



CURV KNIFE CRIME ACTION FUND

Introduction

The Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) is committed to tackling knife and weapon-enabled crime, particularly among young people. CURV will lead efforts to reduce the harm and devastation caused by knife crime through a comprehensive Knife Crime Action Plan. This plan adopts a multi-agency approach and is delivered in partnership with organisations across Cleveland. It focuses on four key areas:

- **Prevention** – Raising awareness and reducing risk factors through education and outreach
- **Early Intervention** – Identifying and supporting young people before issues escalate
- **Community Action** – Empowering local communities to take the lead in tackling violence
- **Building Tomorrow** – Creating long-term opportunities and support systems to sustain change

Together, these efforts aim to reduce knife crime by addressing its root causes, supporting those at risk, and creating safer communities.

Background

CURV has taken a proactive approach to reducing knife crime by funding and supporting a wide range of interventions over the years that educate and engage young people. These efforts aim to raise awareness of the dangers of knife crime, promote safer decision-making, and involve communities in prevention.

This year, CURV has also introduced a new online resource page to support schools, parents, and communities with educational materials and practical tools to raise awareness and drive early prevention.

To deliver on the Knife Crime Action Plan, CURV is now launching a round of funding aimed specifically at supporting innovative, targeted activity that addresses knife crime across Cleveland. A total budget of **£80,000** has been allocated.

Local Area Context

Cleveland continues to report one of the highest rates of knife crime in England and Wales, making this a key area of concern. Despite this, there has been encouraging progress. In 2024, the number of young people (aged 24 and under) involved in knife crime fell by **12%**, from **305 in 2023 to 268**. This reduction reflects the positive impact of enforcement, education, and strong community involvement.



However, Cleveland still experiences high rates of hospital admissions due to assaults with sharp objects, and youth violence remains a significant concern. These local challenges highlight the urgent need for continued, coordinated action to prevent violence and protect young people across the region.

Guidance Notes

The **CURV Knife Crime Action Fund** supports local charitable and voluntary sector organisations to deliver impactful, community-based interventions aimed at reducing knife crime across Cleveland.

We are inviting applications for **grants ranging from £5,000 to a maximum of £25,000 per project**. Funded projects should begin delivery in **July 2025** and **must** be completed by **31 March 2026**.

This funding opportunity is designed to help local organisations reduce knife crime amongst young people. We welcome a wide range of community based proposals that contribute to at least one of the following aims:

- **Raising awareness** of the consequences of carrying or using a knife
- **Empowering young people** to make safer, more informed choices
- **Equipping young people** with the knowledge and confidence to act if they know someone is carrying a knife
- **Support for parents and families** to strengthen relationships, improve communication, and increase awareness of the risks associated with knife crime

Applicants do not need to address all 4 aims – please focus on the area(s) where your organisation can make the most meaningful impact. The detailed expected outcomes under each funding theme (Education, Diversionary Activities, Parent & Family support) are provided later in this guidance. These outcomes are designed to help you shape your proposals and clearly demonstrate the difference your work will make.

Scope and Flexibility

We are inviting proposals that respond to the priority areas listed below. As noted above you do not need to address every aim or priority area listed, focus on what your organisation is best placed to deliver and clearly outline the outcomes your work will achieve.

This fund encourages applicants to be **adaptable, flexible** and responsive to the **changing nature of knife crime and serious youth violence**. This may include:

- Supporting community events or awareness campaigns
- Being available to provide immediate, on-the-ground support during critical incidents, where appropriate, by delivering or contributing to interventions at short notice



- Responding to emerging local needs or trends

Priority Areas for Funding

Applicants are invited to submit proposals under one or more of the following themes:

1. Education-based knife crime awareness (schools & colleges)

Applications are sought for school-based knife crime reduction activities that provide classroom or assembly sessions for children aged **10–18 (Years 5 – 13)**. These sessions should support schools with their **PSHE or Citizenship** programmes and contribute to the outcomes listed below.

Applicants should be able deliver **age-appropriate, trauma-informed sessions** in schools and colleges that help young people understand the consequences of carrying knives and support them in making safer choices. We are seeking delivery partners who can engage effectively with diverse age groups in a manner that is respectful, relevant, and safe. This includes providing tailored lessons, resources, and discussions that promote informed decision-making. Given the sensitivity of this topic, especially with younger children, a tiered, trauma-informed approach is expected to ensure content is delivered appropriately.

Proposals that demonstrate prior engagement or support from schools and education partners will be considered more favourably, as this helps ensure effective delivery and access to pupils. If possible please include any letters of support, emails of interest or examples of previous work with schools.

Successful applicants should also demonstrate where possible how their provision can link with local **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** programmes to deliver knife crime reduction activities to children and young people. Delivery to schools and neighbouring HAF programmes across the boroughs would be welcomed.

