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**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

**violence
reduction
unit**

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Supporting Victims Programme 2023 - 2026

Programme Guide and Funding Priorities

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Contents

Section 1: Introduction	1
Section 2: Programme aims	2
Section 3: Funding priorities	3
Section 4: Eligibility and how to apply	5
Section 5: Decision making and assessment criteria	7
Section 6: Grant management	8
Section 7: Key dates and contacts	9

Section 1 - Introduction

Since 2015 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) have been responsible for the provision of key victim services in their local police force area. In Northumbria this includes the local authority areas of Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

In 2015 a comprehensive mapping and consultation exercise was undertaken to identify the needs of victims in Northumbria and the service needed for them to cope in the aftermath of a crime and recover from their experience, this was updated in early 2022 and provides the foundation for the funding priorities in section 3.

Changing landscape

The national picture with regards to funding victim services remains complex and continues to change at a pace. We have seen a reduction in national mainstream budgets for statutory services and we recognise that this has significant ramifications for local budgets and provision, creating financial challenges for local councils and services.

National funding was previously distributed competitively, sporadically and for a maximum of 12 months at a time, putting fragile victim resources at risk. Following sustained campaigning from our office and others, we are pleased that the Ministry of Justice have now committed to a multi-year funding settlement and we will reflect this commitment in our local commissioning.

Services in Northumbria will be grant funded over a multi-year cycle starting from 1st April 2023. We hope that this is a welcome announcement and will help to grow the sector and offer stability.

Over recent years, we have seen a notable increase in the roll out of other national funding streams to support victims of crime. We have been successful (and continue to be successful) in securing the following funding:

- 'Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls and Support Children' (PVSC)¹
- NHS England Supporting Victims of Sexual Assault and Abuse Strategy Fund
- Male Rape Support Fund
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)/Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Fund
- Community Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Fund.

Our aim is to co-ordinate all funding streams to ensure that victims in Northumbria are provided with a choice of high-quality victim services to meet their individual needs.

¹ Previously known as the Children Affected by Domestic Abuse (CADA) fund

Section 2 – Programme aims

We know that victims of crime can be of any age, gender, race or sexual orientation and can be vulnerable due to these characteristics or other factors such as a disability, mental health, religion/belief or the type and nature of the crime committed. Our vision is “to ensure that victims of crime feel confident to seek help and when they do, they are provided with a choice of high-quality support tailored to meet their individual needs”.

We already have a well-established core victim service in Northumbria the Northumbria Victim and Witness Service, that offers initial cope and recovery support to the majority of victims and provides clear pathways to specialist services. The Supporting Victims Programme aims to fund the specialist services that provide a key element of a victims cope and recovery journey.

Through the programme we want to build the capacity and maximise the potential of organisations supporting victims of crime. We are proud of the specialist organisations working in Northumbria to provide emotional, practical and therapeutic services and we want to continue to evolve and enhance that offer for victims in our area.

There is a wealth of knowledge and expertise amongst our victim support sector and when partners come together to provide support we see numerous benefits to victims. We would encourage bidders to explore what other local services exist and how your service can work together to provide the best service to victims.

The Supporting Victims Programme will support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan objective “Improving Lives” and will help to achieve the following:

- All victims have access to a choice of emotional, practical and therapeutic support
- Victims are at the heart of the Criminal Justice System
- Continued investment in specialist services that support vulnerable victims of crime

Section 3 - Funding priorities

Our recent needs assessment helped improve our knowledge of our local victim landscape, as well as identifying the funding priorities and the victim services we require in Northumbria. This, combined with what we already know about our vulnerable victims, has helped us shape the following funding priorities:

Domestic Abuse²

- Specialist community-based, trauma informed emotional, practical and therapeutic support for women and men (separately) of all risk levels; including Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) and/or inter-familial DA.
- Enhanced culturally competent provision that offers trauma informed emotional, practical and therapeutic support for Black and Minority Ethnic victims (including victims of harmful practices, such as Honour Based Violence and Abuse (HBV/A) and Female Genital Mutilation).
- Outreach support for isolated/marginalised victims of domestic abuse, including LGBTQ+, rural, 55+ and those victims/survivors with a disability.

