

**NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER****Key Decision**

**Title and Reference: Violence Reduction Unit Procurement Plan**

**(PCC/731/2026)**

**Summary**

This paper seeks approval from to proceed with direct award arrangements under the provisions of the Procurement Act 2023 for the following three interventions:

- YOLO Programme,
- Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA)
- Safe Return

Each of the interventions represent specialist services that play a critical role in addressing serious violence, early intervention, and safeguarding priorities across the Northumbria Police Force Area.

While funding levels are expected to be similar to the previous financial year, final confirmation of budgets has not yet been received. Approval is therefore being sought for a direct award for the three projects. This request is based on the demonstrable impact delivered to date, as well as the significant risk to delivery and outcomes that would arise from stopping and subsequently restarting these projects should procurement be delayed until the end of the financial year.

The proposed approach aligns with the flexibility afforded by Sections 41–43 of the Act, which enable direct awards for social and community-based services where there is clear evidence of specialist provision, continuity of outcomes, and user choice. Proceeding with direct awards will ensure uninterrupted delivery, preserve established partnerships, and sustain momentum on key priorities outlined in the Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit Response Strategy.

Failure to approve these direct awards would risk disruption to critical services, undermine established partnerships and delay the delivery of interventions that contribute to national learning in violence prevention.

**Recommendation/Findings:**

1. Approve the direct award of contracts for the YOLO Programme, Drug Testing on Arrest, and Safe Return interventions under the relevant provisions of the Procurement Act 2023.
2. Endorse the governance, risk management, and performance monitoring arrangements set out in this paper.
3. Note the timetable for contract award and service mobilisation commencing on 1 April 2026.

**Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner**



**Signature**

**Date 12/2/2026**