



Safer Communities Fund Guide to applying for funding

April 2025

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Foreword by Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner

Representing more than two million people who live across Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight is one of the privileges of my life. I was honoured to be the first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in the police force area to be re-elected in 2024 with overwhelming support, endorsing the key priorities from my first term of office (2021-2024).

Over the next four years, my focus will be on building the foundations laid in my first police and crime plan, 'More Police, Safer Streets', and ensuring that the Constabulary provides not just robust and effective policing, but also a service that meets the needs and expectations of every resident in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight.

The Safer Communities Fund allows me the opportunity to make grant funding available for organisations to carry out projects and activities that promote crime reduction, support victims, and reduce demand on frontline policing.

Through this grant funding, my ambition is for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to be the safest place to live, work, and visit in the country.

Information to consider before applying

You may wish to consider the following areas before you apply for funding.

Grant criteria

You must be a member of the [Funding Network](#) in order to apply to the Safer Communities Fund and meet the Grant Criteria:

- Be a not-for-profit organisation unless its profits are used to fulfil its social purpose
- Provide a free of charge and confidential service
- If providing support to victims of crime the support must be made available whether or not a crime has been reported to the Police
- Are non-discriminatory
- Focus on initiatives that help individuals to cope and recover from the impact of crime or help increase community safety
- Core provision of the service is in Hampshire & Isle of Wight
- The PCC reserves the right to reject any application.

Funding Network

To be eligible to apply for funding, you will need to be a member of the [Funding Network](#). Your application to the Funding Network needs to be submitted and approved before 30 April 2025 in order to apply. We recommend submitting your application promptly to avoid any potential processing delays.

Depending on which tier of the Funding Network you are member of will determine the amount of funding you can apply for:

- Tier One - £500 up to £10,000 per 12 months per grant application
- Tier Two - £500 up to £30,000 per 12 months per grant application
- Tier Three - £500 up to £50,000 per 12 months per grant application

All organisations working on a project or intervention must be members of the Funding Network.

Funding period

The application window is open from 1 April 2025 to Thursday 15 May 2025 at 17:00. Funding will start on 1 October 2025 and will run until 31 March 2027.

Multiple applications

The Commissioner welcomes multiple applications from an organisation. However, you may only submit one application per project or intervention in a given geographical area. For example, if your project or intervention involves multiple posts, you can submit only one application for those posts, up to a maximum of the [Funding Network](#) tier that you are a member of. You cannot divide them into multiple applications.

Violence Reduction Unit

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is responsible for the strategic coordination of the partnership response to serious violence and will be leading 'Phase 1' of the Young Futures Prevention

Partnership. The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) collaborates to share data among key partners to understand the needs of our communities. Increasingly, there are partnership meetings and forums that identify individuals who require support and diversion. These meetings often occur within Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and involve key partners such as Youth Justice, Police, and Local Authorities.

Stronger bids will demonstrate their ability to take referrals and provide feedback to the relevant partnership forums in the communities they aim to support. When considering the type of provision being proposed, it is recommended that applicants consider evidence of 'what works' using the [Youth Endowment Fund toolkit](#).

Partnership working

Evidence suggests that the most effective and efficient way to identify individuals who require support is in partnership. There is increasing legislation, including the Crime and Disorder Act, the Serious Violence Duty, and the Duty to Collaborate, that require organisations to work collaboratively in areas such as information sharing, engaging with communities, and co-produced strategies. These partnerships may include, but are not limited to, [Community Safety Partnerships \(CSPs\)](#), Safeguarding Partnerships, Youth Justice Boards, and Combating Drugs Partnerships.

Stronger bids will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of local partnership arrangements, how they will work in partnership to receive referrals into their project or intervention, and how they will engage with relevant partnerships in the communities they aim to support. Links to the CSP Strategic Needs Assessments can be found in the [OPCC Strategic Needs Assessment](#).

Trauma Informed Approach

The Commissioner is particularly interested in services that understand the value of being trauma-informed and proactively work in a trauma-informed way. Life experiences can lead to trauma, which we may carry with us throughout our lives. Carrying trauma can make it harder for us to trust others and feel safe, and it can create barriers to accessing services. It is important that we are aware of this and work in a way that is healing and reduces the risk of triggering and re-traumatisation.

