



RECOMMENDATION REPORT

DECISION: 53/2025	DATE: 03/11/2025
TITLE: LANCASHIRE YOUTH ZONES	
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Executive Summary <p>The Lancashire Youth Zones Project is a two-year pilot initiative seeking £80,000 in funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to support a total project cost of £120,000.</p> <p>The project aims to reduce youth-related anti-social behaviour and crime across Preston, Chorley, and Blackburn with Darwen by expanding outreach and structured youth engagement services.</p>	
Recommendation <p>The Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to approve the allocation of £80,000 to The Greater Lancashire Youth Zones over a two-year period to support the 'Lancashire Youth Zones' project.</p>	

PART I

1. Background and Advice

Between October 2024 and the present, over 4,000 offences were committed by individuals under 18 in the target areas. While some areas have seen reductions in youth crime - attributed to existing Youth Zones - Preston has experienced an increase, highlighting a gap in youth provision. The project responds to this disparity by offering safe, structured environments and early intervention to divert young people from harmful behaviours.

The programme will be delivered in two stages:

1. **Outreach and Early Engagement** – Up to six days per week, trained youth workers will conduct street-based outreach using mobile units (e.g., Street Zone Bus, Scran Van) in hotspot areas.
2. **Transition to Youth Zone Support** – Young people will be supported into Youth Zone membership, gaining access to structured activities, mentoring, mental health support, and pathways to education and employment.

The project will deliver approximately 300 sessions annually, aiming for 15,000 meaningful engagements per year.

The project will support young people aged 8–19 (up to 25 with additional needs), particularly those at risk of exclusion, anti-social behaviour, or disengagement. Engagement will occur through outreach, referrals from partners (e.g., police, schools, health services), and co-designed programming.

The project will also enable the OPCC to engage young people from the youth zones in consultations, with plans to establish a dedicated forum.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

Supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priorities Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behavior and Get Tough on Serious Violent Crime.

3. Consultations

Lancashire Constabulary

4. Implications:

a. Legal

Funding will be issued directly to The Lancashire Youth Zones under a Grant Agreement. The recommendation for signing includes delegated powers, and the 151 Officer has agreed to sign the Grant Agreement thereafter.

b. Financial

£80,000 to be allocated over a 2-year period – utilising funding allocated by the PCC the cost of the proposal will be met from existing revenue resources.

c. Equality Impact Assessment

Subject to the Equality Impact Assessment across all community funding.

d. Data Protection Assessment

There are no direct Data protection implications in the making of this decision.

5 Risk Management

Subject to Community Fund Risk Management matrix.

6. Background Papers

Appendix A.

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.