Preference will be given to applicants who prioritise delivery in the following catchment areas, which align with Cleveland Police Serious Violence hotspot locations:

Area	Wards/Localities
Middlesbrough	Central, Newport, North Ormesby, Park, Hemlington, Brambles and Thorntree, Longlands and Beechwood
Redcar & Cleveland	Grangetown, Eston, Dormanstown
Stockton	Stockton Town Centre, Ropner, Norton North, Mandale & Victoria
Hartlepool	Foggy Furze, Headland & Harbour, Victoria

What we are looking for:

- Engaging and age-specific content (e.g. Primary (Years 5–6), secondary, college-age)



- Delivered by trusted, trained professionals
- Interactive formats (workshops, role play, scenarios)
- Sessions focused on real-life choices, consequences, and decision-making
- Consideration of lived experience delivery from victims and offenders
- Ability to operate across the Cleveland area and in the targeted hotspot areas listed above
- Proposals with school or education partner support

Expected outcomes (*please consider these when preparing your application*):

- Increased awareness of knife-related harm
- Improved confidence in making safe choices
- Improved access to support
- Behavioural change (pre- and post-intervention)
- Positive feedback from young people and staff
- Reduced knife-related incidents
- Understanding of the law around knife crime and serious violence

2. Diversionary Activities

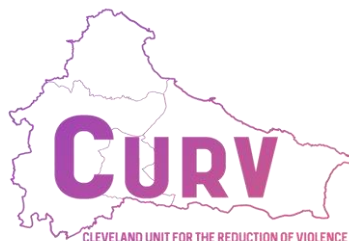
We are looking to fund **accessible, engaging activities** that help **prevent young people and young adults from becoming involved in violence or criminal activity by promoting positive choices**. These activities should provide **constructive alternatives**—such as **sport, music, drama, or art**, that support participants to:

- Build practical and social skills
- Develop trusted, supportive relationships with peers and adults
- Develop a strong sense of identity, purpose, and belonging

Successful applicants should also demonstrate where possible how their provision can link with local **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** programmes to deliver knife crime reduction activities to children and young people. Delivery to schools and neighbouring HAF programmes across the boroughs would be welcomed.

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What we are looking for:

- Activities such as **sport, music, art, drama**, or **outdoor adventure**
- **Regular, structured programmes** (not one-off events)
- **Clear referral routes** from schools, youth workers or police
- **Informal drop-in sessions** as part of a broader intervention
- **Safe, inclusive spaces** with strong, supportive role models
- Inclusion of lived experience, for e.g. from victims or offenders, where it strengthens the relevance or impact of the activity

Expected Outcomes: *(please consider these when preparing your application)*

- Increased engagement and sustained participation
- Reduced involvement in risk-taking or harmful behaviours
- Improved wellbeing, confidence, and personal development

3. Parent & Family Support

We are looking to fund **targeted, practical support for parents and families** to help reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in knife crime. This support should strengthen family relationships, build parental confidence, and increase awareness of the risks associated with youth violence.

Preference will be given to applicants who prioritise delivery in the following catchment areas, which align with Cleveland Police Serious Violence hotspot locations:

Area	Wards/Localities
Middlesbrough	Central, Newport, North Ormesby, Park, Hemlington, Brambles and Thorntree, Longlands and Beechwood
Redcar & Cleveland	Grangetown, Eston, Dormanstown
Stockton	Stockton Town Centre, Ropner, Norton North, Mandale & Victoria
Hartlepool	Foggy Furze, Headland & Harbour, Victoria

What we are looking for:

- **1:1 or outreach-based family support** for households already showing signs of risk (e.g. school exclusions, police contact)
- **Skills-based parenting sessions** focused on setting boundaries, managing behaviour, and recognising early warning signs
- **Support to rebuild parent-child relationships**, especially where trust has broken down or conflict is escalating
- **Informal, local drop-ins or advice hubs** in areas with high levels of youth violence
- **Peer support or mentoring for parents**, particularly from those with lived experience



We welcome creative and community-led approaches. While not all proposals need to meet every point below, we are particularly interested in those that are:

- Practical and measurable
- Focused on improving family safety and resilience
- Connected to existing referral pathways (e.g. schools, prevention panels), while also exploring new routes to reach families not currently engaged

Expected Outcomes: (please consider these when preparing your application):

- Stronger parent–child relationships
- Increased parental confidence and improved communication
- Better overall family wellbeing
- Greater engagement with support services
- Increased confidence in using reporting mechanisms
- Improved awareness of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Funding and Delivery

- **Total available per project:** Minimum of **£5,000** and upto a maximum of **£25,000**
- **Delivery period:** Delivery must commence in **July 2025** and projects must run upto **31st March 2026**
- **Joint bids or partnerships** are welcome, where appropriate
- Projects must demonstrate **value for money**

What We Expect from Delivery Partners

- A clear delivery plan with realistic timelines and measurable outcomes
- Experience working with at-risk young people and/or communities
- Ability to operate safely and effectively in local settings
- Monitoring and evaluation, including both qualitative and quantitative data
- Describe how you plan to monitor your intervention, including any qualitative or quantitative data you intend to collect. (Note: You are not expected to conduct a formal evaluation.)
- Willingness to adapt delivery based on local needs, feedback or hotspot data

Who Can Apply

The main aim of the fund is to support local projects delivered by charitable/voluntary community sector organisations (VSO) that solely benefit the communities of Cleveland, this includes:



- Any **individual charity/voluntary community sector organisation (VSO)** who is working to improve the lives of people in the Cleveland Police area.
- Any **charitable/ voluntary community sector** organisation working/operating in the Cleveland Police area.
- Any organisation, sole trader, or limited company that is working in formal collaboration with a **charity or voluntary sector organisation**, with the **charity/VSO acting as the lead partner**.

