



COMMUNITY FUND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP FUND

Application No 03

Organisation:	Preston CSP
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Project Brief:

Project Name: Child Criminal Exploitation & County Lines Community Training Day

Start Date: 23rd June 2026

End Date: 23rd June 2026

Duration: One-day training event (6 hours) – a single, intensive session designed to deliver high-quality learning, consultation, and practical tools for safeguarding professionals and community members.

Location: Preston North End Football Club – selected for accessibility, capacity, and suitability for multi-agency, community-facing training.

Issues Identified:

The application outlines a range of significant and growing community safety concerns in Preston:

1. Rising Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and County Lines Activity

- Increasing evidence of children being drawn into criminal networks.
- Grooming, manipulation, coercion, and use of **force, threats, and violence**.
- Criminal exploitation occurring both visibly and hidden within communities.

2. Links to Other Forms of Abuse

- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
- **Child Financial Exploitation (CFE)**
- **Human trafficking and missing-from-home patterns**

3. Lack of Community Confidence and Awareness

Feedback from police, the VCFS sector, parents, carers, community leaders, and residential children's homes shows:

- Gaps in understanding of exploitation signs
- Barriers to disclosure
- Low confidence in knowing what to report or how
- Uncertainty around contextual safeguarding and multi-agency responsibilities

4. Growing Risk of Child Financial Exploitation

The application highlights how CFE and illegal financial activity:

- Entrap children in cycles of debt, fear, and control
- Strengthen organised criminal groups
- Undermine community safety, trust, and cohesion
- Divert resources away from essential public services

5. Need for Unified Multi-Agency Understanding

Without shared knowledge and consistent training, early identification and disruption become more difficult, allowing harm to escalate.

Project Aim:

The event aims to **strengthen community safeguarding capacity** by improving knowledge, confidence, and clarity around:

- The signs and indicators of CCE, County Lines, and CFE
- Understanding vulnerabilities of at-risk children
- Recognising grooming processes and exploitation tactics
- Improving early identification, intervention, and disruption
- Building trust and confidence between communities and policing
- Enhancing the quality of referrals and multi-agency responses

Ultimately, the project seeks to **reduce the number of children harmed or targeted by criminal networks** through improved awareness, reporting, and prevention.

Key Interventions:

The training day will include:

1. Expert-led Educational Presentations

Delivered by policing specialists, national CFE experts, child exploitation trainers, and charity partners.

2. Interactive Group Discussions & Consultation

To identify local barriers, knowledge gaps, community challenges, and future needs.

3. Awareness-Raising Around Reporting Tools

Including:

- **NCLCC reporting link and app**
- **Safecall confidential helpline** for young people
- Links to Fearless, Childline, and Young Minds.

4. Toolkit Resource Packs

Participants will receive materials containing:

- Intervention strategies
- Disruption techniques
- Useful agencies and online safeguarding resources
- Guidance for supporting children and families

5. Safeguarding Zines for Community Distribution

Mini-magazines aimed at young people and families with accessible information and digital resources.

6. Multi-agency Engagement

Supporting shared learning and understanding across policing, voluntary sector, education, and community networks.

7. Strengthening Local Partnerships

To improve the consistency of safeguarding responses and build confidence in community reporting.

Partners Involved:

The project involves strong multi-agency collaboration, including:

Lancashire Constabulary

- Providing a Subject Matter Expert (SME) to deliver specialist content.
- Promoting the training through **Op Prosper** and community networks.
- Bringing operational insight into CCE and disruption tactics.

NWROCU – Regional Fraud Prevent Co-ordinator

- Delivering expert input on CFE and its impact on individuals and communities.

No Whispers CIC

- Lead delivery partner
- Specialist child exploitation trainer (also a national trainer for Barnardo's).
- Responsible for design, facilitation, resource creation, and evaluation activities.

The Children's Society – National Child Financial Exploitation Expert

Delivering specialist insight and national best-practice.

Missing People / Safecall

- Providing expertise around missing children, safeguarding responses, and helpline support.

Preston Neighbourhood Policing Team

Supporting community outreach, participation, and embedded local knowledge.

This broad partnership strengthens credibility, reach, and multi-agency alignment.

Expected Impact:

Community-Level Impact

- Increased community confidence in identifying and reporting concerns
- Greater public awareness of exploitation indicators
- Increased reporting may lead to more timely police and partner interventions
- Enhanced neighbourhood safety through strengthened early prevention

Professional Practice Impact

- Improved quality and accuracy of referrals
- Greater consistency in safeguarding decision-making
- More coordinated multi-agency working
- Increased understanding of contextual safeguarding and trauma-informed language

Impact on Children and Young People

- Earlier identification and disruption of exploitation
- Greater protection for vulnerable children
- Reduction in harm and reduced involvement in criminal networks
- Improved support for families and communities

Evaluation Methods:

The project will be evaluated using:

Immediate Event Impact Evaluation

Participants will complete an on-the-day assessment measuring:

- Knowledge gained
- Confidence levels
- Understanding of key concepts
- Quality of the training experience

Three-Month Follow-Up Survey

To identify:

- Knowledge retention
- Changes to professional practice
- Examples of improved intervention or reporting
- Gaps requiring further support

Data Insights via Lancashire Constabulary

The Constabulary will review wider local indicators such as:

- Crime reports
- ASB reports
- Intelligence submissions
- Lancashire Talking community engagement data

	These metrics help explore whether community confidence and reporting have improved (with the caveat that many factors influence these). Cost Breakdown Highlights: Total Project Cost: £3,000 Amount Requested from PCC: £3,000 (No match funding claimed; some contributions are provided in-kind by partners.) Detailed Cost Breakdown: • Venue – Preston North End: £1,280 (based on £32 × 40) • No Whispers CIC – Training Delivery (day rate): £800 • Preparation, QR evaluation setup, surveys & marketing: £200 • Printing of Resource Toolkits: £500 • Printing of Safeguarding Zines: £220 • In-kind contributions: Guest speakers and specialist experts from: ○ Lancashire Constabulary ○ NWROCU ○ Children's Society ○ Missing People / Safecall
Priority Supported:	Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Get Tough on Serious Violent Crime

Partner Consultation	
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire	The application focusing on child exploitation related to financial issues is strong and presents a compelling case for need. We Fight Fraud is known to deliver similar content, although their sessions appear to target older age groups, which may limit direct comparison.
ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command	The training day covers an important topic—child criminal exploitation and county lines—and is supported by CI Bevan under Op Prosper.