



Victims Funding Allocations to March 2028

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to support the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in making an informed decision in relation to the allocation of Community Safety and Victims Funding up to March 2028.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to support the content of this report.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The PCC for Cleveland receives two grant agreements from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) as described below:
- Formula Based Grant (Core Funding)
 - General Grant for Domestic Abuse (DA) / Sexual Violence (SV) (Ring fenced for DA/SV services only)
- 3.2 The funding must be used to commission and support localised services that help victims of crime (and anti-social behaviour¹) to cope and recover from the impact of the harm they have experienced.
- 3.3 Alongside funding received from the MoJ, the PCC allocates additional funding to victim support services through the Community Safety Fund (which comes from the Home Office Policing Grant). This fund also supports broader community safety and criminal justice activities.
- 3.4 In December 2025, the Policing Minister spoke in the House of Commons to announce proposed funding settlements for police forces in England and Wales. It was immediately apparent that the Cleveland Police Area received the lowest funding increase in the country, at just 3.3%.
- 3.5 At the time the PCC expressed his disappointment with the settlement and wrote to ministers on three occasions to seek urgent clarity on how the decision had been reached. A limited response was received.

¹ Ministry of Justice (MoJ) funding is for victims of crime only. The PCC provides additional funding from the Community Safety Fund to also ensure support for victims of anti-social behaviour.

- 3.6 In addition to the policing settlement the PCC has previously made ongoing representations due to the unfair nature of how victim services funding is allocated – based on population levels as opposed to need and demand.
- 3.7 In January 2026, the PCC wrote to Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives to outline the impact of the settlement which included a £2.4 million short fall for 2026/27 – the equivalent of around 40 police officers. In addition, he highlighted that reductions in funding for services operating in their local authority areas may also be required.

4.0 Current Victims Service Provision (previously approved by the PCC)

- 4.1 In January 2026, the PCC approved a decision ([Decision Reference 2025/2026 -026](#)) to extend the existing DA and SV Support Services funding arrangements (across both grant programmes) for a further six-month period - from 1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026.
- 4.2 This decision was taken in response to delays in the MoJ confirming funding allocations to PCCs for 2026/27 onwards, alongside the Government's commitment to introducing multi-year funding arrangements covering both the 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years.
- 4.3 The extension provided essential short-term stability for commissioned services whilst the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) undertook a comprehensive review of current and emerging needs. The findings from this work have informed the proposed future funding arrangements outlined in this report, enabling DA and SV services to be commissioned for an extended period of 18 months from 1 October 2026.
- 4.4 This approach directly responds to feedback from providers regarding the challenges and instability associated with short-term funding arrangements. Whilst a more extended commissioning period would be preferable and provide greater certainty for the sector, this is not currently feasible due to ongoing uncertainty around MoJ funding allocations beyond March 2028, alongside the planned abolition of PCCs in May 2028. The proposed 18-month term therefore seeks to balance sector concerns around sustainability and workforce retention, with the need to manage future financial and governance uncertainties.
- 4.5 Table 1 below sets out the current funding allocations previously agreed by the PCC for victim services – funded through the **Formula Based Grant (Core**

Funding). As shown, although funding for many of these services has only been confirmed until September 2026, the total allocation currently exceeds the funding provided by the MoJ by **£304,270.95**.

Table 1:				
Formula Based Grant (Core Funding) – 2026/27 allocation £641,836.21				
Service	Provider	Amount Awarded	End Date	Notes
Victim Referral Service (Victim Care and Advice Service)	Safer Communities	£508,000	March 2027	<u>Decision Reference 2025/26 – 024</u> Re-commissioning to take place during 2026/27 with new joint Victim Referral and Restorative Cleveland Service commencing delivery from 1 April 2027. A proportion of this budget needs to come from Community Safety Fund as MoJ only provides funding for victims of crime (our provision also includes victims of anti-social behaviour).
Restorative Justice Service (Restorative Cleveland)	Safer Communities	£108,257	March 2027	<u>Decision Reference 2025/26 – 024</u> Re-commissioning to take place during 2026/27 with new joint Victim Referral and Restorative Cleveland Service commencing delivery from 1 April 2027 (as above).
X1 Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) in each local authority area (Hartlepool, Redcar and Stockton)	Harbour Support Services (aligned to Local Authority Domestic Abuse Commissioned Services)	£52,500	Sept 2026	<u>Decision Reference 2025/2026 - 026</u>
X1 IDVA in Middlesbrough	My Sisters Place (aligned to Local Authority)	£17,500	Sept 2026	<u>Decision Reference 2025/2026 - 026</u>

