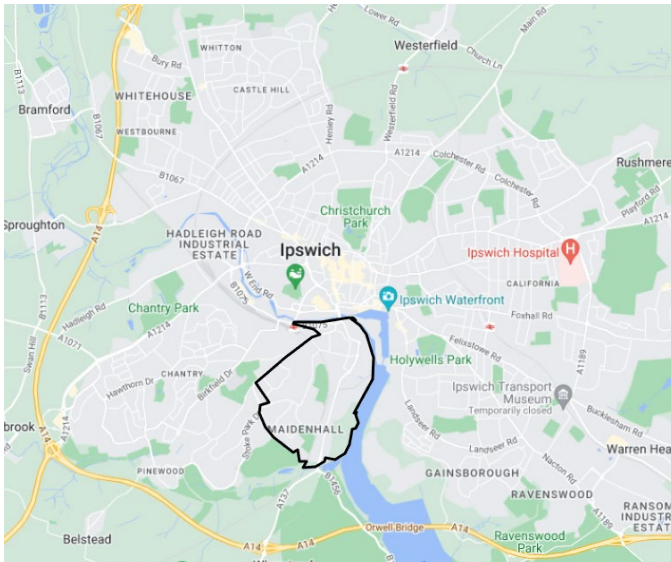
*"DIVERT gave B a sense of purpose on Thursdays, rather than spending the day in bed doing nothing. He was surrounded by like-minded young people, which helped him realise he wasn't alone in facing personal challenges. Since joining DIVERT, B's relationship with me has improved. While he still has angry outbursts when gaming, he no longer directs that anger toward me and now apologises for his behaviour."*

- 4.4 Feedback from the Criminal Exploitation and Gangs team highlights that DIVERT has a meaningful impact on one or two individuals in each cohort and is therefore considered a valuable and successful initiative. The team has also provided constructive input regarding the programme's timetable, content, and delivery, which has been used to refine future iterations.

- 4.5 Additionally, a follow-up mechanism has been introduced to maintain contact with participants after the programme ends, ensuring continued support. The Foundation has committed to enhancing its outcome monitoring processes for future programmes.
- 4.6 In light of these developments and the demonstrated impact, funding is now being sought to continue and expand the DIVERT programme.

#### DIVERT 2025 Application

- 4.7 Ipswich Town Foundation's 2025 application seeks to expand the DIVERT delivery programme to work with three further cohorts of between 10-12 (36) participants in the Ipswich area. Once again, the programme will facilitate engaging workshops with local charities and businesses as well as utilising inspirational individuals from in and around the football club.
- 4.8 Below is the framework timetable for the 10-session programme. The Foundation incorporates flexibility into the schedule to accommodate the diverse needs of each cohort. Every session begins with a physical activity on the practice pitch at Portman Road, helping to energise and engage participants from the outset. Based on feedback from a previous cohort, an additional activity session has been added to Week 10 to enhance the overall experience.
- |         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Week 1  | Introduction week                |
| Week 2  | Online Use / Social Media        |
| Week 3  | Healthy Lifestyle                |
| Week 4  | Financial Awareness              |
| Week 5  | Substance Misuse - Turning Point |
| Week 6  | Prisoner Talk                    |
| Week 7  | Police                           |
| Week 8  | Business (off site visit)        |
| Week 9  | Employability                    |
| Week 10 | Activity week at Clip n Climb    |
- 4.9 After 10 weeks of targeted 90-minute group sessions, participants will be provided with one-to-one support/mentoring for up to 3 months post-programme to ensure that there is no hard-stop on their engagement with the Foundation and that a pathway into other activities can be put into place.
- 4.10 Cohorts will be area/school specific and identified in conjunction with Suffolk County Council's Education Access team and Suffolk Constabulary's Criminal Exploitation and Gangs team.
- 4.11 One cohort will target the Bridge ward of Ipswich (see black outlined area on the map below) with the aim of using DIVERT participants to shape a new Kicks provision in that community. This area of Ipswich is underserved for provision for young people and scores highly in comparison to other areas of Ipswich in relation to total crime figures as well as specifics such as ASB. Using the DIVERT programme will give the young people the platform to engage and be involved in the design of this provision and would be hugely positive to the community.



### Mini-DIVERT

- 4.12 In addition to the programme aimed at 12 – 17-year-olds, a new second element will be introduced. The Mini-DIVERT programme will be tailored to the younger audience (9 – 11yrs) and delivered in-school in 6 x 60–90-minute sessions across a six-week half-term. Groups will be limited to 5 or 6 (36) young people per programme. Participants within this element of the project will be identified primarily through their schools but also using police data and intelligence where relevant.
- 4.13 Participants from Hillside, Ranelagh, The Oaks and Castle Hill Primary schools have already been identified.

## **5. OUTCOMES AND MONITORING**

- 5.1 The primary aim of the DIVERT programme is to support the reduction of crime and disorder, directly aligning with Objective 2 under Theme 2 of the Police and Crime Plan 2025–2029. To evidence its impact, the Foundation will use police data to monitor participants’ involvement with the criminal justice system before, during, and after the programme. Across both elements of the programme, a tailored resource will be developed to support each participant’s learning journey, providing age-appropriate information and guidance.
- 5.2 Ipswich Town Foundation have identified the following additional key outcomes:
- Participants develop their skills and knowledge.
  - Participants contribute to stronger, safer and more inclusive communities.
  - Participants have positive attitudes.
  - Participants demonstrate more positive behaviours.
- 5.3 Programme outcomes and participant satisfaction will be assessed through pre- and post-intervention surveys. For the ‘Mini-DIVERT’ strand, feedback from schools will be used to evaluate impact. The Foundation will also collaborate with schools and participants to produce engaging, meaningful case studies that illustrate the programme’s influence on young people.
- 5.4 At the conclusion of the funding period, a comprehensive end-of-project report will be produced. This will detail the activities undertaken, outcomes achieved, and any

recommendations or lessons learned for consideration by the Office of the PCC and other stakeholders.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The application for PCC funding forms approximately 50% of the project total, the remaining element of which will be covered by the Premier League Charitable Fund. Full project costings are below:

Item	Cost
Project Staff	£13,903.48
Delivery Staff	£9,268.98
Stoke Kicks	£3,900.00
Venue Hire	£375.00
3x Celebration Events	1,000.00
1x End of Project Celebration Event	£700.00
Travel & Transport	£350.00
Equipment & Resources	£250.00
Social Action & Volunteering	£250.00
Communication & Branding	£250.00
Monitoring & Evaluation	£951.00
Staff Training & Development	£250.00
Personal Budgets – 3x£250	£2,250.00
Central Support & Admin Costs	£1,000.00
Other Central Overheads	£1,273.42
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£35,971.88</b>
<b>Proposed PCC contribution:</b>	<b>£18,000.00</b>

- 6.2 It is recommended that the PCC approves funding of £18,000 from his commissioning budget for the delivery of the programme.

## 7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 7.1 An assessment of risk in delivery of the service has been undertaken. This assessment has considered the value of the grant sought, the duration of delivery and the grant recipient's ability to deliver and track record of work with young people.
- 7.2 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Ipswich Town Foundation are required to notify the PCC.

## 8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) awards grant funding of £18,000 to Ipswich Town Foundation for delivery of the 'DIVERT' and 'Mini-DIVERT' programmes between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026.

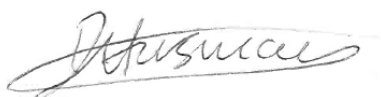
<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>NO</b>
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>NO</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, 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:** 17 November 2025