



RECOMMENDATION REPORT

DECISION: 61/2025	DATE: 4TH DECEMBER 2025
TITLE: Ministry of Justice Allocation – Uplift to Lancashire County Council DASSL Service	
AUTHOR: Emily Slinger, Policy and Partnerships Support Officer (Commissioning and Procurement)	
SPONSOR: Rebecca Keech, Senior Policy and Partnerships Manager (Commissioning and Procurement)	
Executive Summary This recommendation seeks the approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner to allocate £430,820.00 to the Lancashire County Council commissioned Domestic Abuse service through the Ministry of Justice DA/SV allocation for 2 years.	
Recommendation The Police and Crime Commissioner is recommended to allocate £430,820.00 to Lancashire County Council to uplift the DASSL contract via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for two years.	

PART I

1. Background and Advice

- 1.1 On December 1st, 2025, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner received notification from the Ministry of Justice of Lancashire's grant allocation for 2026/27 – 2027/28. Lancashire OPCC have been allocated £2,410,747.03 in 2026/27 and £2,458,961.97 through the additional DA/SV funding.
- 1.2 This recommendation paper seeks the approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner to allocate a portion of the funding through the Ministry of Justice additional DA/SV grant to uplift the Domestic Abuse Support Services Lancashire (DASSL) contract commissioned by Lancashire County Council.
- 1.3 DASSL is a partnership made up of SafeNet (lead provider), Loving Me, PAC Be Free, Key Unlocking Futures, HARV, FCWA and the Liberty Centre.
- 1.4 The Lancashire County Council DASSL service provides support to victim-survivors of domestic abuse via community-based support and safe accommodation. The OPCC have awarded the domestic abuse contract to the DASSL partnership with service delivery starting April 1st, 2026. Appendix A: Decision Reference 15/2025 provides an overview of the domestic abuse model change.
- 1.5 The service commissioned by Lancashire County Council is interdependent with the service commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner with the initial risk assessment and safety planning service referring victims onto the Lancashire County Council commission for longer term support.
- 1.6 As per the Independent Needs Assessment, conducted by Tonic in 2024, this recommendation seeks to work closer with domestic abuse commissioned services across Lancashire and reduce duplication, resulting in a seamless service for victims of domestic abuse.
- 1.6 As per Appendix D of recommendation 15/2025, the OPCC intends to allocate £430,820.00 to the DASSL partnership (uplift to Lancashire County Council commission).
- 1.7 The uplift into the Lancashire County Council contract will be formalised utilising a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will cover two years funding.
- 1.8 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will work with Lancashire County Council to develop a service specification for the Lancashire County Council contract variation. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will monitor the uplift through quarterly performance meetings alongside County Council partners.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Commissioner has a statutory duty to fund support services for victims of crime.

This decision supports the commitment to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls, Priority 1 in the Police and Crime Plan.

3. Consultations

The addendum to the 2024 Needs Assessment conducted by Tonic consulted local domestic abuse providers and statutory partners. The service specification has been informed utilising the findings of this report.

4. Implications:

a. Legal

Lancashire County Council have sought internal approvals to activate a contract extension, starting April 2026.

Contract variation will cover two years.

b. Financial

The budget allocation for this uplift funding is £430,820.00 per annum. The funding will be allocated through the Ministry of Justice DA/SV allocation.

A Memorandum of Understanding will be established between the OPCC and Lancashire County Council.

Lancashire County Council will vary the contract between themselves and the DASL partners.

c. Equality Impact Assessment

EIA was completed by LCC – this is under review and will be extended accordingly.

d. Data Protection Assessment

DPIA was completed by LCC – this can be found at Appendix G.

5 Risk Management

See attached Risk Register – Appendix E

6. Background Papers

Appendix A: Decision and Recommendation 15/2025: Invitation to Tender for the Provision of a Lancashire County Council Area Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment and Safety Planning Service

Appendix B: Addendum to the 2024 Independent Needs Assessment conducted by Tonic.

Appendix C: Lancashire OPCC's grant allocation from the Ministry of Justice.

Appendix D: Budget allocation for 2026/27.

Appendix E: Risk Register

Appendix F: Staffing associated with the uplift

Appendix G: Data Protection Impact Assessment

7. Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.

Officer declaration	Date
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above	
CONSULTATION – As above	
Author Signature: Emily Slinger Date: 16.12.25	
Sponsor I have read the above report and confirm this is factually correct. Signature: Rebecca Keech Date: 16.12.25	
Section 151 Officer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner I have read the above report and have considered the financial implications. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate (financial) request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire. Signature: Steve Freeman Date: 16.12.25	
Chief Executive (Monitoring Officer) for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire. Signature: Anna Hopkins Date: 16.12.25	