



COMMUNITY FUND
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FUND

Application No 04

Organisation:	Blackpool South MP
Contact:	Chris Webb

Project Brief:

Project Name: Drop the Blade, Pick a Trade – Summer Activities Programme

Constituency: Blackpool South

Funding Requested: £5,000

Total Project Cost: £5,000

Project Duration: 10 Weeks

Start Date: 1st July 2026

Location: Rosscon Training Unit.

Local Need:

Recent strategic assessment data for Blackpool indicates:

- **Highest rate of all crime per 1,000 population in Lancashire (2024)**
- **Highest rate of ASB incidents in Lancashire (2024)**
- **Youth-related ASB accounts for 19% of incidents**, with concentrations in Bloomfield, Claremont, Talbot, and Waterloo (representing 49% of local ASB)
- **Reoffending rate of 29.3%**, above the national rate of 26.3%

This evidences a clear need for targeted, intensive summer interventions for high-risk young people.

Project Aim:

The project aims to reduce knife crime, serious youth violence, criminal exploitation, and anti-social behaviour among high-risk young people in Blackpool during the summer holidays. By providing structured, full-day diversionary activity combined with practical skills training and positive engagement with police and trusted adults, the programme seeks to remove participants from street-based environments at peak risk times, disrupt pathways into violence and exploitation, and support long-term positive outcomes linked to education, training, and employment.

Key Interventions:

The programme will deliver a coordinated package of intensive interventions, including:

- **Structured daily diversion** throughout the summer holidays, providing routine, supervision, and safe alternatives to street-based activity
- **Construction trade and green-skills training**, offering hands-on experience in practical trades and exposure to renewable and energy-efficiency skills

- **Targeted PSHE and violence-reduction sessions**, addressing knife crime, exploitation, substance misuse, life choices, and consequences
- **Police-led prevention workshops**, supporting non-enforcement engagement and improving relationships between young people and local officers
- **Sport and physical activity**, including boxing and team sports, to promote discipline, emotional regulation, and wellbeing
- **Music therapy and creative sessions**, offering trauma-informed emotional expression and reflection
- **Community improvement activities**, enabling young people to contribute positively to their neighbourhoods and build community pride
- **Mentoring and progression support**, including regular check-ins and signposting into education, training, employment, or apprenticeships

Budget Summary:

A costed Rosscroft Summer School model (planning + delivery + reporting) totals **£25,800**.

The OPCC funding will contribute to the following key cost areas, proportionate to the £5,000 request:

A. Staffing & Delivery Workforce – £13,400

- Programme Lead (0.4 FTE, 6 weeks) – £4,200
- Two Youth Mentors – £3,600
- Specialist Coaches (boxing, construction, hair & beauty, catering) – £5,600

B. Safe Delivery Environment – £1,500

C. Equipment, Resources & Practical Materials – £3,200

D. Positive Experiences (Trips) – £3,300

E. Food & Hydration – £1,600

F. Safeguarding & Compliance – £600

G. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting – £900

H. Contingency – £1,300

This represents a targeted, cost-effective investment for a high-risk cohort during a peak risk period, offering strong value for money through prevention, structured engagement, and potential reduction of future criminal justice costs.

Partners & Roles:

- **Local Police / Neighbourhood Policing Team:** Delivery of prevention sessions, knife crime awareness, and relationship-building engagement
- **Construction and Green-Skills Professionals:** Provision of accredited, practical skills training and employability support
- **Local Businesses and Employers:** Advice on progression routes, employability expectations, and potential work experience opportunities
- **Schools, Youth Services, and Community Organisations:** Identification and referral of high-risk participants, safeguarding, and ongoing support
- **Sports Coaches and Wellbeing Practitioners:** Delivery of physical activity to support mental health and behavioural change
- **Creative and Music Practitioners:** Facilitation of trauma-informed creative engagement

- **Mentors and Volunteers:** Consistent adult support, motivation, and positive role modelling throughout the programme

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduced likelihood of knife carrying, violent behaviour, and criminal exploitation among participants during the summer period
- Improved engagement in positive activities, education, training, or employment pathways
- Increased self-confidence, emotional regulation, and overall wellbeing
- Strengthened trust and confidence between young people and local police
- Reduced street-based anti-social behaviour during peak summer risk periods
- Improved community confidence through visible, pro-social activity and contribution

Evaluation & Success Measures:

- Success will be measured through a proportionate monitoring and evaluation approach, including:
- Attendance, engagement, and retention data across the 10-week programme
- Pre- and post-programme assessments to measure changes in attitudes toward knife crime, exploitation, and future aspirations
- Monitoring of skills gained, certificates achieved, and progression into employment, training, or apprenticeships
- Mentor, police, and partner feedback on behavioural change, engagement, and risk reduction
- Case studies demonstrating individual journeys, positive change, and community impact

Priority Supported:

**Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
Get Tough on Serious and Violent Crime**

Partner Consultation

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Lancashire

The proposal appears broadly suitable for Blackpool.

ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving
Command

I also agree with Eleanor's comments.