

Subject: Transitions Project – Serious Violence Duty – Grant Variation

Originator: Serious Violence Duty Project Manager

Decision no. 29/2026

Reason for submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Mark Stokes – Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

Summary:

1. The Serious Violence Duty commenced in January 2023. The Duty places a legal duty on a number of organisations to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
2. The Home Office have allocated funding to meet costs arising from the Duty. The funding is allocated to local policing bodies who can subsequently allocate funding to duty-holders. Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner is the grant holder of Home Office funding to deliver a local response to the Serious Violence Duty.
3. As part of Norfolk's response, the Serious Violence Duty responsible authorities previously allocated Serious Violence Duty Funding to Future Projects to provide dedicated pilot Transitional 1-2-1 Advocate ("Life Connector") Support for children and young people (CYP) identified as high risk and high harm from serious violence, including those at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation (CCE/CSE), aged 17.5 – 25 years old, transitioning to adulthood. This service aims to reduce serious violence by promoting protective factors and reducing risk factors that are known to be associated with or drivers of serious violence.
4. This paper seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to grant an additional £89,262 of Serious Violence Duty funding to Future Projects. This will enable continuity of service and provide an increase in service provision through an additional "Life Connector" practitioner, supporting an increase in demand on the service and intensity of support required.
5. This funding has been approved by Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty Partnership.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner provide Serious Violence Duty grant funding of £89,262.00 to Future Projects to continue to deliver the transitions Programme.

Outcome/approval by: Mark Stokes – Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:



Date: 03/07/2026

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

- 1.1 The Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.
- 1.2 Future Projects are grant funded by the Serious Violence Duty funding to provide a dedicated Transitional 1-2-1 Advocate ("Life Connector") service up to the 31 March 2026. The service supports children and young people (CYP) identified as high risk and high harm from serious violence, including those at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation (CCE/CSE), aged 17.5 – 25 years old, transitioning to adulthood.
- 1.3 Support includes initial relationship building, needs and ambitions assessment, risk assessment, collaborative support planning, and navigating to services, support, resources, and activity which reduce risk factors and promote protective factors. Risk factors being addressed are:
 - Drug and alcohol use.
 - Accommodation issues and homelessness.
 - Benefit entitlements and financial resilience.
 - Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- 1.4 The specific objectives of the service are to assist and promote positive outcomes for CYP with providing assistance across themes such as:
 - Health.
 - Confidence and wellbeing.
 - Welfare rights and benefits.
 - Accessing treatment for substance misuse/drug and alcohol.

- Accommodation/Housing.
 - Jobs, Education, Training.
 - Finance/Debt management.
 - Criminal Justice.
 - Family/Safeguarding.
 - Social Capital/Community Connection.
 - Engagement with Services/Support.
 - Work experience/Volunteering.
- 1.5 The service equips children and young people with supported protective measures and attitudes in their transition to adulthood. It will assist to instil protective measures and knowledge of support mechanisms to prevent returning to previous exploitation connections and criminal activities.
- 1.6 This pilot project is funded until the 31 March 2026. This grant variation allows for an uplift in the “Life Connector” role to full time as warranted by demand on the service and intensity of support required.

2. Background:

- 2.1 The Serious Violence Duty was introduced to facilitate the partnership response to preventing and reducing serious violence.
- 2.2 The Serious Violence Duty requires organisations to develop an evidence base (strategic needs assessment) and create and implement a strategy containing bespoke solutions as to how the local partnership will work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- 2.3 The Home Office have allocated funding to meet costs arising from the Duty. The funding is allocated to local policing bodies who can subsequently allocate funding to duty-holders. This includes funding allocated to evidence informed interventions which are aligned to the response strategy.
- 2.4 Serious violence has a devastating impact on lives of victims and families and instils fear within communities and is extremely costly to society.
- 2.5 Interpersonal violence can be viewed as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels: the individual, their relationships, their community, and wider society.
- 2.6 The public health approach to serious violence means thinking about violence, not only as a problem for the police, but as a preventable consequence of a

complex range of factors which influence the likelihood of being affected by violence. It recognises that to effectively tackle violence an approach is needed which does not just focus on those who are already affected by violence but also by addressing the underlying risk factors.

