

Alternative Grants Proposal Form Submission ID: 2f75a381a9f060f71a7e882c716a3c

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FIELD TYPE	LABEL	SUBMITTED DATA
Text	Name	Eleanor Adshead
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Text	Email Address	eleonor.adshead@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk
Text	Name of Project	Greater Lancashire Youth Zone Project
Text	Project Location	Chorley, Blackburn, Darwen, Preston
Text	Project Duration	2 Year Pilot Period
Date	Proposed Start Date	2026-01-01
Date	Proposed End Date	2028-01-01

What specific issue or need does your project aim to address?

Describe the challenge or gap in your community that your project responds to. Include any relevant data, lived experience, consultation findings, or evidence that highlights the significance of the issue.

Between October 2024 and the present, a total of 4,091 offences were committed by individuals under the age of 18 across Blackburn with Darwen, Preston, Chorley, and South Ribble. This data, compiled in collaboration with local policing teams, highlights a troubling trend in youth-related crime. The most common offences include violence against the person, arson and criminal damage, and sexual offences, which pose serious risks to both young people and the wider community.

Encouragingly, areas such as Blackburn with Darwen and Chorley have seen a slight decline in youth crime, and this positive shift is widely attributed to the presence of Youth Zones - safe, structured environments that offer young people meaningful engagement, trusted relationships, and opportunities to thrive. In contrast, Preston has experienced an increase in youth-related offences, which points to a clear gap in youth provision and highlights the urgent need for investment in preventative services and early intervention.

This disparity reflects a broader challenge across Lancashire: not all young people have equal access to opportunities, support, or safe environments. Many face complex barriers including poverty, lack of positive role models, limited access to extracurricular activities, and mental health challenges. These factors can lead to disengagement, anti-social behaviour, and involvement in crime, particularly in areas where youth services are limited or absent.

Greater Lancashire Youth Zones are charitable organisations working to address these issues by providing safe, inspiring spaces for young people aged 8–19 (up to 25 with additional needs). Their Youth Zones in Blackburn, Darwen, and Chorley have already supported over 34,000 young people, with more than 1,000 moving into education, employment or training as a direct result of the support they've received. These outcomes demonstrate the transformative impact of consistent, high-quality youth provision.

The Youth Zone model is built on consultation with young people, families, schools, and community partners, who consistently highlight the need for accessible, inclusive, and engaging youth services. Open 7 days a week, each Youth Zone offers 20+ activities every evening, ranging from sports and arts to digital skills and career guidance. But they are more than just buildings - they are trusted hubs that meet young people where they are, offering tailored support that reflects their lived experiences and builds long-term relationships.

The benefits of Youth Zones are wide-reaching and deeply impactful across all communities they serve. These spaces contribute to a reduction in anti-social behaviour, particularly in hotspot areas, by offering young people positive alternatives and structured activities. They help young people make safer choices, supported by mentoring and access to trusted adults. Their presence also provides greater community reassurance, as residents see visible, proactive investment in youth and neighbourhood safety.

By intervening early and consistently, Youth Zones help to prevent escalation and future demand on public services, including police and emergency response. This in turn frees up officer time for higher-priority work and leads to reduced costs through fewer repeat callouts and crisis interventions. Consistent engagement builds confidence in young people, helping them develop resilience, self-belief, and a sense of belonging.

Importantly, Youth Zones support more young people into positive pathways, such as volunteering, training, and employment, which contributes to long-term community wellbeing and economic growth. They also play a key role in improving public perception of young people, by showcasing their talents, potential, and contributions to society.

With the upcoming Preston Youth Zone set to open in early 2026, there is a significant

opportunity to extend these benefits to even more young people. However, the impact of Youth Zones is not limited to one location - it is a county-wide solution to a county-wide challenge, and one that deserves support and investment.

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Project Summary

Describe the resources and activities that will be delivered. Include:

- Type of activity (e.g. workshops, mentoring, outreach);
- Structure and schedule (number of sessions, days/times);
- Whether this is a pilot or continuation of an existing initiative.

Project Summary

This project aims to reduce anti-social behaviour through visible, targeted early intervention and consistent support for young people across the sites in Lancashire. It will be delivered in two structured stages, combining street-based outreach with transition into safe, supportive environments.