A trauma-informed approach is universal, meaning that everyone is communicated with in a trauma-informed way. This does no harm to those unaffected by trauma and does much good for those who are. Services are provided based on the six principles of trauma-informed practice:

- Safety
- Trust
- Choice
- Collaboration
- Empowerment
- Cultural Considerations

Level of support offered

In order to help us understand the level of support you are offering, we need you to tell us which of the following best reflects your service:

- Primary (prevent a problem occurring in the first place)
- Secondary (when a risk has been identified, offer more targeted support to prevent further escalation and increase protective factors)
- Tertiary (support for high risk and high harm individuals with entrenched needs)

'By and for' services

These are specialist services that are led, designed and delivered by and for the users and communities they aim to serve (for example survivors from ethnic minority backgrounds, Deaf and disabled victims and LGBT+ victims). We encourage applications for 'By and for' projects or interventions.

Restorative Justice

The Commissioner knows through extensive research that Restorative Justice (RJ) meets the needs of victims in a way that the traditional Criminal Justice System cannot. RJ compliments the justice process and puts victims at the centre by establishing what harm has been caused, what the needs of the victim are and how these needs can best be met. There is also clear evidence that RJ reduces re-offending. With regards to the wider field of Restorative Practice, the Restorative Justice Council states that 'Restorative practice can be used anywhere to prevent conflict, build relationships and repair harm by enabling people to communicate effectively and positively'.

The Commissioner is committed to ensuring that all victims and offenders have the right to access Restorative Justice where appropriate and has commissioned a service which enables victims of all crime and antisocial behaviour, irrespective of the nature of the offence or the time that has elapsed since the offence was committed, to access Restorative Justice. As a result, any applications for Restorative Justice services as defined in the 'Service Specification for Restorative Justice Service across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight' will not be considered under this grants round.

Applicants should also be aware that the specification referenced above includes referrals made by the Police for low level neighbourhood disputes and antisocial behaviour where there is no clearly identified harmed person or harmer and no enforcement option available to the Police.

However, the Commissioner welcomes applications under any of the themes contained within this document that aim to use innovative restorative approaches to respond to conflict and disorder in particular settings; for example schools, local authority care homes and prisons. Thus preventing the criminalisation of individuals, where appropriate, and the creation of further victims.

There is a significant correlation between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma and negative outcomes, including depression, suicide attempts, alcoholism, drug abuse and domestic abuse.

Performance management

The Commissioning Team will meet with each successful applicant to define the outcomes and measures for their project or intervention. This will take place over August and September ready for the funding to start 1 October 2025.

Matched funding and sustainability

Applications are scored against a number of criteria, one of which is funding secured towards your project from elsewhere. Other secured funding will greatly strengthen your application for funding from the Commissioner and we therefore encourage you to approach other organisations to support your project.

It is encouraged that your project or intervention has a robust and sustainable delivery model including plans for future financial sustainability. The Commissioner wants to encourage and enable organisations to move towards their projects becoming sustainable in the long term. Therefore, you will be asked to demonstrate within your application how you will plan to move towards becoming more financially sustainable and priority will be given to those organisations who can demonstrate this for the next few years

Working in schools or prisons

The Commissioner receives a number of applications for projects to work in schools, colleges or in prisons. From the applications, it is not always clear if prior arrangements have been made with the institution that the project plans to work with. Applications should only be submitted if agreement has been made in principle should funding be awarded. The application should include details of those organisations and the agreement that has been made.

Promotion of funding allocated to projects or interventions

The Commissioner will publically announce the funding that has been awarded to organisations under the Safer Communities Fund once the formal decision has been taken and applicants have been notified of the outcomes. Once the official announcement has been made, grant recipients are encouraged to recognise the funding contribution made by the Commissioner in subsequent communications about their project. The Commissioner's Communications and Engagement Team will lead on joint communications activity with recipients to raise awareness of funded projects and interventions.

Needs Assessment

Due to the previous level of funding allocated to the theme of preventing youth crime and exploitation, a [Needs Assessment](#) has been completed to explore the needs of young people (including young victims) across the 14 districts to help inform the Commissioner's next funding investment and to ensure that the applications received can be targeted to the highest areas of need. Priority will be given to applications demonstrating how they will meet these needs in this document.

Data Sources

Please see the details of data that can be accessed to help you evidence the need for your project or intervention:

[Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary | Police.uk](#) If you scroll to the bottom of this page you can look up police crime data by a particular area and filter the data by crime type.

