



Subject: Ministry of Justice 'Victims' General Fund' 2025/26

Originator: Stephanie Stearman

Decision no. 04/2025

Reason for submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Sarah Taylor, Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (PCC)

Summary:

1. This Decision Paper seeks approval by the PCC to allocate funding under the Ministry of Justice Victims' General Fund 2025/26.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner provides Contract Extensions for the 2025/26 financial year as laid out within this Decision Notice.

Outcome/approval by: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:

Date: 28/01/2025

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

1.1 To allocate funding as a 12-month extension (2025/26) of funding from the Ministry of Justice Victims' General Grant for local commissioning of Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence (SV) support services via PCCs.

2. Background:

2.1 During the financial year 2021/22 the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) released dedicated funding streams to support victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

2.2 The MoJ required to see expressions of interest that:

- Offered tailored support for under-represented survivors and those with protected characteristics
- Propose innovative advocacy models as well as for established roles such as IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates) and ISVAs (Independent Sexual Violence Advocates) for both adults and children
- Adopt hybrid models supporting both Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, as well as VAWG (violence against women and girls) advocates and advisers provided they will be supporting victims of DA and SV

2.3 Specific roles eligible for this fund could include:

- ISVAs and ISVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)
- IDVAs and IDVA Managers (provided these managers have an active caseload of victims)

2.4 During July 2022, the Secretary of State for Justice funded the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk a 'Victims' General Fund' that would run over three financial years, covering: 2022/3, 2023/4, 2024/5.

2.5 This funding consisted of:

- Ringfenced funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence victim support services
- Ringfenced funding for proportion of 700 IDVAs/ISVAs recruited in 2021/22
- Ringfenced funding for proportion of additional 200 ISVAs and IDVAs recruited in 2022/23

2.6 Additional Funding under the Victims' General Fund was awarded to the Police and Crime Commission for Norfolk that covered:

- Ringfenced funding for the DA/SV Fund

- Ringfenced funding for proportion 50 IDVA/s/ISVAs
- Ringfenced funding for ISVAS/IDVAs– Uplift for 2023/24 and 2024/25

2.7 On 2 December 2024, the MoJ confirmed Norfolk's Victims' Funding for 2025-26 as follows:

- A reduction in Core Victims' Fund for 2025-26 by 4.2%
- Maintain the same levels of funding for the Domestic Abuse/Sexual Violence and ISVA/IDVAS funds (above) which was combined and ringfenced for 2025/26.

3. Areas for consideration:

- 3.1 A full review/update of DA/SV Services and ISVA/IDVA posts under the existing MoJ Victims' Formula Based and General Grant took place during November and December 2024 highlighting these specific areas/budgets and was put forward to the Police and Crime Commissioner of Norfolk for consideration.
- 3.2 Under the MoJ Victims General Fund (2023/4-2024/5), ISVAs within the county of Norfolk are contracted through Norfolk Constabulary and the ISVA Service and IDVAs through NiDAS contracted through Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services.
- 3.3 Under the MoJ Victims General Fund, the DA/SA fund (2023/4-2024/5) was Grant Funded.
- 3.4 Under terms of the MoJ this fund must be awarded to DA/SV service providers under the VAWG agenda and is ringfenced for this purpose.
- 3.5 Existing demand across all services was reviewed including the specialist IDVA posts for protected characteristic communities. To remove these posts would result in increased demand across the existing services adding extra strain and an extended wait list (NiDAS) for those who fall within the medium and high-risk categories. It would also de-rail the work over the last three years in supporting these hard-to-reach communities where there has been little or no service provision in Norfolk.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 In view that the MoJ funding settlement was only for one year
 - a full procurement process was considered but rejected as time constraints would not permit
 - An Open Grant round process was considered but again rejected as same time constraints would not permit
 - Direct Grant awards would not be suitable due to one year funding and not give suppliers time to mobilise and reach a projects true potential and outcomes – this option was also rejected

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

5.1 The Norfolk PCC is in the process of developing a new Police and Crime Plan which is required to be published by 31st March 2025 in line with requirements set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Therefore, at this time we are operating under the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan 2022-24 issued by the previous PCC

5.2 Under the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan 2022-26, there are six priorities detailed:

- Sustain Norfolk Constabulary
- Visible and Trusted Policing
- Tackling Crime
- Prevent Offending
- Support Victims
- Safer and Stronger Communities

5.3 NiDAS, the ISVA Service and AAFDA fall within two of these pillars: Supporting Victims and Safer and Strong Communities.

5.4 The primary statutory legislation that drives the commissioning of domestic abuse services across the Local Authority and Police Force areas are:

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Childrens Act 1989 & 2004
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012
- Equality Act 2010
- Directive 2012/29 EU of the European Parliament establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims
- Code of Practice for Victims – MoJ Victims Code 2020
- HM Government -Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls July 2021
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021

5.5 Awards to services listed below also support work within:

- Norfolk's Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy 2022-25
- Norfolk Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-25
- Joint work with Norfolk Community Safety Partnership
- Objectives through the Norfolk Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group (DASVG)

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 The MoJ have awarded the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner under the Victims General Fund 2025/6 the sum of: £781,183.50*

6.2 The Police and Crime Commission decision for awards is as follows:

ORGANISATION	SERVICE	IDVAS/ ISVAS/ OTHER	POSTS	MOJ VICTIMS' GENERAL FUND	NIDAS PARTNERSHIP BUDGET
Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services	NIDAS	IDVA	1 Older Persons IDVA	£36,234	
			1 Disability IDVA	£36,234	
			3 Community IDVAs (districts of Norwich, Broadland and South Norfolk)	£72,468	£36,234*
			1 Diverse Communities IDVA	£46,290	
			1 LGBTQ+ IDVA		
			3 x Family IDVAs	£120,841	
			1 x Drugs and Alcohol IDVA	£52,002	
			1 x .5 FTE Unmet Need IDVA	£25,620	
Norfolk Constabulary	The ISVA Service	ISVA	2 x Protected Characteristics ISVAs	£28,916	
			1 RASSO ISVA	£39,744	
			1 x .58 FTE	£29,074	
			1 x .77 FTE		
		1 x .6 FTE			
		1 x ISVA	£52,002		
Advocacy after Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA)		Advocacy	Contribution to Core Service Provision for Norfolk	£11,600	
TOTAL AWARDED				£586,048.00	£36,234
MoJ VICTIMS GENERAL FUND AWARD				£781,183.50	
BALANCE of FUND TO BE AWARDED				£195,135.50	

*It should be noted 1 part time IDVA Post (Community IDVA) is awarded by the PCC in partnership with the NIDA SBoard and funded by the NIDAS Partnership Budget.

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 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) has assessed the governance and eligibility of Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services, AA FDA and Norfolk Constabulary and the appropriate due diligence checks have been completed.

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 PCQ).

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: 14/01/2025

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: 08/01/2025

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.*