Stage 1: Outreach and Early Engagement

The first stage involves deploying two trained outreach youth workers per session to engage directly with young people in public spaces. Outreach will take place up to six days per week, with each session comprising three hours of street-based delivery, plus an additional hour for briefing, debriefing, safeguarding documentation, and liaison with police and partners.

Activities will be delivered using specialist outreach vehicles - including the Street Zone Bus and Scran Van - which act as visible, mobile hubs to attract and engage young people. The outreach will be concentrated in town centres and identified hotspot areas across Blackburn with Darwen, Chorley, and Preston, with a strategic focus on encouraging young people to transition from street engagement into the structured environment of their local Youth Zone.

Stage 2: Transition to Youth Zone Support

Once initial contact is made, young people will be actively supported into Youth Zone membership, either at the main Youth Zone site or through satellite centres. Here, they will have access to:

- Safe spaces and trusted adults, fostering consistent relationships that reduce the risk of repeat anti-social behaviour.
- Structured activities and diversionary programmes, including sports, arts, digital media, and social action projects designed to build confidence and resilience.
- Targeted support, such as mentoring, employability skills, mental health services, and safeguarding interventions for those most at risk.
- Pathways to positive futures, including volunteering, training, apprenticeships, and career links with policing, emergency services, and local employers.

Programme Scope and Resources

- The programme will deliver approximately 300 sessions per year across the target areas.
- Each session is costed at £200, covering preparation, direct engagement, vehicle use, materials, safeguarding, evaluation, and follow-up support.
- With an estimated 50 engagements per session, the programme will facilitate around 15,000 meaningful street-based interactions annually.

This is a continuation and expansion of existing outreach work, building on proven models of youth engagement and transition into structured support. The programme is designed to be scalable and responsive, with the flexibility to adapt to emerging needs and local intelligence.

(Based upon a one year delivery plan)

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Who will benefit and how will you reach them?

Explain:

- Who the project is designed to support (target group);
- How you will engage them (referral pathways, outreach);
- Any consultation or co-design with young people or communities.

This project is designed to support young people aged 8–19 (up to 25 with additional needs) across Lancashire, particularly those who are at risk of anti-social behaviour, social exclusion, or disengagement from education and employment. The target group includes young people in hotspot areas identified through local intelligence, those referred by public services, and those who may not currently access structured youth provision.

Young people will be reached through a combination of street-based outreach, referral pathways, and community engagement. Outreach youth workers will engage directly with young people in public spaces using specialist vehicles such as the Street Zone Bus and Scran Van, which act as mobile hubs to attract and build trust. These sessions will take place up to six days a week in town centres and areas with high levels of youth-related incidents.

Referrals into the Youth Zones will also come from a wide range of partner organisations, including schools, police, social care, health services, and community groups. These partners are able to identify young people who would benefit from the support and activities offered, and refer them into the service for tailored engagement.

Importantly, the project has been shaped through consultation and co-design with young people and communities. Youth Zones regularly involve young people in decision-making, programme planning, and feedback processes to ensure services are relevant, inclusive, and responsive to their needs. This participatory approach helps build ownership and ensures that the project reflects the lived experiences and aspirations of those it is designed to support.

By combining outreach, referrals, and co-designed programming, the project ensures it reaches those who need it most - creating pathways into safe spaces, trusted relationships, and opportunities for growth.

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Estimate how many individuals will engage with your project across age groups:

As per the above.

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What changes do you expect to see?

Describe the short- to medium-term outcomes, such as:

- Increased confidence or skills;
- Improved community relationships;
- Reduced risk behaviours or ASB.

In the short to medium term, the project is expected to deliver measurable improvements in youth confidence, skills development, and community relationships, particularly in areas identified as having high levels of anti-social behaviour. Through consistent outreach and structured engagement, young people will be supported to make safer choices, reducing the likelihood of involvement in crime or risk behaviours.

The project contributes directly to PCC priorities around crime prevention, early intervention, and community safety, by diverting young people from harmful behaviours and building trust between communities and public services. As young people engage in positive activities and build relationships with trusted adults, we expect to see a reduction in overall crime, improved perceptions of young people, and stronger, more cohesive neighbourhoods.

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What long-term difference will your project make?

Explain how your project contributes to broader goals, such as:

- Community safety and cohesion;
- Crime prevention;
- Empowerment and resilience.

