



RECOMMENDATION REPORT

DECISION: 90/2025	DATE: 4 TH MARCH 2026
TITLE: Extension to Home Office Perpetrator Fund – The CARA Project	
AUTHOR: Emily Slinger, Policy and Partnerships Support Officer (Commissioning and Procurement)	
SPONSOR: Rebecca Keech, Senior Policy and Partnerships Manager (Commissioning and Procurement)	
Executive Summary This recommendation seeks the approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner to extend the pre-existing grant arrangements with The Wish Centre and The Hampton Trust to continue running the CARA Project for 6 months.	
Recommendation The Police and Crime Commissioner is recommended to allocate up to £30,000.00 to The Wish Centre and The Hampton Trust to extend the grant arrangements for the CARA Project.	

PART I

1. Background and Advice

- 1.1 In 2023, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner successfully bid into the Home Office Perpetrator Fund receiving funding for the Drive Project and Project CARA. This funding ends March 31st, 2026. In early 2026, the Home Office wrote out to Police and Crime Commissioners to confirm their intention to extend the grant for 6 months for Project CARA.
- 1.2 The CARA (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse) project is a structured perpetrator programme providing an Out of Court Resolution (OOCR) as part of a Conditional Caution for first time, standard risk offenders of domestic abuse. In Lancashire, this programme is delivered by The Wish Centre, who will conduct 2 workshops with offenders, and report back to Lancashire Constabulary on their engagement in the course.
- 1.2 The CARA Project has experienced persistent low referrals due to issues with eligibility criteria; in 2025/26 the service received two successful referrals.
- 1.3 Lancashire Constabulary have proposed a relaunch of the project in March 2026 with the intention of making CARA conditional cautions the first option for out of court disposals. The Police have now implemented Police Decision Making teams, and the Vulnerability Governance Unit (VGU) envisage this team will help increase referrals to the service.
- 1.4 The VGU have established bi-weekly meetings with The Wish Centre, The Hampton Trust, Criminal Justice Department, Police Decision Making Teams & Vulnerability Governance Unit. The purpose of the working group is to discuss the barriers in generating CARA referrals, discussing promotion and awareness of CARA, and understanding how Lancashire Constabulary can best support its' officers in encouraging its usage.
- 1.5 The OPCC would propose extending the grant by 6 months and reviewing the number of referrals into the project and outputs. The funding will be allocated to the Wish Centre (CARA delivery partner) on a payment-by-referral basis.
- 1.6 The proposed budget for the project is as below:

Delivery Element	Cost for 6 months delivery
The Hampton Trust (Product Owner)	£5,000 (subject to further discussions)
The Wish Centre (Project Delivery Partner)	£250 per referral (up to £10,000)

- 1.7 The budget envelope for 6 months is £30,000 with funding being received through the Home Office Perpetrator Fund.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

This decision supports the commitment to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls, Priority 1 in the Police and Crime Plan.

3. Consultations

The OPCC have consulted with the Vulnerability Governance Unit regarding the re-launch of CARA. The OPCC will monitor CARA progress through the working group.

4. Implications:

a. Legal

A grant agreement will be developed between the OPCC and The Wish Centre. A grant agreement will also be developed between the OPCC and The Hampton Trust.

b. Financial

The budget allocation for this project is £30,000 (subject to referrals). The funding has been allocated through the Home Office Perpetrator Fund 2026/27.

c. Equality Impact Assessment

EIA is available on request.

d. Data Protection Assessment

The relevant DPIAs between Lancashire Constabulary, the Wish Centre and Hampton Trust will be reviewed and amended accordingly.

5 Risk Management

6. Background Papers

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.

