



COMMUNITY FUND FUND

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Application No 04

Organisation:	Rossendale and Darwen MP
Contact:	Andy MacNae and Samara Barnes

Application Details

Project Brief:

Project Name: Safer Rossendale – Women's Safer Running Project

Project Location & District: Rossendale-wide, including Bacup, Rawtenstall, Waterfoot (initially), then Edenfield and Whitworth

Project Duration: 5 Months

Proposed Start Date: 25th October 2025

Commissioners Priorities:

- Building safe and strong communities
- Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Rebuilding trust in the police

Project Summary:

This initiative seeks to improve the safety and wellbeing of women and girls who run outdoors, particularly during the darker months. It responds to both national and local evidence highlighting high levels of anxiety, harassment, and reduced participation in physical activity due to safety concerns. The project aims to create safer running environments, enhance wellbeing, and reduce social isolation.

Over the past year, Rossendale Leisure Trust has been expanding its offer for women and girls through surveys and community events. One of the key areas of interest identified—especially within the Muslim community in Haslingden—is female-led running groups. While funding constraints have prevented the appointment of run leaders so far, the Trust brings relevant experience from its successful wellbeing walks programme, which recently trained over 10 walk leaders. Future plans include working with Rossendale Harriers and other local running groups to identify potential leaders, alongside a broader recruitment campaign.

Run Leader Training:

Training will be delivered via England Athletics' accredited *Leadership in Running Fitness* course. This qualification equips participants with transferable skills that extend beyond the scope of this project.

Workshops:

Workshop content and delivery methods will be confirmed once funding is secured. Based on previous experience, sessions are likely to be held at local events such as Community Partnership meetings, networking sessions, and in Safer Rossendale venues.

Targeting Underrepresented Groups:

While the project does not offer tailored support directly, its core aim is to foster safe and inclusive running spaces. Trained run leaders will be equipped to signpost individuals to relevant services. Rossendale Leisure Trust and Safer Rossendale will provide ongoing support to help establish and sustain running groups.

Educational Component:

An awareness campaign will run alongside the project, promoting safe running practices with a strong emphasis on male allyship. Messaging will be carefully framed to avoid any suggestion of victim-blaming.

Summary of Activities:

- Weekly women-only running groups at four key venues
- Run Leader training for local female volunteers
- Provision of safety equipment (e.g. head torches, high-vis vests, whistles)
- “Safer Running Rossendale” marketing and awareness campaign
- Community safety workshops in partnership with police and women’s organisations
- Targeted outreach to underrepresented groups (e.g. Muslim and refugee communities, young women at Haslingden High School)

Issue Identified:

- High levels of fear and harassment experienced by women when running
- Reduced physical activity and wellbeing
- Lack of safe, inclusive spaces for women to exercise
- Social isolation and lack of confidence in public spaces

No. Of Individuals Expected to Engage:

- **100+ women** in the first year
- **10+ women** trained as Run Leaders

Referral Pathways:

- Community hubs (Haslingden Community Link, ABD Centre)
- Leisure centres
- Local schools and women’s networks

Partners Involved:

- Rossendale Leisure Trust
- Pioneer Leisure Centre & Marl Pits
- Haslingden & ABD Community Centres
- Together an Active Future
- England Athletics
- Lancashire Police & Community Safety Partnerships
- Rossendale Harriers & Triathlon Club
- Local grassroots women’s groups

Amount Requested From PCC: £3,000

Overall Cost & Breakdown:

Total Project Cost: £15,000

Breakdown:

Item	Cost (£)	Source
Run Leader Training (10 x £160)	£1,600	PCC (matched from Hyndburn and Haslingden MP)
Safety Equipment	£1,000	PCC

	Marketing & Promotion	£2,000	PCC
	Venue Support & Coordination	£3,000	PCC (matched from Hyndburn and Haslingden MP)
	Project Coordination	£1,500	PCC (matched from Hyndburn and Haslingden MP)
	Monitoring & Evaluation	£900	PCC (matched from Hyndburn and Haslingden MP)
	Volunteer Time & Hyper-local Support	£5,000	Match Funding
Evaluation Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre/post surveys measuring safety, confidence, and wellbeing • Attendance tracking • Number of trained Run Leaders • Qualitative feedback (case studies, focus groups) • Long-term sustainability through continued volunteer-led sessions and embedded partnerships 			
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 is well-received, particularly its focus on supporting women during the winter months when safety concerns are heightened.</p> <p>Key points for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ambition to engage 100+ women in the first year is strong, but would benefit from local statistics to support the projected demand.
ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command	<p>This project seeks to create safer environments for women to run in public spaces, responding to common concerns about feeling unsafe when running alone. While the aim aligns well with the PCC's VAWG priorities, there are a few areas that need clarification.</p> <p>The total project cost is listed as £15,000, with £3,000 requested from the PCC. However, the application states a £10,000 request, which requires clarification.</p> <p>There are already several volunteer-led women's running groups in Rossendale, including one at Marl Pits Leisure Centre, which operate without similar funding. Given this, the proposed budget feels excessive, and the evaluation methods for measuring impact are not clearly defined.</p> <p>While I fully support initiatives that promote safety for women, I'm not convinced this proposal represents a proportionate use of funds, especially when similar activities are already available locally. A clearer justification and evaluation plan would strengthen the case.</p>