Over time, this project is expected to make a meaningful and lasting contribution to community safety, cohesion, and youth empowerment across Lancashire.

By consistently engaging young people through outreach and structured support, the project will help to prevent crime and reduce anti-social behaviour at its roots. Early intervention and sustained relationships with trusted adults will divert young people away from risk behaviours and towards positive pathways, such as education, employment, and volunteering.

The project also strengthens community cohesion by building trust between young people, local residents, and public services. As young people feel more supported and valued, and communities see visible investment in youth, perceptions begin to shift - reducing stigma and fostering mutual respect.

In the long term, the project empowers young people to become active, resilient contributors to their communities. Through access to mentoring, skills development, and opportunities for leadership, they gain the confidence and capability to shape their own futures. This not only benefits the individuals involved but also contributes to a safer, more inclusive, and more hopeful society.

A powerful example of this long-term impact comes from a lived experience story shared by the Youth Zone. A young female refugee who initially entered the Youth Zone unable to speak a word of English began attending boxing sessions. Through consistent support, encouragement, and access to safe spaces, she not only developed language and social skills but went on to achieve a bronze medal in the Olympics, becoming the first refugee to do so. Her journey is just one of many that demonstrate how Youth Zones can transform lives and unlock potential that might otherwise go unrealised.

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Funding Request -
Amount requested
from the Police and
Crime Commissioner

£40,000 per year pilot, therefore £80,000.

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Total Project Cost -
Overall cost of the
project

£60,000 per year pilot, therefore £120,000.

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Cost Breakdown -
 Provide a full cost breakdown, including match funding. If match funding applies, confirm whether it is secured or pending. If pending, what is the contingency plan?

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Description (e.g. Room Hire)	How has the cost been calculated? (e.g. hourly rate)	Total (£)	PCC budget or match funding?
All costs based on two year pilot with all match funding to be confirmed. Funding to be sought by LANPAC and Lancashire Police (POCA).			
Front Line Engagement	Operational	£72,000	Overall budget.
Specialist Vehicles	Operational	£18,000	Overall budget.
Materials & Equipment	Operational	£9,000	Overall budget.
Safeguarding & Evaluation	Operational	£12,000	Overall budget.
Management & Coordination	Operational	£9,000	Overall budget.

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How will you measure success and share learning?

Outline:

- Monitoring and evaluation methods;
- How outcomes will be tracked;
- Plans for sustaining the project or its impact beyond the funding period.

The project will be evaluated through a combination of direct feedback from young people, data tracking, and ongoing partnership engagement. Young people attending outreach sessions and Youth Zone activities will be invited to share their experiences, helping to shape and improve delivery through regular consultation and feedback mechanisms.

The organisation uses Salesforce, a robust data management system, to monitor individual progress. This platform enables staff to record attendance, track engagement across different activities, identify support needs, and monitor outcomes over time. It also supports safeguarding processes and allows for detailed reporting to partners and funders.

In addition to internal monitoring, the project will continue to work closely with local partners, including schools, police, health services, and community organisations. These partnerships help ensure that young people receive joined-up support, and that the project contributes to wider objectives such as crime reduction, improved wellbeing, and increased access to education and employment.

To ensure sustainability, the project is designed to complement existing Youth Zone provision and build on proven models of outreach and engagement. By embedding the work within established infrastructure and maintaining strong relationships with local stakeholders, the project aims to secure long-term impact and continued investment. The use of outreach vehicles and flexible delivery also allows the programme to adapt to changing needs and priorities across Lancashire.

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Who else is involved and how?

- Detail engagement with Local Policing Teams or Community Safety Partnerships (include names/roles);
- List other organisations involved and their contributions;
- Include any supporting evidence or relevant data.

The Youth Zones operate on a strong foundation of partnership working, involving young people, families, schools, delivery partners, public services, and business networks. These partnerships are not only central to the design and delivery of services but also enable referrals into the Youth Zones, allowing young people to access the facilities and support available. In addition, the Youth Zone model offers shared use of its facilities, enabling partners to deliver sessions directly from the site. For example, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) regularly hosts sessions within the Youth Zones to support young people into employment, demonstrating how the spaces can be used collaboratively to achieve wider social outcomes.

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Please sign to confirm the information you have provided is true and accurate

E.Adshead

Date

Date Signed

2025-10-23

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