

Subject: Drug Testing on Arrest 2025/26

Originator: Serious Violence Programme Lead

Decision no. 30/2025

Reason for submission: For Decision

Submitted to: PCC

Summary:

1. The Serious Violence Duty commenced in January 2023. The Duty places a statutory 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 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 have agreed to allocate Serious Violence Duty Funding to fund Norfolk Constabulary for Drug Testing on Arrest for violent offences.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Commissioner provide Serious Violence Duty grant funding to Norfolk Constabulary for Drug Testing on Arrest for violent offences to support Norfolk's partnership response to the Serious Violence Duty.

Outcome/approval by: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Saylor", followed by a period.

Date: 06/08/2025

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 specific objective of funding Drug Testing on Arrest for violent offences is to identify those offending at the earliest point in the criminal justice process and break the cycle of drug-related crime by quickly referring those who test positive into assessment and treatment services. By intervening early, Drug Testing on Arrest seeks to reduce reoffending, improve public safety, and support individuals in addressing underlying substance misuse issues. It also helps law enforcement and health services coordinate more effectively to provide targeted support to those most at risk.
- 1.4 In addition, a locally commissioned rapid literature review examining the relationship between alcohol and drug misuse and the perpetration of serious violence found that both substances play a complex role, influenced by a range of individual, social, and systemic factors. While links between substance misuse and serious violence are well-documented, establishing direct causal relationships remains challenging. This funding allows further exploration of the association between serious violence and drug use.

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 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.

2.5 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

2.6 There is growing body of research exploring why some people or groups are at higher risk of violence while some are protected from it. Although risk and protective factors are not predictive of future behaviour, research has found that reducing risk factors and strengthening protective factors has been found to be effective in preventing violence.

2.7 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.

2.8 Our Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment identified the following:

- The relationship between alcohol and drug misuse and the perpetration of serious violence is complex, shaped by a range of individual, social, and systemic factors. Both alcohol and drug misuse contribute to serious violence in multifaceted ways.
- The impact of drug use on individuals goes far wider than the risk of violence, with detrimental effects on mental and physical health potentially influencing risk and protective factors for serious violence.
- Drug dealing can be highly visible in communities and can contribute to adverse effects on feelings of safety.
- Substance misuse can make people extremely vulnerable to wider abuse, exploitation and harm, which often goes unreported.

- Local engagement highlighted concerns about the local risks of violence associated with drug markets (predominantly, although not exclusively linked to county lines), violence associated to substance misuse and addiction and the impact of parental drug use on children and young people.

2.9 Drug Testing on Arrest is a targeted intervention designed to disrupt the cycle of drug-related offending by identifying individuals whose criminal behaviour is linked to Class A drug use, particularly cocaine and opiates. The primary aim is to facilitate early identification of substance misuse at the point of arrest, enabling timely referral into assessment and treatment services. By intervening at this critical stage, Drug Testing on Arrest supports efforts to reduce reoffending, improve public safety, and address the underlying causes of criminal behaviour. The programme also enhances coordination between police, health, and criminal justice services, ensuring a more integrated and effective response to drug-related harm.

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 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 programme of activities are:

- Drug testing on arrest for violent offences aims to facilitate early identification of substance misuse at the point of arrest, enabling timely referral into assessment and treatment services.
- The initiative will also allow for further exploration and development of the evidence base regarding the association between serious violence and drug use.

3.4 The outcomes of the project will be monitored and reviewed.

4. Other options considered:

4.1 Do nothing: Without the funding provided through the Serious Violence Duty, Norfolk Constabulary would not be able to deliver Drug Testing on Arrest for violent offences.

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 The project will directly benefit Norfolk's Serious Violence Duty strategic priorities.

5.3 This programme contributes to the achievement of the Government's Serious Violence Duty. The Serious Violence Duty encourages a Public Health approach, identifying and responding to risk and protective factors for Serious Violence.

5.4 Furthermore, the programme directly contributes to the following enablers within the Safer Norfolk Plan:

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

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

- a. Serious Violence Strategy
- b. Beating Crime Plan (2021)
- c. Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan (2023)
- d. Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (2021)
- e. From Harm to Hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives (2021)

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 To deliver Drug Testing on Arrest for violent offences, the OPCCN will grant fund Norfolk Constabulary £5,000 for the financial year 2025/26.

6.2 The funding is awarded by the Home Office for local delivery of 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, PCCs must ensure that organisations do not use the funding for any of the following activities:

- religious activities outside of projects 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, Norfolk Constabulary 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).

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: 01/08/2025

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: 01/08/2025

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.*