	Domestic Abuse Commissioned Service)			
Tees-Wide Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service	Arch Teesside	£131,439.16	Current service delivered by Arch ends in Sept 2026 with new service commencing from 1 Oct 2026	Decision 2025/2026 - 026 The service has recently been through a procurement process as per Decision 2026/27 - 007. The annual budget takes into account the first 6 months of delivery from Arch and 6 months of delivery under the new contract.
Sexual Assault Referral Centre	Mountain Healthcare	£128,411 (to March 2026)	March 2030	This service is jointly commissioned across a North East footprint with NHS England as the lead commissioner and the three North East PCCs acting and contributing commissioners. A new contract with Mountain Healthcare commenced on 1 April 2026 for up to a 4 year period.
Total		£946,107.16		

4.6 Table 2 below outlines the current allocations agreed through the **General Grant for DA and SV services**. As illustrated, all services funded through this grant are currently funded until September 2026, leaving **£458,330.36** remaining for allocation for the outstanding six months of the financial year (October 2026 to March 2027).

Table Two:				
General Grant for DA and SV services – 2026/27 allocation £898,332.86				
Service	Provider	Amount Awarded	End Date	Notes
DA Support Provision	Harbour Support Services	£143,979	Sept 2026	Decision 2025/2026 - 026

	(Hartlepool, Redcar and Stockton)			
DA Support Provision	My Sisters Place (Middlesbrough)	£88,735	Sept 2026	Decision Reference 2025/2026 - 026
DA Support Provision	Eva Women's Aid (Redcar)	£33,250	Sept 2026	
Tees-wide ISVA Service	Arch Teesside	£97,500	Current service delivered by Arch ends in Sept 2026 following procurement process new service commences from 1 Oct 2026	Decision Reference 2025/2026 - 026 The service has recently been through a procurement process as per Decision Reference 2026/27 - 007 . The annual budget takes into account the first 6 months of delivery from Arch and 6 months of delivery under the new contract.
Cleveland Stalking Advocacy Service	Suzy Lamplugh Trust	£47,986	Sept 2026	Decision Reference 2025/2026 - 026
BAME Service Provision	Halo Project (Cleveland)	£13,500	Sept 2026	Decision Reference 2025/2026 - 026
VAWG Exploitation Service	A Way Out (Cleveland)	£15,052.50	Sept 2026	Decision Reference 2025/2026 - 026
Total		£440,002.50		

5.0 Challenges

- 5.1 As outlined in the approved 2026/27 budget and associated papers ([Decision Reference 2025/26-034](#)), savings of £384,000 were required from the Community Safety and Victims & Witness Fund during 2026/27. While these reductions did not have a direct impact on victim services, further savings (of approx. £250,000) are required to be made during 2027/28.

- 5.2 As highlighted in paragraph 3.5, the PCC currently invests in victim services at a level that exceeds the funding received from the MoJ. As a result, future commissioning decisions will need to focus available resources on statutory responsibilities and areas of greatest identified need and demand. In addition, savings will need to be delivered across broader community safety and criminal justice programmes.
- 5.3 At the same time, demand for services continues to increase, with individuals increasingly presenting with more complex needs, multiple disadvantages, higher levels of risk and harm, and requiring longer periods of support and engagement. These factors are placing growing pressures on commissioned services and reinforcing the importance of ensuring that available funding is targeted towards those areas where it can have the greatest impact.
- 5.4 Further key findings and supporting information can be found within the review referenced at point 6.1 below. The assessment fully supports the need for the PCCs Fairer Funding Campaign:

[Fairer Funding, Safer Cleveland - Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner](#)

- 5.5 As part of this campaign, local service delivery partners have been kept abreast of the funding landscape and the need to strategically re-allocate/re-align funding activity. As part of this the OPCC has and will continue to explore opportunities for stronger partnership working and co-commissioning.

6.0 Funding Recommendations - General Grant for DA and SV services (October 2026 to March 2027)

- 6.1 To support the funding recommendations set out in this report, below are evidence-based assessments of current VAWG funded provision.

