



## COMMUNITY FUND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP FUND

Application No 04

Organisation:	Pennine Community Safety Partnership
Contact:	Lindsay Frew

### Project Brief:

**Project Name:** Keta-What

**Duration:** Two events held on one day in March (within the January–March window).

**Location:** Lancashire

**Funding Requested:** £1,910

**Proposed Dates:**

**Start:** 19 January 2026

**End:** 31 March 2026

#### **Community Safety Issue Addressed:**

Parts of Lancashire are experiencing a **significant surge in ketamine misuse**, described by local officials as a “ketamine crisis.”

Key concerns include:

- **Sharp increases in A&E admissions** linked to ketamine use among young people.
- **Children as young as 12–13** engaging in use.
- A **quadrupling** of reported ketamine addiction among young people in affected areas over the past 18 months.
- Severe, sometimes **irreversible physical harms**, including bladder damage (“ketamine bladder syndrome”), chronic pain, kidney and liver damage.
- Increased emergency service pressure, with ketamine misuse now emerging as one of Lancashire’s fastest-rising substance harms.

The issue is both a **public health crisis** and a **community safety concern**, with direct links to vulnerability, crime, drug supply operations, and escalating demand for treatment services.

#### **Project Aim:**

To **raise awareness** among frontline professionals and parents regarding:

- The real-world signs and symptoms of ketamine misuse
- The long-term physical and psychological risks
- Early indicators of dependency
- Effective referral pathways and available support
- Intelligence opportunities to help police identify supply chains

Ultimately, the project seeks to:

- Prevent young people from developing ketamine dependency
- Support earlier diagnosis and intervention
- Strengthen local systems’ ability to respond to ketamine-related harm

- Reduce the availability of ketamine through enhanced intelligence from communities and partner agencies

### **Key Interventions:**

#### **1. Afternoon Conference (Frontline Professionals)**

A structured session for:

- Police
- Health practitioners
- Social care teams
- Safeguarding leads
- Drug/alcohol service providers

This conference will:

- Increase awareness of health impacts, trends, and symptoms
- Share real-time data from hospitals, police, and commissioned services
- Strengthen multi-agency responses
- Highlight referral pathways and treatment options
- Provide lived-experience insight to support trauma-informed working

#### **2. Evening Conference (Parents & Carers)**

A tailored session to ensure accessibility, enabling families to understand:

- How ketamine affects behaviour, health, and decision-making
- Early warning signs (including bladder symptoms, cognitive changes, behavioural patterns)
- How to access appropriate support
- How to communicate concerns with professionals
- How to recognise risk behaviours and online influences

The dual-event approach ensures both system-level and family-level prevention.

### **Partners & Roles:**

#### **Lead Coordination**

- **Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership** – overall project management and delivery oversight.

#### **Venue & Promotion**

- **Blackburn Rovers Community Trust** – provides room hire (match funding) and promotes the events via community networks.

#### **Data & Professional Insight**

- **Lancashire Constabulary** – police data, Burnley POP case study, supply chain disruption insights.
- **East Lancashire Hospital Trust (ELHT)** – hospital attendance data.

#### **Clinical Expertise**

- **Dr Nigel Laycock (NHS)** – specialist insight into hospital presentations linked to ketamine.

#### **Lived Experience & Education**

- **Finley Worthington (Ket Education Services)** – youth education and lived-experience input.
- **Thomas Project** – insight into rehab and growing ketamine support needs.

#### **Commissioned Drug & Alcohol Services**

- WAWY, Early Break, Spark, Inspire – treatment data, resources, advice stalls.

#### **Public Health Teams**

- Consultation and collaboration to ensure consistency with county strategies.

#### **Academic Insight**

- **Robert Ralphs (Manchester Metropolitan University)** – subject-matter expert contribution.

Invitations will also be extended to all Lancashire hospitals and emergency navigation teams.

**Expected Impact:**

- **Increased knowledge** among frontline staff and parents on risks, harms, and support pathways.
- **Improved early identification** of ketamine misuse among young people.
- **Better informed parental responses**, leading to earlier help-seeking and reduced stigma.
- **Enhanced intelligence sharing** to support the Constabulary's disruption of ketamine suppliers.
- **Reduced community harm** through increased awareness of irreversible medical conditions such as ketamine-induced cystitis.
- Prevent escalation into chronic addiction by empowering early intervention from educators, parents, and professionals.

Impact will extend across Lancashire due to strong partner networks and cross-agency reach.

**Evaluation Methods:**

**Attendee questionnaires** to measure knowledge gained.

**Post-event evaluation report**, incorporating:

- Attendance figures
- Feedback from professionals and parents
- Reach and engagement analysis
- Evidence of increased referrals or early diagnoses
- Intelligence relevant to police activity

Monitoring the number of agencies represented and types of roles attending.

Identification of follow-up actions or additional training needs arising from the conference.

**Cost Breakdown:**

**Total Project Cost:** £6,286

**Funding Requested:** £1,910

**Match Funding / In-Kind Contributions:**

- Room hire – **£800** (Blackburn Rovers CT)
- Data collection – **£750** (Lancashire Constabulary, ELHT, commissioned services)
- Academic input (Robert Ralphs) – **£200** (Manchester Met)
- Clinical input (Dr Laycock) – **£500** (ICB)
- Insp Plummer – **£200** (Lancashire Constabulary)
- Radar Keys (500 units) – **£1,871.10** (LANPAC)
- Delivery of radar keys – **£55** (LANPAC)

**Costs Supported by PCC Funding:**

- Travel expenses – **£20**
- Finley Worthington – **£200 per day**
- Thomas Project lived experience input – **£200 per day**
- Room setup – **£90**
- Catering - **£1,400**

Priority Supported:

**Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**  
**Get Tough on Serious Violent Crime**  
**Rebuild Public Trust and Confidence**

<p>Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire</p>	<p>Ketamine remains a significant concern both across Lancashire and nationally, so it would be beneficial for Clive to be visibly taking action on this issue.</p> <p>The topic has also been raised at the VRN operational meeting, and Steve Hanley is attending a meeting next Friday to discuss the conference and ensure all partners are aligned. Steve may therefore have additional feedback to share following that discussion.</p>
<p>ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command</p>	<p>Vinny and I have extensive knowledge of this project and would like to express our support for the application. The proposal outlines work that will play a crucial role in the longer-term prevention of ketamine use. Notably, the second proposed event focuses on parents and carers — an audience we have not previously been able to engage.</p> <p>Lindsay has recently delivered two similar conferences on non-fatal strangulation, attracting over 500 attendees across both days. Based on this experience, and the inclusion of speakers from the Police, commissioned services, and Fin, who brings valuable lived experience of ketamine use, I am confident that these events will be highly impactful and well-received.</p>