



Call for proposals

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support services

Introduction

The PCC seeks to fund third sector organisations to provide projects and initiatives that will help to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence. This document explains the need that grant funded projects should aim to meet and outlines key activity areas. Grant applications will be assessed as to how well they meet the need outlined in this call for proposals.

Context

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DSVA) are significant forms of violence and abuse that have a profound impact on victims, families and communities. Whilst DSVA sits within the broader Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda, this funding programme is specifically focused on improving support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence across Nottinghamshire.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence form part of the wider VAWG agenda. Through his Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029, the PCC is committed to working with partners to prevent harm, improve victim support and strengthen local responses to domestic abuse, sexual violence and other forms of VAWG.

Need

Domestic abuse remains one of the most prevalent forms of harm experienced within Nottinghamshire, however, it remains significantly under-reported, with many victims and survivors not accessing support services. The ONS report 'Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2025'¹ estimates that only 21% of domestic abuse was reported to police in the year to March 2025 reporting that 79% of domestic abuse survivors in England and Wales were estimated as unknown to police. This has increased from the 2024 report, in which the gap was 67%. Victim and survivor withdrawal from the criminal justice process also remains high, demonstrating the need for accessible, trauma-informed and survivor-centred support.

Domestic abuse is a key factor in many stalking offences, however non-domestic stalking is also an emerging and persistent issue faced within the scope of VAWG. In both cases, intrusive, obsessive or unwanted contact, surveillance and intimidation can cause significant psychological harm, while advances in digital technology have enabled new forms of cyber stalking via social media and mobile apps.

Sexual violence also continues to present a significant challenge within Nottinghamshire. Women, girls, children, young people and victims under 25 remain disproportionately affected. Victims continue to report barriers to support including long waits for therapy and court delays.

Honor-based abuse (HBA) is an umbrella term that describes a combination of practices used principally to control and punish the behaviour of a member of a family or social group, in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs in the name of 'honour'.

Nottinghamshire Police flagged 85 incidents as 'honour based' in the 12 months to June 2026, marking an increase of 18% on the previous 12 months. Disclosure of HBA has been

¹ ONS - [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2025](#)

increasing in Nottinghamshire since 2018, supported by the work of dedicated Honour-Based Abuse Officers. Despite this, it is recognised that many offences still go unreported to the police.

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not, or in cases of people with learning difficulties or who are under-age, cannot, consent to the marriage and where duress is used to enforce the marriage. Cases of forced marriage are rarely reported to Nottinghamshire Police, however, the profile of cases reported to the national Forced Marriage Unit indicates that identified victims are more commonly from Pakistan (41%) and aged under 17 (40%, 2025). A further 30% of cases handled in 2025 involved victims aged 18 to 25.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the dangerous and illegal practice of deliberately cutting, injuring or changing female genitals where there is no medical reason to do so. It is also known as female circumcision or cutting. FGM is believed to be in international decline, however GP practices, hospitals and healthcare providers in Nottinghamshire continue to identify around 80 each year, predominantly via midwifery services during their pregnancy and involving procedures which were undertaken in their home country when they were under the age of 10. Victims identified are predominantly from Northern, Eastern and Western African territories.

Priorities

By and for services

'By and for' services are specialist services that are led, designed and delivered by and for the users and communities they aim to serve. These services are tailored to meet the specific needs of victims and survivors and often provide culturally competent, community-led and trusted support.

This may include activity supporting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ communities, male victims, Deaf victims, rural communities, older victims, children and young people, and other groups experiencing barriers to accessing support.

Hidden Harm

Many victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence remain unseen by services. Hidden harm refers to abuse that is not reported to the police or disclosed to support agencies, meaning victims may not receive the help they need. Barriers such as fear, stigma, cultural pressures, coercive control, isolation, language barriers, disability, rurality and mistrust of services can all contribute to hidden harm.

Applications that demonstrate how they will address hidden harm and/or provide specialist by and for provision are particularly encouraged.

Funded activity

The PCC is seeking to fund projects and initiatives that meet the following criteria. This funding is open to organisations that are able to provide specialist domestic abuse and/or sexual violence support services for victims and survivors in Nottinghamshire.

- Applicants must demonstrate that they have robust governance and management arrangements in place to support domestic abuse and sexual violence survivors safely;
- Funded initiatives must demonstrate that they will work pro-actively and constructively with one of the commissioned support services, in order to ensure no

duplication of provision or survivor confusion. This means the applicant actively demonstrating that proven referral pathways are in place with commissioned support services;

- Applicants must demonstrate a strong understanding of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence, the impact these experiences have on victims and survivors, and how they will provide safe, trauma-informed and survivor-centred support;
- Applicants must clearly evidence the need for additional financial support because of an increase in demand or anticipated demand;
- Any counselling must be delivered by psychotherapists registered with a recognised UK accreditation body such as BACP or UKCP;
- Sexual violence counselling must be compliant with the CPS pre-trial therapy guidance²;
- Peer support must demonstrate how it is compliant with Nice Guideline 116³;

Outcomes

We are particularly interested in interventions which seek to impact some or all of the following outcomes for participants:

- Increased identification and reporting of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- Improved access to support for victims and survivors experiencing hidden harm.
- Increased engagement with specialist by and for services.
- Proportionate access to services across demographic cohorts
- Victims are and feel safer
- Victims are better able to cope
- Victims have a better quality of life or have recovered
- Increase in victim satisfaction rates

² <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/therapy-provision-therapy-vulnerable-or-intimidated-adult-witnesses>

³ <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng116/chapter/recommendations#care-for-people-with-ptsd-and-complex-needs>