Stalking and Harassment

- Emotional, practical and advocacy support for victims of stalking and harassment.

Sexual Violence

- Specialist, trauma-informed, emotional, practical and therapeutic support for men, women, children and young people and Black and Minority Ethnic victims of sexual violence (recent and historic).
- Specialist support for victims of sexual exploitation.

Violence Against the Person

- Specialist community-based trauma informed emotional, practical and therapeutic support for adult victims (18+) of violence.
- Emotional and practical support for families.

Children and Young People

- Trauma informed emotional, practical, therapeutic and advocacy support for young people who have been victims of various crimes (including violence against the person, hate crime and exploitation).
- Trauma informed support for young victims of exploitation, including but not limited to criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation.

Victims of Hate Crime

- Specialist community-based trauma-informed emotional, practical, advocacy and therapeutic support for victims of all hate crime with a specific focus on race, religion, LGBT and disability.

² Support for children and young people is funded via various other funding streams, including the 'Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls and Support Children' (PVSC).

- Prevention focused work targeting hate crime based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.

Victims with Mental Health needs

- Specialist support for those victims of crime who are vulnerable due to a mental health need.

Victims with Other Vulnerabilities

- Specialist and trauma informed support for adult victims of Modern Day Slavery and other forms of exploitation, including but not limited to: sexual exploitation, trafficking, and labour exploitation.
- Prevention focused work with older people to reduce the anxiety and fear of becoming a victim of crime.
- Specialist Criminal Justice System (CJS) support and practical guidance for all victims of crime, including advice and support on accessing criminal injuries compensation and understand the CJS.
- Specialist support for victims of road crime.

Section 4 – Eligibility and how to apply

Eligibility

Grants are available for organisations providing support to victims of crime. Support should be aimed at helping victims to cope in the aftermath of a crime and to aid their long-term recovery.

Grants cover any costs relating to work which builds the capacity and maximises the potential of organisations working to support victims of crime.

Services must be delivered in the interests of the victim and be:

- Free of charge;
- Confidential;
- Non-discriminatory (including being available to all regardless of residence status, nationality or citizenship);
- Available whether or not a crime has been reported to the police; and
- Available before, during and for an appropriate time after any investigation or criminal proceedings.

Organisations must have one of the following legal statuses:

- Registered charity
- Charitable incorporated organisations
- Community Interest Companies

We are unable to consider funding the following:

- Any party-political activities
- Commercial ventures (for profit)
- Spending that has already taken place (i.e. retrospective funding)
- Individual sponsorship
- Any organisation who are unable to provide any key policies and procedures as outlined below

Other useful information

- Any changes to how money is spent must be agreed with the OPCC in line with the Grant Agreement requirements.
- Successful applicants will usually be paid in two instalments per financial year. Monies will need to be spent within the financial year they are awarded and cannot be carried over to the next financial year.
- Although we are providing multi-year funding commitments (subject to satisfactory performance of the service), multi-year funding will remain dependent on annual and consistent settlements from the government.

How to apply

The application form is accessible via the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner website [here](#). Applications are to be submitted electronically to enquiries@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk ensuring the e-mail subject field clearly states, 'Supporting Victims Programme 2023 – 2026 application form'.

When completing the budget section, you will need to outline all of the individual costs and how you calculated them. Without this level of detail, it is very hard to assess whether the costs are appropriate.

Once you have completed the form you can submit the application alongside copies of your organisations key policies and procedures:

- Set of rules, memorandum of understanding or constitution
- Safeguarding policy/policies
- Most recent signed accounts
- Equality and diversity policy
- Current data protection policy/information security policy

Though organisations are welcome to apply for funding individually, we encourage (informal or formal) partnership bids. Where partnership applications are submitted, please specify a clear lead applicant.

Please note we are unable to consider applications that are submitted after the deadline or those that do not have the relevant supporting documents included. Due to volume of applications we receive, we cannot confirm receipt of applications over the telephone, but we will do so electronically.