We Cannot Fund

- Limited organisations (please see note in previous section)
- Recurring or core organisational costs
- Political or campaigning activities
- Large-scale projects where a small grant would have limited impact
- Individuals or unconstituted groups

To apply

To apply for the funding, it is important that you have considered some basics. These include the following:

- Are you a registered charity?
- Are you a voluntary community sector organisation?
- Has the project been funded previously by the PCC?
- How will your project address the requirements set out in the specification?
- What is the money for and how have you estimated the costs?
- What impact do you believe the intervention will make to the targeted cohort and how will you know that it has worked?
- How long will it take to implement and is everything and everyone ready to start?
- Who will be responsible for managing the money and how will you account for it?
- Is there anything that might stop the project from being successful that you think is important for us to know?
- Has your intervention been previously evaluated, and would you be prepared for an impact evaluation?

To submit an application please complete the fund application form that can be found on the PCC website. All of the above needs to be detailed in your application.

Completed applications can be emailed or posted.

Email to: pcc.office@cleveland.police.uk
Post to: Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
c/o St Marks House
St Marks Court
Thornaby
Stockton-On-Tees



TS17 6QW

Enquiries should be emailed to the address above or contact the OPCC on 01642 306619.

Need Help Applying?

We understand that applying for funding can be challenging, especially for smaller or grassroots groups. While our internal capacity to provide support is limited, we will do our best to assist you with the application process where possible.

We also encourage you to reach out to your **local Voluntary Development Agency (VDA)** for additional support. They can offer guidance on completing applications, developing project plans, and accessing useful templates and resources. Please see contact details listed below:

- **MVDA (Middlesbrough VDA)**
Tel: 01642 249300
Email: general@mvdauk.org.uk
Facebook: MVDA @mvdamiddlesbrough
X (formerly Twitter): @MVDAnews
- **RCVDA (Redcar & Cleveland VDA)**
Tel: 01642 440571
Email: enquiries@rcvda.org.uk
- **Catalyst (Stockton)**
Tel: 01642 733906
Email: enquiries@catalyststockton.org

These agencies can provide guidance and support throughout the application process.

Funding Timeline

	Date
Fund Launches	Friday 23 rd May 2025
Deadline for applications	Friday 13 th June 2025 midday (12:00pm) NB: applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered
Application Review Period	16 th – 20 th June 2025
Successful applicants confirmed	Week Commencing 23 rd June 2025



Decision Making Process

All applications will be assessed by a small panel. Where appropriate OPCC/CURV may consult with other specialist or technical professionals depending on the content of your application. All decisions will be made by the panel. The panel will meet between 16th – 20th June to review applications – where possible any clarifications will be requested on the same day to enable final decisions to be communicated by no later than week commencing 23rd June with delivery to begin July 2025.

Your support with a swift reply to any clarifications would be greatly appreciated.

Successful applications

A few things you need to prepare for:

1. We may make ethical assurance checks, particularly in relation to larger projects and initiatives. You may be asked to consent to us making enquiries with the police or regulatory bodies, for example or provide copies of your insurance certificates.
2. Payment will normally be made by electronic bank payment (BACS) which will be payable to the named organisation or if not a formal organisation, to the lead applicant, as soon as practicable.
3. You will need to acknowledge receipt of the money and agree any terms and conditions.
4. Depending on the type of funding you receive you may be required to sign a grant agreement.
5. You will need to provide feedback or progress reports on your initiative. The larger the award the larger the monitoring processes required.
6. Any changes to how money is spent **must** be agreed with the PCC using a change management form.
7. Based on your application, you should be able to confirm the best way to show how successful your project has been e.g. what will be the difference between now and after the money has been spent on your project.
8. Once the initiative or project is completed, within 28 days you will need to provide a report outlining the benefits that were achieved, and the impact it has had on the community.
9. All grant recipients should acknowledge the support of the PCC and use the PCC and CURV logo when producing any form of promotional or publicity material, including your website, press release, leaflets and reports.
10. Applicants need to be aware that payment terms will be made quarterly (3 months) in arrears.
11. Applicants need to be aware that credit checks will be undertaken.

Please note the PCC is lawfully obliged to carry out regular audits on all of its grant recipients, and all individuals / organisations are selected at random. All recipients and/or evidence of expenditure must be recorded for these purposes and presented in the event of an audit.

Thank you for your interest in the CURV Knife Crime Action Fund. We value the work being done across our communities and appreciate the time you have taken to apply.