[VAWG Needs Assessment 2025 26](#)

[VAWG Commissioning Review Report June 2026.docx](#)

- 6.2 As per paragraph 3.6, there is **£458,330.36** currently unallocated from the **General Grant for DA and SV services** for October 2026 – March 2027. Based on the assessments (above) it is recommended the remaining funding be allocated as per table three below:

Table Three:			
General Grant for DA and SV services – 1 October 2026 – 31 March 2027			
Service	Provider	Allocation	Notes
VAWG Service (Cleveland Wide)	A Way Out	£16,250 +£1,197.50 more than April to Sept	

BAME Service Provision (Cleveland Wide)	Halo	£15,000 +£1,500 more than April to Sept	
Cleveland Stalking Advocacy Service (Cleveland Wide)	Suzy Lamplugh Trust	£48,000 +£14 more than April to Sept	
Arch Teesside (Cleveland Wide)	ISVA Service	£97,500 Same levels as previous 6 months	Outcome of commissioning process to be announced imminently
DA Support (Redcar)	Eva Women's Aid	£35,000 +£1,750 more than April to Sept	Includes Therapeutic Provision – however it is recommended this does not continue into 2027/28
DA Support (Middlesbrough)	My Sisters Place	£76,583.30 - £12,151.70 less than April to Sept	Provision must include Cleveland Wide DA Worker post based in Cleveland Police Control Room
DA Support (Hartlepool, Redcar and Stockton)	Harbour	£169,997.06 +£26,018.06 more than April to Sept	Provision must include a Cleveland Wide post based in Teesside Magistrates Court
Total		£458,330.36	

6.3 The above allocations are based on maintaining and prioritising the Cleveland-wide specialist posts, including a DA Worker based within the Cleveland Police Control Room and the IDVA based at Teesside Crown Court. They also seek to



complement and add value to existing local authority commissioned provision currently delivered by Harbour and My Sisters Place².

- 6.4 Funding allocations aligned to Local Authority arrangements (after Cleveland wide posts are funded) have been determined using 2025/26 police data relating to the number of high-risk domestic abuse victims within each local authority area. The resulting allocation by local authority is as follows:
- **Hartlepool** – 21%
 - **Middlesbrough** – 29%
 - **Stockton-on-Tees** – 32%
 - **Redcar and Cleveland** – 18%
- 6.5 This approach ensures allocations have been made with a clear evidence base and rationale and ensures funding is distributed proportionately based on identified demand and levels of risk across the Cleveland area.
- 6.6 In line with the findings of the needs assessment, it is recommended that funding allocated to Harbour and My Sisters Place is prioritised towards IDVA provision. IDVA services play a critical role in supporting high-risk victims of domestic abuse, managing risk, coordinating safeguarding measures, and assisting victims throughout criminal justice proceedings.
- 6.7 As a consequence of this prioritisation, some place-based provision currently funded through these allocations, including Hospital Domestic Abuse Workers and Mental Health Domestic Abuse Workers, will cease. Strategic and delivery partners were made aware of the potential need for these changes when funding was approved for the initial period from April to September 2026, and the short-term arrangements were implemented with the understanding that future funding decisions would be informed by the outcome of the needs assessment and funding review process.
- 6.8 Although EVA is not the commissioned domestic abuse provider for the Redcar and Cleveland area, it is recommended that funding continues to be allocated to the organisation in recognition of its strong local profile, established reputation, and demonstrable demand for its services. This is evidenced by existing referral volumes and the support currently being provided to victims within the locality.
- 6.9 To ensure equity and transparency in the distribution of funding, the costs associated with the proposed IDVA provision delivered by EVA have been met

² Middlesbrough are re-procuring their DA service.

from within the 18% allocation attributable to the Redcar and Cleveland area. This approach recognises local service demand while maintaining consistency with the agreed allocation methodology.

7.0 Funding Recommendations - Formula Based Grant (Core Funding) – (October 2026 – March 2027)

- 7.1 To support the funding recommendations below evidence-based assessments of current VAWG, Victim Referral and Restorative Justice funded provision has been undertaken. These can be accessed via the below links:

[VAWG Needs Assessment 2025 26](#)

[Victim Support Service Review](#)

- 7.2 Utilising the assessments outlined above, **Table 4** sets out the recommended allocations for the **Formula-Based Grant (Core Funding)**.
- 7.3 A number of the services funded through this grant have already received confirmed funding for the 2026/27 financial year; where this applies they are excluded from this table. The table therefore focusses on those allocations requiring approval to ensure the continuation post September 2026.