2.7 The public health approach involves interventions in three overarching categories, which focus on prevention for different population groups depending on the risk level:

- Primary prevention – aims to stop risk factors from emerging or promotes protective factors.
- Secondary prevention – aims to address risk factors and stop issues from escalating.
- Tertiary prevention – aims to manage an ongoing problem and reduce harm.

2.8 Whilst the approach to using risk and protective factors in predicting outcomes is still developing, they can be utilised to support strategic decision making, planning and allocation of interventions and resources. Considering protective factors, alongside the risks is important in developing approaches which are strength and asset based. The Youth Endowment Fund endorses approaches that aim to change outcomes (or risk and protective factors) for young people that are related to violent and criminal behaviour later.

2.9 The Serious Violence Duty Strategy has identified a priority focus on the safety of young people, reducing risk factors and promoting protective factors, for all forms of serious violence. Young people are particularly important in the prevention of serious violence. Recent trends indicate younger people are more likely to be affected by serious violence than any other age group. Violence affecting young people has a dramatic effect on the lives of children, families, and the wider community.

2.10 Local information has identified there is a need to support children and young people into adulthood at specific points of their transition from children into adult support services ensuring there is no barrier to accessing the help required preventing further risks or exposure to serious violence. Norfolk does not have a current transitional service such as this for those identified at high risk and high harm of serious violence, Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation out with any criminal justice management. This pilot will enable Norfolk to support children and young people to develop life skills, independence and future employment opportunities but also add to the understanding of the mechanisms needed to overcome any barriers children and young people experience when transitioning to adulthood.

3. Areas for consideration:

- 3.1 The benefits of this project align with the evidence base developed through the Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment and the priorities of Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty Strategy.
- 3.2 Rigorous analysis has been undertaken to inform the evidence base for Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty Strategy including quantitative partnership data analysis and qualitative engagement activity with stakeholders including statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and community sector and communities, including young people.
- 3.3 The benefits of this service are:
 - Local partners and multi-agency bodies have increased confidence in the local response to serious violence with regards to children and young people.
 - Dedicated service provision is in place for CYP at risk of continued involvement in serious violence, assessments of the risk, and improved responses to vulnerability for children and young people.
 - Young people are safeguarded by referral to appropriate support, based on an assessment of their need when transitioning to adulthood.
- 3.4 The outcomes of the pilot will be monitored, reviewed, and reported through the grant monitoring process, Serious Violence Duty Group, and the Home Office Serious Violence Duty returns.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 Do nothing. Without the service, children and young people, identified as high risk and high harm from serious violence, including those at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation, would have to navigate adult services as described above without a dedicated support agency when they transition into adulthood.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

- 5.1 The project will directly benefit the following aspects of the Police and Crime Plan (2025-29):
 - a. Preventing crime: reduce serious violence.
- 5.2 This project supports the delivery of Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty strategy published in January 2024.
- 5.3 The programme directly contributes to the following enablers of the Safer Norfolk Plan:

- a. Effective interventions are in place that prevent antisocial behaviour and crime, their causes, make communities safer, provide support to victims, and improve feelings of safety.

5.4 This intervention contributes to a range of national strategies, including:

- a. Serious Violence Strategy.
- b. Beating Crime Plan.
- c. Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan.
- d. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 To deliver the resources, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) will grant fund Future Projects £89,262.00 from the Home Office funding allocated to Norfolk through the Serious Violence Duty.

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 tCO2	Saving in tCO2
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 In line with usual government grants, Police and Crime Commissioners must ensure that organisations do not use the funding for any other activities:

- religious activities outside of the programme benefiting the wider community and not containing religious content;
- political or lobbying activities;
- loan repayments; or
- activities that make profit for private gain

- 8.2 Should there be any risk to the service being delivered, Futures Project is required to notify the OPCCN as per the conditions of the award.

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)?	No
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?

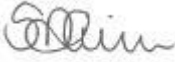
No

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).

On behalf of the 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: 06/07/2026

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: 03/07/2026

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.