



COMMUNITY FUND FUND

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Application No 01

Organisation:	Preston MP
Contact:	Mark Hendrick

Application Details

Project Name: Foxton Specialist Women's Centre

Project Location & District: New Hall Lane, Preston (Preston District)

Project Duration: 24 months

Proposed Start Date: 1st July 2025

Commissioners Priorities:

- Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Supporting vulnerable women involved in or at risk of exploitation
- Reducing harm through trauma-informed, multi-agency interventions
- Promoting safer communities through outreach and advocacy

Project Summary:

The Foxton Specialist Women's Centre provides a trauma-informed, wraparound support service for women involved in sex work, survival sex, or at risk of exploitation and violence. Activities include:

- Drop-in clinics offering access to food, clothing, showers, laundry, and harm reduction resources
- On-site access to GPs, mental health practitioners, substance misuse and sexual health services
- Joint outreach with drug and alcohol services for women working on the streets
- Safety planning, advocacy, and emotional support
- Strategic leadership and partnership coordination through a full-time Women's Team Manager

The project aims to expand the current women's outreach service from two to four nights per week, with additional daytime follow-up sessions. It will be led by four sessional staff trained by experienced professionals, including qualified IDVAs and counsellors. The service supports women involved in sex work, many of whom face complex trauma and health challenges. The expansion will improve engagement, evidence collection, and partnership working with police and other agencies.

Issue Identified:

Foxton has supported sex workers in Preston for over 27 years. Women supported by the centre face complex risks including:

- Sexual violence, coercion, and exploitation
- Involvement in criminal activity or survival sex
- Trafficking, hidden homelessness, and chronic trauma

- Risk of homicide, suicide, and serious health deterioration

In 2024–25, Foxton supported **147 women** and delivered **over 3,963 interventions**, including sexual health, substance misuse, and crisis support. Many women are both victims and perpetrators of crime, requiring a holistic, non-judgemental approach.

No. Of Individuals Expected to Engage:

147+ women annually, with daily engagement through drop-ins, outreach, and accommodation support

Referral Pathways:

- Self-referral
- Outreach engagement
- Referrals from police, probation, health services, and domestic abuse organisations

Community Impact:

- Increased safety and wellbeing for highly vulnerable women
- Reduced risk of violence, exploitation, and health deterioration
- Improved access to justice (e.g. recent convictions for rape and abuse following Foxton support)
- Greater engagement with health, housing, and recovery services
- Strategic influence on local safety planning and service delivery

Partners Involved:

- GPs, nurse practitioners, and mental health services
- Public health therapeutic services
- Alcohol and substance misuse teams
- SHELTER (housing and benefits advice)
- Revolution (sexual health testing and treatment)
- Probation, police, and migrant support services
- Local authorities and community safety partnerships

Amount Requested From PCC: £40,863 contribution over 2 years (£20,431.50 Year 1 & £20,431.50 Year 2)

Overall Cost & Breakdown:

Total Project Cost: £40,863

- Sessional staff: £19,659
- Cleaning: £6,569
- Training: £4,660
- Electric & Gas: £1,446
- Servicing, repairs, equipment: £1,241
- Volunteer expenses: £532
- Project costs & food: £2,613
- Travel, consulting, stationery, office sundries, refuse disposal, fire risk assessment, flooring & curtains, miscellaneous: remainder

Evaluation Suggestions:

Qualitative Data:

- Incidents of sexual violence
- Reporting rates and reasons for non-reporting
- Crime and intel shared with police
- Statements and evidence provided
- Engagement with services and accommodation outcomes
- Women's personal stories and feedback

Quantitative Data:

- Police reports and safeguarding outcomes
- Partner feedback on harm reduction
- Impact on wider public safety (e.g., children, trafficked individuals)

Partner Consultation

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire

The application appears to focus on covering ongoing service costs, which typically fall outside the scope of this funding stream. That said, following last week's funding confirmation for the Lancaster and Morecambe IDVA, Clive's position may have shifted, and he may wish to revisit this proposal with that context in mind. In reference to the hexagon diagram included, it would be helpful to see a more detailed breakdown of what this represents in terms of service demand. This would support a clearer demonstration of the need to extend the service's current opening hours.

ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command

While I have not personally worked with The Foxton Centre, I sought input from Preston NPT, and PC Amy Disley kindly provided a comprehensive overview of the Centre's work, particularly in relation to her current POP focused on VAWG and street sex workers in Preston.

Key points from the feedback:

- **Specialist Support:** The Foxton Women's Centre provides specialist services to women facing multiple disadvantages, many of whom are involved in street-based or survival sex work and are at significant risk of violence and exploitation.
- **Barriers to Engagement:** Sex workers often face barriers to engaging with police due to low trust and confidence. This can obscure the true extent of harm they experience and limit opportunities for safeguarding and justice.
- **Trauma-Informed Approach:** A consistent, compassionate, and trauma-informed policing approach—delivered in partnership with The Foxton Centre—has proven effective in building trust, improving access to support, and enabling better safeguarding and intelligence gathering.
- **Third-Party Reporting:** Many disclosures of crime are made via trusted third-party agencies such as Base 18, The Foxton Centre, or Inspire. These organisations play a vital role in facilitating engagement with police, especially when victims are initially reluctant to report directly.
- **Positive Outcomes:** There are several examples of successful collaboration between police and The Foxton Centre, including:
 - A serious sexual assault case where the victim, supported by the Centre, felt safe enough to participate in an ABE interview.
 - A drop-in session that led to the reporting and arrest of a child sexual predator, thanks to the supportive environment created by Centre staff and police.

Overall, the feedback highlights the Centre's critical role in reaching and supporting a highly vulnerable population. Their partnership with police has led to improved outcomes and enhanced safeguarding efforts in Preston.