

**Subject: Transitions Pilot Project Evaluation (Serious Violence Duty)
2026/27**

Originator: Serious Violence Duty Project Manager

Decision no. 32/2026

Reason for submission: For Decision

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

Summary:

1. The Serious Violence Duty (“the Duty”) commenced in January 2023. The Duty places a new legal duty on a number of organisations to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
2. Under the Duty, local areas are required to develop a strategic needs assessment (SNA) to inform a local strategy setting out how the partnership will work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.
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.
4. Norfolk’s Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is the grant holder of Home Office funding to deliver a local response to the Serious Violence Duty.
5. As part of Norfolk’s response, the Serious Violence Duty responsible authorities agreed to allocate funding for an independent academic evaluation of the Transitions Future Project. Norfolk’s Serious Violence Duty responsible authorities have funded the Transitions Project for the financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 (decisions notices 2024-30, 2025-18 and 2025-39 apply).

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the PCC provide Serious Violence Duty funding to commission the University of Suffolk to deliver an independent academic evaluation of the Transitions Pilot Project to support Norfolk’s partnership response to the Serious Violence Duty.

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

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Stokes', written in a cursive style.

Date: 14/07/2026

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 The Duty requires the specified authorities in Norfolk to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence.
- 1.3 The Serious Violence Duty advocates for a public health approach. Evaluation of interventions contributing to the delivery of the partnership strategy forms a key element of the public health (understanding ‘what works’).
- 1.4 The independent academic evaluation of the Transitions Future Project will contribute to project learning and development in this subject.

2. Background:

- 2.1 The Serious Violence Duty has been 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 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty responsible authorities have allocated funding for the Transitions Future Project for the financial years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- 2.8 Transitions Future Project are grant funded 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.
- 2.9 Funding has been allocated to commission an independent academic evaluation of the pilot project to contribute to project learning and development in this subject. Evaluation activity includes:
- The evaluation team would employ a mixed-methods approach with a focus on qualitative, creative, and participatory methods.
 - Immersive fieldwork visits to Future Projects by two evaluation team members (1 day's staff time per researcher) in summer-autumn 2026 encompassing multiple avenues for reflection and data collection Measuring progress in capacity building and wellbeing; tracking improvements for service users.
 - Follow-up data collection and engagement activities in early 2027, to explore implementation of stage one evaluation recommendations and adaptations/changes in response to capacity building work.
 - Checking alignment with best practices; assessing how the programme reflects empowering and trauma-informed principles.
 - Estimating social value; calculating the broader social impact, including unexpected effects and ripple impacts.

3. Areas for consideration:

- 3.1 The benefits of this evaluation will contribute to the evidence base developed through the Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment and the priorities of Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty Strategy.
- 3.2 The evaluation will also the contribute to regional and national evidence base regarding violence prevention, transitional safeguarding and related subjects.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 Do nothing: without the funding allocation the independent academic evaluation would not be feasible. This would limit the partnerships ability to confirm impact of the intervention and guide future decision making.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

- 5.1 The evaluation 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 independent academic evaluation directly contributes to the following enablers of the Safer Norfolk Plan:
- a) The response to our community safety priorities is based on up to date and high-quality analysis.
 - b) Effective interventions are in place that prevent Anti-social 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) From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives.
 - e) Freedom from Violence and Abuse strategy.

6. Financial and other resource implications:

- 6.1 £15,000.00 of Serious Violence Duty funding will be allocated for the procurement of an independent academic evaluation for the financial year 2026/27 funded by the Home Office Serious Violence Duty Funding.

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 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: 14/07/2026

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
- c) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature: 

Date: 13/07/2026

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.