[Recorded crime data by Community Safety Partnership area - Office for National Statistics](#) The Office of National Statistics has lots of open source data, this link is the data broken by Community Safety Partnership area. You can look at data on their website broken down by district or by force as a whole.

[Crime reduction toolkit | College of Policing](#) You can use this link to look at the 'what works' library created by the College of Policing. This is applicable if your project or intervention has a focus on crime reduction.

Commissioning themes

To help organisations with their application/s, the Commissioning Team has identified some key areas from the Commissioner's Police and Plan:

- Prevent and tackle serious violence (including youth crime and exploitation)
- Drive down ASB and make communities not only feel safer but be safer
- Protect Women and Girls from all forms of abuse
- Reduce reoffending

The Commissioner also encourages you to apply for other areas of work. The themes do not preclude any applications for activities or projects that sit outside of these areas and we encourage you to propose new approaches and initiatives to the Commissioner.

Prevent and tackle serious violence (including youth crime and exploitation)

Serious violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and their families, instilling fear within communities. Working collaboratively with a focus on early intervention, education, community engagement, and addressing the root causes of violence are imperative to ensure young people and communities are safer.

A partnership approach is vital to preventing serious violence; it requires a collective responsibility where organisations and communities come together to bring about positive change and make communities safer.

We are seeking projects and interventions to prevent and tackle serious violence, with a greater focus on young people under the age of 25. Support should be tailored to the needs of the community and seek to reduce harm, offending, and vulnerability. Stronger bids should demonstrate their ability to take referrals and provide feedback to the relevant partnership forums in the communities they aim to support.

Example projects could include:

- developing positive life skills
- building resilience
- improving attitudes, thinking, and behaviour
- conflict resolution
- increasing opportunities for education, employment, and training
- promoting healthy relationships
- emotional regulation

In addition, projects and interventions that tackle:

- Adolescent to Parent Violence (APV)
- Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- County Lines and Gangs
- Missing, Exploited, and Trafficked (MET)

Applications that address the needs of young people identified within [the Needs Assessment](#) and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Strategic Needs Assessment will be prioritised. When considering the type of provision being proposed, it is also recommended that applicants consider evidence of 'what works' using the [Youth Endowment Fund toolkit](#).

Application exclusions:

- Custody Navigators that support 18-25 year olds initially in police custody and then onward in the community

- Trauma Informed Practitioners' (TIPs) who support the police to help culturally embed trauma informed policing

Protect Women and Girls from all forms of abuse

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) encompasses acts of abuse or violence that disproportionately affect women and girls. Examples include forced marriage, rape, sexual offences, stalking, domestic abuse, and 'honour'-based abuse such as female genital mutilation and 'honour' killings. Many other offences, including crimes committed online, also fall under this category. However, it is important to acknowledge that men and boys can also be victims of some of these offence types and the Commissioner is committed to ensuring that any victim of violence and abuse can access a project or service that is appropriate and meets their needs, including male victims.

The Commissioner aims to commission projects and activities that tackle VAWG and support victims, including those affected by domestic abuse, sexual crimes.

We are seeking grant-funded projects and activities that focus on:

- Preventing violence against women and girls through education and awareness programmes.
- Providing support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual crimes, and stalking.
- Engaging with communities to address and prevent 'honour'-based abuse and other culturally specific forms of violence.
- Enhancing online safety to protect women and girls from cybercrimes.

By funding initiatives that address these critical areas, we aim to create a safer environment for women and girls and support those affected by violence.

Application exclusions:

- Any independent guardian/advocacy for modern slavery child victims/under 18s as this is covered by the (Independent Child Trafficking Guardian) Service
- Independent and Specialist Stalking Advocacy Support
- Projects or interventions that are already included in supporting victims of Domestic Abuse contracts. Examples of these services include:
 - ❖ Community outreach support
 - ❖ Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA)
 - ❖ Refuge provision
 - ❖ Adult support groups and emotional 1-1 support
 - ❖ Interventions for people causing harm
 - ❖ Support for children and young people
- Adult and CYP ISVA's across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton
- Frankie Workers for Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth
- Counselling for victims and survivors of sexual crime in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton
- Projects or interventions that provide rehabilitation and reintegration support to those convicted of sexual abuse

- Projects or interventions to support victims of FGM, forced marriage and honour based abuse in the Southampton area

Drive down ASB and make communities not only feel safer but be safer

Driving down Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continues to be one of the Commissioner's top priorities. Communities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have consistently reported that ASB makes them feel unsafe. Policing is not the sole agency responsible for addressing ASB, which is why it is crucial for the Commissioner to convene partner agencies to reduce ASB, especially in identified hotspots.

