



COMMUNITY FUND
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FUND

Application No 01

Organisation:	Southport MP
Contact:	Patrick Hurley

Project Brief:

Project Name: Stay Safe
Constituency: Southport
Funding Requested: £15,000
Total Project Cost: £15,000
Project Duration: 12 Months
Start Date: 2nd March 2026
Location: Banks (The Hub Community & Leisure Centre)

Project Aim:

The project aims to **restore confidence, safety, and community cohesion** following the trauma and community fear resulting from the 2024 Southport dance class attack. Many young people and women have experienced heightened anxiety, reluctance to socialise, and reduced confidence in accessing local facilities.

The project intends to:

- Provide a **secure, reassuring environment** through improved building protection measures.
- Reduce fear and anxiety among **young people and women**, who have been particularly affected.
- Ensure the Hub remains a **safe, trusted space** for social, educational, and recreational use.
- Build **resilience, confidence, and personal safety awareness** through structured self-defence training.

Key Interventions:

The project consists of two major strands:

1. Security Enhancements

To address building vulnerabilities that have caused concern among users and deterred external facilitators, the centre will introduce:

- Installation of an **internal tannoy system** to communicate security alerts building-wide.
- Installation of **internal and external CCTV** to ensure surveillance of all key areas.
- **Security doors** on rooms used by groups and activities to ensure safe, contained environments.

These measures will reassure users and allow a greater number of activities to resume, particularly during school holidays when bookings were previously cancelled due to safety concerns.

2. Self-Defence and Personal Safety Training

The centre will deliver:

- **Four youth self-defence programmes** (4-week blocks).
- **Two women's self-defence classes**, focusing on street-wise skills, personal safety, and practical techniques.

These sessions aim to:

- Increase young people's and women's **confidence, resilience, and safety awareness**.
- Reduce anxiety stemming from the 2024 incident.
- Provide practical tools to help them navigate potentially unsafe situations.

Partners & Roles:

Ian Baldwin – Self Defence & Fitness

- Delivers all self-defence sessions for youth groups and women.
- Provides expertise in confidence-building and practical personal safety skills.

Youth Club Volunteers

- Identify local needs and support delivery.
- Provide engagement with young people attending the centre.

Banks St Stephen's School

- Promotes the programme to pupils, helping ensure strong youth participation and widening access.

Expected Outcomes:

The project anticipates positive impacts across community safety, wellbeing, and participation, including:

Safety & Security Outcomes

- A secure building where facilitators, young people, and women feel safe attending.
- Greater willingness of third-party organisations to run activities at the centre.

Participation & Engagement Outcomes

- Increased attendance at youth sessions and community events.
- More activities delivered during school holidays.
- Better utilisation of the Hub as a trusted community asset.

Confidence & Wellbeing Outcomes

- Reductions in anxiety and increased personal confidence among young people and women.
- Improved feelings of safety within the community following the trauma of the 2024 incident.
- Increased resilience and awareness of personal safety strategies.

Delivery Outputs

- Installation of CCTV, tannoy system, and security doors.
- **4 youth self-defence programmes** delivered.
- **2 women's self-defence sessions** delivered.
- Engagement with **48 young people and 24 women**.

Evaluation & Success Measures:

Success will be assessed through:

- **Impact reports** capturing attendance numbers, participation levels, and delivery of planned activities.
- **Before-and-after feedback surveys** from centre users measuring changes in:
 - perceived safety
 - confidence
 - anxiety levels
- Monitoring the **number of sessions resumed or added** due to improved building security.
- Tracking increased **community use** of the Hub over the 12-month period.

PCC Funding Request:

	<p>The applicant is seeking £15,000, which represents the full cost of the project.</p> <p>Overall Project Funding: The project is fully costed at £15,000, with no match funding. The PCC/MP contribution will cover all aspects of delivery.</p> <p>Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security Installations: £10,000 • Self-defence programmes: £2,400 • Design & printing of flyers: £2,100 • Contingency (5%): £500 <p>All funding is requested from the PCC/MP allocation, with no additional partner financial contributions.</p>
Priority Supported:	<p>Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Rebuild Public Trust and Confidence</p>

Partner Consultation

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	<p>Given the recent incident in Southport, I fully support this project. It is deeply concerning that people now feel unsafe visiting a local centre where they previously felt comfortable. Any initiative that helps rebuild confidence and provides reassurance is worthwhile.</p>
ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command	<p>The Southport MP (Banks Delivery) project is partially supported. The area is often overlooked within South Division due to its border location, and following the major Southport incident, community confidence has been negatively affected. The hub is considered central to community life, and activities should be based there. However, the belief that CCTV will significantly improve feelings of safety is challenged; CCTV provides only limited deterrence and often offers little useful identification. Improving the physical security of the hub should be the priority, with a secure entry system and potentially a more cost-effective video doorbell and signage recommended over CCTV.</p>