



COMMUNITY FUND FUND

MEMBER OF PARLAIMENT

Application No 02

Organisation:	Hyndburn and Haslingden MP
Contact:	Sarah Smith

Application Details

Project Brief:

Project Name: Safer Christmas Campaign – Spiking Awareness and Education

Project Location & District: Haslingden, Rising Bridge, and Haslingden High School (Hyndburn Constituency)

Project Duration: 1 Month

Proposed Start Date: 1st December 2025

Commissioners Priorities:

- Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Reducing street crime and anti-social behaviour
- Youth provision and diversionary activities
- Building trust in policing

Project Summary:

The campaign aims to raise awareness and reduce incidents of drink and needle spiking during the festive season. It responds to national and local data showing high levels of underreported spiking incidents, particularly affecting women and young people. The initiative will deliver education, prevention tools, and community engagement to improve safety and confidence in public spaces.

The project addresses the urgent and underreported issue of spiking in Rossendale, where anecdotal evidence from last year's launch revealed widespread personal accounts of incidents, despite the lack of official local data. National statistics from the NPCC show that 80% of spiking occurs in public venues, with bars and nightclubs being the most common locations, and women aged around 26 making up the majority of victims. In its first year, the project successfully distributed drink toppers through salons and shops, gaining strong community engagement and positive feedback, including from youth-focused organisations like Bacup Family Centre. Educational sessions at Haslingden High School focus on safety and reporting, not politics, and will be developed with expert input. Venue training is planned but pending funding, as are promotional materials aligned with Safer Rossendale branding. Engagement with schools may be enhanced through collaboration with PolEd, and safeguarding protocols are in place to support disclosures. Target audiences were identified using national data and insights from last year's delivery.

Summary of Activities:

- Training for local venues on recognising and responding to spiking
- Distribution of reusable drink covers via hospitality venues, salons, and shops
- Public awareness campaign including posters, social media, and educational content
- Delivery of spiking awareness sessions at Haslingden High School (Years 11–13)
- Creation of digital resources for schools and parents
- Collaboration with police and local authorities to align with existing operations (e.g. Operation Lister)

Issue Identified:

- High prevalence of spiking incidents in nightlife settings
- Underreporting due to lack of awareness and confidence
- Impact on physical safety, mental wellbeing, and community trust
- Need for proactive education and prevention, especially among young people

No. Of Individuals Expected to Engage:

- Approx. **500 students** at Haslingden High School
- Multiple hospitality venues and local businesses
- Wider community via campaign materials and social media

Referral Pathways:

- Schools
- Local businesses
- Community networks
- Police and council channels

Partners Involved:

- Safer Rossendale – Project coordination and training
- Rossendale Police – Data and resources
- Rossendale Council – Marketing and awareness
- Haslingden High School – Education delivery
- Local businesses – Distribution and engagement (2 clothing shops, 5 beauticians, 5 hairdressers, 6 hospitality venues)

Amount Requested From PCC: £2,745

Overall Cost & Breakdown:

Total Project Cost: £3,245

Breakdown:

Item	Cost (£)	Source
Facilitators (Haslingden High)	£384	PCC
Project overheads	£100	PCC
Drinks covers (students)	£450	PCC
Drinks covers (venues)	£375	PCC
Posters and literature design	£400	PCC
Online content for LMS	£200	PCC
Project coordination (21 hrs @ £16/hr)	£336	PCC
Venue training (6 venues @ £50)	£300	PCC
Safeguarding officer	£300	Match funding

	Printing (local printer)	£100	Match funding
	Volunteer support	£100	Match funding
	Evaluation Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track number of venues trained and staff involved Monitor distribution and refill rates of drink covers Collect feedback from approx. 500 students via forms Share outcomes and good practice via social media and local press 		
Priority Supported:	Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls		

Partner Consultation	
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	<p>The project shows strong seasonal engagement potential, but several areas need clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include local data to better evidence the issue and demand. Clarify school engagement, especially links to PolEd and safeguarding protocols. Explain how target audiences are identified and reached. Provide local statistics and outcomes from year one of delivery. Detail the educational content at Haslingden High School and any overlap with political education. Outline the venue training—who delivers it, what it covers, and how many venues are involved. Share information on artwork and promotional materials.
ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command	Awaiting Comments