ASB can be defined as conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm or distress to any person. We are seeking projects and interventions to address and tackle ASB to support communities to feel, and be, safer. Please ensure that applications take into consideration the priorities identified within your local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan.

Application exclusions:

- Equipment & physical items such as CCTV, alarm systems, lighting, speed monitoring equipment, two way radios etc.
- Victims of ASB can access Restorative Justice through the service commissioned across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight by the Commissioner
- Restorative Justice for low level neighbourhood disputes and ASB where there is no clearly identified harmed person or harmer, and no enforcement option is available to the Police.

Reducing reoffending

This section relates to repeat offenders of all ages. Please see the section called 'Prevent and tackle serious violence (including youth crime and exploitation)' for young people up to the age of 25 years who are at risk of offending or who have committed offences but are not fully entrenched in the Youth Justice or Criminal Justice System.

Those working with people who have a history of offending should adopt a strengths-based and trauma-informed approach, seeking to reduce offending and the risk of harm posed by offenders, and empowering those supported to positively thrive and ultimately live a happy, healthy, and crime-free life.

Research has shown that the best way to reduce reoffending is to target relevant support against the seven pathways of offending outlined by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS):

- Education, training, and employment
- Accommodation
- Mental and physical health
- Drugs and alcohol
- Finance, benefits, and debt
- Young people and families of offenders
- Attitudes, thinking, and behaviour

Projects and interventions could include those aimed at reducing shoplifting and business crime, reducing reoffending by those with complex needs including substance misuse and mental/physical health issues, and projects that provide training and skills to help offenders into employment.

Application exclusions:

- Integrated Offender Management Outreach support services (IOM) in the Hampshire County Council area and Portsmouth City Council area
- Integrated Offender Management Accommodation
- The Commissioner will not be accepting applications for Out of Court interventions at this time
- Projects working with perpetrators of Stalking
- Custody Navigators that support 18-25 year olds initially in police custody and then onward in the community

Grant criteria and scoring

Application Period and Deadline

- Your application to the Funding Network needs to be submitted and approved before 30 April 2025
- Application period is 1 April 2025 - 15 May 2025
- Applicants will be notified of the results July/August 2025
- Funding will start 1 October 2025

Grant scoring

The Commissioner will be scoring each application on the evidence provided and against the scoring criteria. Each area will receive a score as follows:

- 0 = fail
- 2 = poor
- 3 = average
- 4 = good
- 5 = excellent

There are several 'Showstopper' questions in the scoring criteria. If an applicant fails to adequately evidence how their project or intervention meets any of these criteria (scores a 2 or lower) then their application will automatically be deemed unsuccessful.

You can find more detail in the [Grant Criteria and Scoring pdf](#).

Application Forms

[Tier One application form](#)

[Tier Two application form](#)

[Tier Three application form](#)

Once your application is complete

The OPCC will consult with the CSPs and the Youth Justice Services where appropriate. Applications will be scored using only the information provided within the applications against a published criteria. Recommendations will be made to the Commissioner who has final sign off on successful projects. Applicants will be informed of the result(s) of their application(s).

Application support

We will be running three drop in sessions to support applicants with any questions they may have:

- 16th April - 10:00
- 29th April - 14:00
- 12th May - 10:30

If you would like to attend any of these sessions or need any support outside of these sessions then please email opcc.commissioning@hampshire.police.uk

Appendices

Please find below links to other useful information to help you with your application.

Community Safety Partnerships

[Contact details for the Community Safety Partnerships.](#)

Grant Scoring

Further details on how your application will be scored in the [Grant Criteria and Scoring pdf.](#)

Application questions

Application questions:

[Tier one – £500 up to £10,000](#)

[Tier two – £10,001 up to £30,000](#)

[Tier three - £30,001 up to £50,000](#)

You can email opcc.commissioning@hampshire.police.uk if you have any questions.

OPCC Needs Assessment

[OPCC Needs Assessment.](#) This is in relation to preventing youth crime and exploitation only but includes links the Community Safety Partnerships strategic needs for all thematic areas.