

Subject: Funding for the Continuation of the Lotus Programme

Originator: Commissioning Officer

Decision no. 19/2026

Reason for submission: For decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner Norfolk – Sarah Taylor

Summary:

1. The One-to-One Counselling Project has been funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) since 2019 to deliver the Lotus Programme to provide sexual violence and abuse (SVA) support services to survivors in King's Lynn and West Norfolk and North Norfolk areas.
2. To provide for continuity of service provision and maintain a network of accessible needs-based support across Norfolk, funding of £48,535 per annum will be provided for a further 18 months from 1 April 2026 until 30 September 2027.
3. There will be an option to extend for a further six months from 1 October 2027 to 31 March 2028 subject to funding being available and alignment with arrangements for the abolition of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) role. This will be reviewed in March 2027.
4. The services will be provided free of charge, be confidential, non-discriminatory, and accessible to residents in the King's Lynn and West Norfolk and North Norfolk areas.
5. The end of the grant will coincide with the abolition of the role of PCC, and therefore the service will end at this point, unless alternative funding can be obtained by the provider.

Recommendation:

The One-to-One Counselling Project is awarded a grant of £48,535 per annum for 18 months, between 1 April 2026 and 30 September 2027 to deliver the Lotus Programme, with a potential six-month extension to 31 March 2028.

Outcome/approval by: Sarah Taylor - Police and Crime Commissioner

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:



Date: 31/03/2026

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

- 1.1 To sustain the provision of therapeutic services in the King's Lynn and West Norfolk and North Norfolk areas for victims of SVA to support them to cope and recover from their experiences.
- 1.2 To support the strategic objectives of the Police and Crime Plan 2025-29 and the national Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy.

2. Background:

- 2.1 The Lotus Programme was created to meet the therapeutic needs of victims of SVA and make services available and accessible in the King's Lynn and West Norfolk and North Norfolk Areas.
- 2.2 The Lotus Programme is one of a number of services in the county providing a network of therapeutic support, serving different needs in different locations.
- 2.3 The service providers and other services work together to provide the most appropriate and effective service and outcomes for clients.
- 2.4 The PCC is committed to funding this provision for the remainder of her term, at which point the role of PCC will be abolished.
- 2.5 At the end of this funding period, the service will be closed, unless the provider can source alternative funding. The provider will ensure that any remaining service users are safely supported through the closure of the service.

3. Areas for consideration

- 3.1 This is a continuation of funding from 2025-26 at a fixed level per annum for 18 months. Any inflationary pressures must be absorbed into the service budget.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 Not to fund the services – this would mean that there would be no specialist therapeutic support services for victims of SVA in King's Lynn and West Norfolk and North Norfolk. This option has been rejected.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

- 5.1 The PCC has a statutory obligation to set out a Police and Crime Plan. Within the current 2025-2029 plan, the PCC has pledged support for SVA victims under 'Your Priorities – Reducing Harm'.
- 5.2 The primary statutory legislation that drives the support of commissioning services that support victims of domestic abuse and SVA across the Local Authority and Police Force areas are:
 - a. Crime and Disorder Act 1998

- b. Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- c. Health and Social Care Act 2012
- d. Code of Practice for Victims of Crime – Ministry of Justice
- e. Home Office VAWG Strategy
- f. Domestic Abuse Act 2021

5.3 Quality standards that will be supported as set out in the following documents:

- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance on Child Abuse and Neglect, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng76>, which makes recommendations for a range of therapeutic interventions for children, young people and families after sexual abuse.
- The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) Ethical Framework, <https://www.bacp.co.uk/about-us/about-bacp/>. Counsellors recruited for the Sexual Violence pilot will be accredited with the BACP or UKCP with the relevant competency levels in place to support this group of clients (this includes highly complex cases and those who have experienced historic childhood sexual abuse).

6. Financial and other resource implications:

- 6.1 This grant agreement will cover the period 1 April 2026 – 30 September 2027.
- 6.2 This funding will come from the Commissioning Budget.
- 6.3 The total award will be as follows:

Financial Year	£
1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027	£48,535.00
1 April 2027 – 30 September 2027 *	£24,267.50
TOTAL	£72,802.50

* With option to extend to 31 March 2028 with additional amount of £24,267.50.

7. Carbon Emissions and Other Environmental Implications:

Carbon Emissions

- 7.1 The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

Emission Categories:	Increase in tCO ₂	Saving in tCO ₂
Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating	0	0

Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity	0	0

Environmental Implications

7.2 No material implications.

8. Other implications and risks:

8.1 The OPCCN has assessed the eligibility of the One-to-One Project and the appropriate due diligence checks have been completed and agreed by the OPCCN's Chief Finance/151 Officer and will be reviewed periodically.

Originator checklist (must be completed)	Please state 'yes' or '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 the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	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 sustainability and environmental factors been considered? (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction)	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 having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

Approval to submit to the decision-maker (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

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.

Signature:



Date: 07/04/2026

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.

Signature:



Date: 05/04/2026

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.