

## Specialist Domestic Abuse Group Work – Community Grant Round

### Guidance for Applicants

#### Funding Context

This funding opportunity has been created by Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston (“the Commissioner”) to ‘ensure victims can access support services which offer a bespoke response to individual needs’. This is one of a number of priorities in the [Supporting Victims and Witnesses pillar](#) in the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan.

It aims to respond to feedback from victims/survivors and providers that there is an inequitable provision of face-to-face community-based specialist domestic abuse group work available across the county.

Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for commissioning support services for all victims and witnesses of crime, who live in the county, and are given a grant from the Ministry of Justice (“MoJ”) to facilitate this.

The Commissioner’s [Commissioning and Grants Strategy](#) sets out the approach and key actions taken to award funding and this process has been designed in line with that strategy. A [Pre-Procurement Notice \(PPN\)](#) was published on 17 December 2025 to transparently advertise this process.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“OPCC”) on behalf of the Commissioner has worked in partnership with the two local authorities trying to deliver the same outcomes. This has led to a co-commissioning arrangement with Cambridgeshire County Council contributing to the pooled budget – accordingly the budget available in the five districts of Cambridgeshire will be slightly higher. Funding will be allocated for a two-year period (**1 April 2026 – 31 March 2028**) which passes on the MoJ’s multi-year commitment.

## Funding Purpose

This funding opportunity aims to expand in the availability of **specialist face-to-face place-based group work** for domestic abuse\* (“DA”) victims/survivors in each of the six county district areas in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

*\*DA encompassing all forms across physical, psychological, economic and so-called honour-based abuse, as well as behaviours of coercive control, stalking and harassment.*

It is open to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough community-based non-statutory providers who are either already delivering specialist support to victims/survivors of domestic abuse in the county or who can demonstrate previous knowledge and experience in working with victims/survivors of domestic abuse. Bids will be accepted from single organisations or consortiums.

The group work should:

- Provide greater access to specialist domestic abuse support for victims/survivors of any gender aged 18 and over (*or from age 16 where victims/survivors are/have been in an intimate relationship with their abuser*)
- Be delivered in the communities in which victims/survivors live (or as close as is feasible) reducing geographical barriers to accessing support
- Contribute to helping victims/survivors cope and build resilience that enables them to move forward with daily life following their experience. (This is the core outcome on the [Cambridgeshire Victim Services Outcome Framework](#))
- Be facilitated by trained and experienced staff
- Be free to attend
- Be widely advertised

Providers can bid to facilitate time-limited named structured and/or unstructured group sessions (e.g. *Freedom Programme, Own My Life, drop-ins, creative activities etc*). The outcome should be to create an environment that encourages the development of local informal peer support groups to provide informal emotional and practical support when formal sessions end. Services should ideally be co-designed with victims/survivors and be flexible and responsive, adapting to their needs and wishes.

Providers will be asked to link with the local Community Safety Partnership in the district they wish to deliver in to explore the provision of free venues, resources and support.

## Budget Envelope

The total funding being made available for the two-year funding opportunity (01 April 2026 – 31 March 2028) is **£300,000** apportioned into district-lots.

Lot	District Area	Budget envelope – Year 1	Budget envelope – Year 2	Budget envelope Total
1	Peterborough	£20,000	£20,000	£40,000
2	Cambridge City	£26,000	£26,000	£52,000
3	East Cambridgeshire	£26,000	£26,000	£52,000
4	South Cambridgeshire	£26,000	£26,000	£52,000
5	Huntingdonshire	£26,000	£26,000	£52,000
6	Fenland	£26,000	£26,000	£52,000

Providers can bid for multiple lots (to a maximum of three) where they can demonstrate the ability to enable the delivery of place-based specialist domestic abuse group work support, but each organisation may only submit one bid.

## Mobilisation Funding

The Commissioner has ringfenced an additional £25,000 in 2025/26 as a mobilisation funding pot to ensure services can start on April 1, 2026. This nonrecurrent funding will be prioritised for providers bidding to deliver in district(s) with no existing specialist domestic abuse group work footprint – such as towns in Fenland or East Cambridgeshire.

Providers bidding to deliver in such areas are asked to include proposed details of mobilisation activities and costs, which could be utilised within Q4, to enable the start date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. This could include securing community venues, where these are not available free through local Community Safety Partnership contacts, or resources. It is not intended that the £25,000 is used in a single area but serves to meet mobilisation costs for all/any providers who can demonstrate effective use of the funds.

## **Exclusions**

**The ‘Specialist Domestic Abuse Group Work – Community Grant Round Funding’ cannot be used for:**

- Delivery of group work to victims of crime types other than domestic abuse.
- Therapeutic or counselling services.
- Provision of one-to-one emotional and practical support. This funding opportunity is not designed to duplicate the provision of services already commissioned within the county.

## **The Bid Process**

Providers are asked to complete a short application form which provides details of:

- The area(s) in which they are bidding to deliver
- The skills, local knowledge and experience of their organisation, and staff, to deliver such support. (Where consortia bids are being submitted this question should be answered for all members.)
- The proposed model of delivery and how it will improve access to support
- How they plan to evaluate the delivery of the sessions to meet the intended outcome of ‘Coped and built resilience to move forward with daily life’
- A mobilisation plan – including any bids for mobilisation funding
- A two-year budget – costs can include staffing, venue hire (where no free venues are available), resources, refreshments and reasonable and proportionate travel expenses for victims/survivors.

## Timeline

<b>Application deadline</b> – all applications to be submitted to the <a href="mailto:Cambs-pcc@cambs.police.uk">Cambs-pcc@cambs.police.uk</a> mailbox	<b>Monday 26 January 2026 at 5pm</b>
<b>Review</b> - Applications will be checked for eligibility against the criteria set out in this document by OPCC staff and colleagues from Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council Domestic Abuse Partnerships.	<b>From Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30 January 2026</b>
<b>Approval</b> - Eligible applications will be taken to the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Commissioning and Grants Monthly meeting for a final decision.	<b>Monday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>
<b>Notification</b> – Providers will be notified of decisions.	<b>Wednesday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>
<b>Mobilisation period</b> – Due diligence checks will be carried out in advance of funding agreements being prepared and distributed. The funding agreements set out the monitoring arrangements.	<b>February 16<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2026</b>
<b>New services start</b>	<b>Early April 2026 – after Easter Holidays</b>

## Monitoring arrangements

Providers will be required to operate within the [Cambridgeshire Victim Services Outcome Framework](#) and evidence how victims/survivors have been provided with support which has enabled them to meet the outcome of: ‘**Coped and built resilience to move forward with daily life**’.

This will include capturing details of the number of victims who engaged, and their emotional distance travelled through group attendance as it will contextualise both the individual and group achievements.

Providers will be required to:

- Submit monthly headline data.
- Complete a six-monthly outcome and financial monitoring return – this is a condition of the MoJ Grant Agreement and the OPCC has no control over these requirements.
- Attend six monthly Outcome Monitoring meetings (either on Teams or Face to face at a mutually agreed location).
- Provide documentation to enable the appropriate due diligence checks to be completed pre award.

## Funding Conditions

- The award of funding is subject to the provider passing due diligence checks and signing a funding agreement.
- The OPCC, on behalf of the Commissioner, reserves the right not to award funding to an organisation if there are concerns about their financial situation or ability to deliver their proposed project.
- All funding must be spent in each respective financial year - any funding not spent within each year will need to be returned to the OPCC.
- This funding opportunity ends on March 31, 2028.