



Subject: Norfolk Community Law Service – Domestic Abuse Support Service

Originator: Mette Ohrvik

Decision no. 08/2025

Reason for submission: For decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk – Sarah Taylor

Summary:

1. Norfolk Community Law Service has provided free legal advice and support to domestic abuse (DA) victims under the current grant agreement since 1 April 2022. The current grant arrangement ends on 31 March 2025.
2. The service provides specialist legal support through the courts to survivors/victims where there is financial difficulty.
3. The service helps DA victims/survivors to access legal remedies in civil and family courts – these remedies provide protection and reduce risks to victims/survivors and their children.
4. This decision notice is to award Norfolk Community Law service grant funding of £35000 for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the PCC support this decision notice for further funding of the legal advice service for DA victims/survivors delivered by Norfolk Community Law Service for further year 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026.

Outcome/approval by: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature: 

Date: 24/02/2025

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

- 1.1 The aim of this project is to ensure that people experiencing domestic abuse and financial difficulty can access legal remedies which reduce the risks to them and their families.
- 1.2 This decision notice is to award Norfolk Community Law Service £35000 funding for the financial year 2025/26 (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026).

2. Background:

- 2.1 The NCLS service provides valuable advice and support to ensure that people experiencing financial difficulty can access appropriate legal advice and support when going through civil and family court processes.
- 2.2 Legal remedies such as non-molestation orders, occupation orders and prohibitive steps orders play a key part in safeguarding and reducing the risk to DA to victims/survivors and their children.
- 2.3 The service is filling a gap in Norfolk as result of lack of legal aid solicitors available to provide free support.

3. Areas for consideration:

- 3.1 This is a reduction in funding from previous years – the new service will be able to provide support up to 200 clients per year.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 Not funding the service – this would mean that there would be a lack of free legal advice for DA victims and survivors in Norfolk – this option has been rejected.
- 4.2 Continuing to fund current service provision – this would incur additional costs – this option was rejected.
- 4.3 To provide £35000 funding for 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 with a reduction in service to support up to 200 clients during the funding period.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

5.1 The PCC has a statutory obligation to set out Police and Crime objectives through the Police, Crime and Community Safety Plan 2022-2024. The PCC's six priorities fall into the following categories each with detailed objectives in the plan:

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

5.2 The NCLSDA Support Project supports three of these pillars: Prevent Offending, Supporting Victims and Safe and Stronger Communities.

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 The total funding is £35000

6.2 The breakdown of funding is as follows:

ITEM	2025/26
OPCCN	£35000
Award Total	£35000

6.3 The funding will come from the MOJDA/SV Victims Fund.

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 suitability of Norfolk Community Law Service and the appropriate diligence checks have been completed.

8.2 There is potential media interest as a result of the reduction in funding and its implications. The OPCCN will work the provider to manage the messages going out about the project.

8.3 There are no other foreseen implications or risks identified at this time.

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?	NO
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	NO
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: 20/02/2025

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: 20/02/2025

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.*