

Subject: Project Aurora – Support for women facing homelessness and domestic abuse in the King’s Lynn area

Originator: Commissioning Officer

Decision no. 35/2026

Reason for submission: For decision

Submitted to: Colin Sutton - Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

Summary:

1. Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) are commissioning the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner Norfolk (OPCCN) to deliver a project (Project Aurora) to support women facing homelessness and domestic abuse in the King’s Lynn area.
2. The OPCCN will commission two service providers to deliver the project:
 - St Giles Trust – Specialist Women’s Practitioner
 - Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services – Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA).
3. The project aims to deliver two outcomes:
 - Positive outcomes for the women it serves – providing intensive support to up to 30 women over the two-year period.
 - Whole system change and reduction in pressures on emergency services - a cost benefit analysis to be completed as part of the project.
4. The total cost of the project is £200,000 over the two-year period 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028 – this is fully funded by BCKLWN.
5. The project includes £9,000 funding (up to £300 per client) over the two-year period to cover the direct costs of supporting women to access support, improve their health and wellbeing, and reduce risks to their safety.
6. The project includes £10,000 pa funding for OPCCN to cover some of the project management and administration costs.

Recommendation:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk approve the delivery of this two-year project to support women facing homelessness and domestic abuse in the King's Lynn area – commissioning St Giles Trust and Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services to deliver the services using a total of £200,000 funding from BCKLWN for the period 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028.

Outcome/approval by: Colin Sutton – Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Sutton', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Date: 28/07/2026

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

- 1.1 Project Aurora ('the project') is a collaborative partnership that seeks to support women who experience multiple barriers to living safe, healthy lives so they can move forward with their lives and integrate within their communities.
- 1.2 The project is a pilot running for a minimum of two years, funded by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) and commissioned through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Norfolk (OPCCN).
- 1.3 The OPCCN will commission two service providers to deliver the service:
 - St Giles Trust – to deliver 0.8FTE Specialist Women's Practitioner to manage a caseload and work with partners to deliver outcomes for the women. St Giles Trust will also manage the Client Fund (details as outlined below).
 - Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services – to deliver 0.5FTE Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) to provide guidance, safety planning and advocacy relating to domestic abuse and to support the Specialist Women's Practitioner to deliver a reliable and consistent service.
- 1.4 Whilst housing needs are a significant factor for many participants, the project is not an accommodation-based service and does not include dedicated housing provision, with no specific accommodation earmarked for this project.
- 1.5 The project will support a small cohort of approximately 30 women to help them navigate existing accommodation and support pathways.
- 1.6 There will be a Clients Fund total £9,000 (£4,500 pa) – to cover the direct costs of accessing services, improving health and wellbeing, and reducing risks to safety for the clients. This fund will be managed by the St Giles Trust and monitored as part of quarterly grant monitoring process.
- 1.7 This pilot project aims to achieve real positive change for the women it serves, as well as whole system change whereby the women are able to access the support, they need so that there is less call on emergency services moving forward.
- 1.8 A performance assessment framework will be used to evaluate the success of the project against its stated aims throughout.

2. Background:

- 2.1 The project is being commissioned by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.
- 2.2 The project will align with BCKLWN's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

- To ensure that safe affordable accommodation, suitable to their needs, is available to everyone who needs it.
- To empower formerly homeless people to thrive in the borough.

2.3 The project comprises a partnership including:

- BCKLWN
- OPCCN
- Norfolk County Council – public health; adult social services
- Change Grow Live (CGL)
- St Giles Trust
- Norfolk Independent Domestic Abuse Services (NIDAS) – core contract delivered by Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services
- Norfolk Constabulary

3. Areas for consideration:

- 3.1 This project will be fully funded by BCKLWN – total funding £200,000 for the two-year period.
- 3.2 Primarily, the services delivered as part of the project will respond to each woman's voice, choice, preferences and pace, empowering the women to take their lives in their chosen direction and supporting them to take steps to do this by building on their strengths.
- 3.3 Individuals will be referred to the project by local partner agencies (including services commissioned by the council), though self-referrals will also be accepted by the project. The service delivered will use a strengths-based referral process to help describe the individual's needs and wishes.
- 3.4 The partnership may amend the eligibility criteria during the pilot to meet the needs of victim-survivors of domestic abuse.
- 3.5 The project aims to support approximately 30 women over the course of the two-year pilot; however, it will maintain an active caseload of up to ten individuals at any given time.
- 3.6 Funding for the project will include a 'personal budget' allowance of £300 per individual over the two-year period. This will fund direct and indirect actions to help women access the support they need.
- 3.7 The project seeks to reduce repeat demand on emergency and crisis services by addressing underlying factors associated with homelessness, domestic abuse and complex needs.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 Not to deliver this project on behalf of BCKLWN. This option was rejected as it is felt that this project aligns with the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan as outlined below.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

- 5.1 The project will support all three objectives within the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan 2025-29
- Preventing Crime
 - Building Cohesive Communities
 - Reducing Harm

6. Financial and other resource implications:

- 6.1 This project is being fully funded by BCKLWN – with total funding £200,000 provided for period 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028.
- 6.2 BCKLWN are commissioning OPCCN to deliver the project on their behalf.
- 6.3 OPCCN will be commissioning the following providers to deliver the service:
- St Giles Trust – to employ 0.8FTE Specialist Women’s Practitioner.
 - Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services – to employ 0.5FTE Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA).
- 6.4 The total funding to be awarded to these providers by way of Grant Agreement is as follows:
- St Giles Trust – £101,757
 - Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services – £53,351
- 6.5 The total funding for the period 1 October 26 – 30 September 28 is as follows:

	1/10/26 - 30/9/27	1/10/27 – 30/9/28	TOTAL
St Giles Trust	£48,476	£53,281	£101,757
Leeway Domestic Violence and Abuse Services	£28,005	£25,346	£53,351
Client Funds	£4,500	£4,500	£9,000

OPCCN – Project Management and Administration Costs	£10,000	£10,000	£20,000
Contingency	£9,019	£6,873	£15,892
TOTAL	£100,000	£100,000	£200,000

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 This project is funded for two years only – there is no identified continuation funding at this stage.
- 8.2 Project risks as below will be assessed and mitigated throughout the project through regular performance management and grant monitoring processes:
- Referral criteria too restrictive reducing access to the service
 - Staff resilience and capacity to ensure a consistent service is available.
 - Lack of partnership and multi-agency buy-in to the project.
- 8.3 Communication between all partners directly involved in the delivery of the project will start immediately to ensure that there are referrals from outset of project and that responsibilities within the project are defined at an early stage. This will enable the project to make best use of the time available to deliver the desired outcomes.

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: 28/07/2026

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: 29/07/2026

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.