Table Four:			
Formula Based Grant Core Funding			
Service	Provider	Allocation	Notes
X1 IDVA in Middlesbrough	My Sisters Place (aligned to the Local Authority commissioned service)	£17,500	
X1 Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) in each area (Hartlepool, Redcar and Stockton)	Harbour (aligned to the Local Authority commissioned service)	£52,500	
Total		£70,000	
2026/27 total spend:	£1,016,107.16	Grant available:	£641,836.21
Difference	£374,270.95		

- 7.4 As can be seen above, if the PCC approves the IDVA provision for the remainder of the financial year an additional spend of **£374,270.95** will have incurred over and above the grant provided by the MoJ.

7.5 The above overspend against the Ministry of Justice budget in affordable within 2026/27 financial plans.

8.0 Funding Recommendations - General Grant for DA and SV services 2027/28

8.1 Similar to the above at point 6, allocations in table five have been recommended based on the same research and methodology (including the specific arrangement in Redcar and Cleveland).

Table Five:				
General Grant for DA and SV services – 2027/28 allocation £916,299.52				
Service	Provider	Recommended funding	Previous allocation	Notes
IDVA Support	Harbour Support Services (Hartlepool, Redcar and Stockton)	£266,608	£319,051.06 -£52,443.06	Provision must include a Cleveland Wide post based in Teesside Magistrates Court
IDVA Support	My Sisters Place (Middlesbrough)	£123,192	£160,243.30 -£37,051.30	Provision must include Cleveland Wide DA Worker post based in Cleveland Police Control Room
IDVA Support	Eva Women's Aid (Redcar)	£35,000	£68,250 -£33,250	OPCC previously provided an element of funding for counselling. Given the move to provide core provision it is recommended as per the needs assessment that counselling provision is withdrawn As this will provide IDVA funding in Redcar this has been taken from the Harbour Redcar allocation to ensure fairness and consistency.
Tees-wide ISVA Service	Arch Teesside	£333,000	£195,000	Decision Reference 2025/2026 - 026

			+£138,000	The service has recently been through a procurement process as per Decision Reference 2026/27 - 007. All funding for this service now comes from the DA and SV Services Fund instead of being split across both MoJ Grants.
Cleveland Stalking Advocacy Service	Suzy Lamplugh Trust	£96,000	£96,000	
BAME Service Provision	Halo Project (Cleveland)	£30,000	£28,500 +£1,500	
VAWG Service	A Way Out (Cleveland)	£32,500	Last 12 months £31,303 +£1,197	
Total		£916,300		

9.0 Funding Recommendations - Formula Based Grant (Core Funding) 2027/28

9.1 Similar to the above at point six, allocations in table 6 below have been recommended based on the same research and methodology.

Table Six:				
Formula Based Grant (Core Funding) – 2027/28 allocation - £654,672.94				
Service	Provider	Recommended funding	Previous allocation	Notes
Victim Referral and Restorative Justice	TBC following procurement process	£560,000	£616,257 -£56,257	From 1 April 2027 these previous separate services will come together as one service.
IDVA for each Local Authority Area	Previously Harbour and My Sisters Place	£0	£140,000 - £140,000	All funding for DA/SV support will (except SARC) come from General Grant for DV and SV Services
Tees-wide ISVA Services	Arch Teesside	£0	£128,411 - £128,411	£128,411 now comes from the General Grant for DV/SV Services – the value of the contract remains the same just funding is coming from one grant programme instead of across two.
SARC	Mountain Healthcare	£135,000	£128,411 +£6,589	
Total		£695,000		
Allocation v Spend		-£40,327.06		

- 9.2 As can be seen, despite a significant reduction in funding through the grant programme, there still remains a pressure of **£40,327.06** above the MoJ allocation. However, when compared with the 2026/27 funding position, the proposed allocations deliver a saving of **£333,943.89**.
- 9.3 These proposals make a substantial contribution towards the **savings required for 2027/28**, enabling opportunity for possible further investment into victims services during 2027/28 when a greater understanding around impact of funding reductions during the latter part of 2026/27 are understood.



- 9.4 Notwithstanding these savings and opportunities, further difficult decisions may be required across the wider community safety and criminal justice portfolio over the coming months and years.