Some tips for top applications:

- Make sure to specify which funding priority your service aims to deliver against as this must be clear to enable us to assess your bid under the appropriate theme.
- Make sure that every question has been answered in full.
- Ensure your budget section has a clear breakdown of all the costs associated with your project.
- Ask somebody to read through the application before sending, preferably someone who knows nothing about the project. This is a great way to pick up on any mistakes or lack of information and rectify it before submitting.

Section 5 – Decision making and assessment criteria

All applications will be assessed by the OPCC and where appropriate we will consult with external professionals with specialist knowledge relating to certain funding priorities. All final decisions will be made by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

We will use two broad categories of criteria in assessing bids, these include a showstopper and quality criteria.

Showstopper Criteria

- Ability to spend within each allocated financial year.
- Targeting priority categories of victims as outlined in our grant themes in *Section 3*.
- The funding will be used to support victims of crime to help them cope and recover.

Quality Criteria

If the bid passes the showstopper criteria, then the remaining application will be assessed against the following:

- **Specialist and/or innovative approaches to service provision:** Ensure you have described in your application how elements of your proposed service/project include specialist/innovative approaches.
- **Addressing the categories of need** as outlined in *Section 6*
- **Confidence in capacity to deliver:** Ensure your service has the appropriate resources in place and able to mobilise and deliver within the relevant timeframe, offers value for money, reasonable budget requests and can demonstrate a track record of working with victims.
- **Partnership working:** Demonstrate how your organisation works in partnership with other local services and has established pathways with the core victim service for Northumbria (Northumbria Victim and Witness Service).
- **Equality related considerations:** Ensure your organisation can demonstrate what equality considerations have been made in the development of this bid and if there are any particular equality related issues that you aim to target with the funding.
- **Plans to monitor and measure outcomes:** Your service must detail how you will measure and monitor success, as well as demonstrating what outcomes you expect to achieve as highlighted in *section 6*.

If your bid meets the showstopper criteria we will then look for evidence in the application form to demonstrate each of the quality criteria as outlined above and will score applications accordingly on a scale from 'no evidence' to 'strong evidence'.

Section 6 – Grant management

Monitoring and reporting

For those successful applicants, quarterly performance reports will be expected throughout the year, which allow us to monitor each grant and ensure funds are being spent for their intended purpose. We will also hold quarterly grant surgeries where we will discuss your progress against output and outcomes, key highlights, challenges and plans for the future.

In addition to quarterly reporting, bi-annual monitoring performance data submissions are required at the mid-year and end of year point – this is national victim services monitoring set by the government.

All information collected will be shared with the Ministry of Justice as the key funder.

Demonstrating impact

Demonstrating the impact of the grant and the outcomes victims have experienced as a result of your support are very important.

When capturing the impact of your service please consider the following categories of victim need:

- Education, skills and employment
- Finance and benefits
- Outlook and attitudes
- Wellbeing including mental and physical health
- Drugs and alcohol
- Social interaction and reintegration
- Family, friends and children
- Shelter and accommodation
- Criminal justice system experience
- Safety and perceived safety

We also need to understand how your service has impacted on the core outcomes for victims outlined in the cross-government Victims Funding Strategy:

- Coped and built resilience to move forward with daily life
- Feeling more informed
- Received all the support they needed when they wanted it
- Increased engagement with the criminal justice system (if applicable)

The Victims Funding Strategy includes more information on these core outcomes and suggestions on how they can be measured. The Victims Funding Strategy can be accessed [here](#).

Section 7 – Key dates and contacts

Key dates

There are a range of key dates that we want to share with you so you can plan your application and if successful you can start to prepare for the future.

- 27.09.22 – Supporting Victims Programme launch
- 09.11.22 - deadline for completed applications, including all supporting documents
- 09.11.22 onwards – assessment and consultation with key partner
- 16.12.22 – key decisions and informing successful applicants
- 01.04.23 – all services live and fully accessible

Contact us...

Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

- If you have any queries about your proposal prior to making an application
- If you need help with completing the form or
- If you have problems with providing the supporting documents.

If you need to get in touch, please contact holly.thornton@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk or dean.taylor@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk.