



## RECOMMENDATION REPORT

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| <b>DECISION: 03/2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>DATE: 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026</b> |
| <b>TITLE:</b><br>Award of Contract to Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                       |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b><br>Emily Slinger – Policy and Partnerships Support Officer – Commissioning and Procurement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                       |
| <b>SPONSOR:</b><br>Rebecca Keech – Senior Policy and Partnerships Manager – Commissioning and Procurement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                       |
| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:</b><br>Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA) is a specialist victim service dedicated to supporting and advocating for families who have lost loved ones to fatal domestic abuse including suicide, neglect and unexplained deaths as well as homicide. In 2025/26, the Police and Crime Commissioner piloted funding to AAFDA to support families bereaved as a result of domestic abuse. Following successful first year delivery, this recommendation seeks to enter into a contract with AAFDA for a further 3 years. |                                       |
| <b>RECOMMENDATION:</b><br>The Police and Crime Commissioner is recommended to allocate £91,217.28 to Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse to support families bereaved as a result of domestic abuse for 3 years, covering the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                       |

## **PART I**

### **1. Background and Advice**

1.1 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2024 introduced the requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct a review following an incident of fatal domestic abuse. The purpose of these reviews is to understand the circumstances leading to a domestic violence-related death, identify lessons learned, and improve responses to domestic violence.

1.2 The 2016 DHR guidance emphasises the importance of engaging the families of victims throughout the review process and gives guidance on considering expert advocates for bereaved families.

1.3 AAFDA is a specialist victim service dedicated to supporting and advocating for families who have lost loved ones to fatal domestic abuse including suicide, neglect and unexplained deaths as well as homicide.

1.4 AAFDA provides specialist individual and peer support alongside expert advocacy to guide families through complex statutory review processes and protect them from further abuse or injustice.

1.5 In 2025/26, the Police and Crime Commissioner piloted allocating £30,000.00 funding to AAFDA to provide support to 8 families in Lancashire. AAFDA provided specialist and expert peer support, advocacy through statutory review processes and the criminal justice system to the families of victims of fatal domestic abuse. Case studies of support provided in 2025/26 can be found at Appendix A.

1.6 AAFDA is recognised as a Centre of Excellence for statutory fatality reviews, contracted by the Home Office to train Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Chairs, and working to identify and share best practice through its national DHR network and with key partners such as the NPCC, APCC, College of Policing, Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Victims Commissioner and ministers and civil servants at the Home Office and MOJ.

1.7 AAFDA are the only specialist organisation established with the aim of supporting bereaved families through statutory reviews and criminal justice processes. There are no other market options available to deliver this work, at this level. Therefore, this recommendation seeks the Commissioners approval to Direct Award the contract to AAFDA.

1.8. AAFDA are currently working with 6 Lancashire families and anticipate receiving an additional 2 referrals in year. Should AAFDA not receive two new referrals, they will provide appropriate and relevant training.

1.9 A full breakdown of costs and proposal for support can be found at Appendix B.

### **2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan**

2.1 AAFDA can support the OPCC in delivering on its VAWG theme within The Police & Crime Plan for Lancashire 2024-2029.

2.2 DHRs play a critical role in crime prevention. The core driver of these statutory reviews is to provide invaluable insights into systemic issues and help identify areas where interventions can prevent domestic abuse and fatal domestic abuse. By supporting AAFDA's work, PCCs are directly contributing to crime prevention efforts in their area and enhancing VAWG prevention and response activities within both their Police and Crime Plans and their VAWG strategies.

2.3 In some areas where AAFDA is working, there has been an improvement in police identification of suspected victim suicides with a history of domestic abuse and where subsequent DHR findings are increasingly informing criminal investigations.

### **3. Consultations**

### **4. Implications:**

#### **a. Legal**

A draft contract can be found at Appendix C.

#### **b. Financial**

The cost is £91,217.28 for 3 financial years; this funding has been allocated utilising the Proceeds of Crime Act.

#### **c. Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no direct Equality implications in the making of this decision.

#### **d. Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Not Applicable

### **5 Risk Management**

### **6. Background Papers**

Appendix A – Case Study A

Appendix B – Funding Proposal – 2026-2029

Appendix C – Draft contract

### **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.*

| <b>Officer declaration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Date</b> |
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| <b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |
| <b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |             |
| <b>EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |             |
| <b>CONSULTATION – As above</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |             |
| <b>Author</b><br><br><div>Signature: Emily Slinger</div> <div>Date: 19/05/26</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |             |
| <b>Sponsor</b><br><br><p>I have read the above report and confirm this is factually correct.</p> <div>Signature: Rebecca Keech</div> <div>Date: 19/05/26</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |             |
| <b>Section 151 Officer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner</b><br><br><p>I have read the above report and have considered the financial implications. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate (financial) request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.</p> <div>Signature: Steve Freeman</div> <div>Date: 19/05/26</div>                                                                                                      |             |
| <b>Chief Executive (Monitoring Officer) for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire</b><br><br><p>I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.</p> <div>Signature: Anna Hopkins</div> <div>Date: 19/05/26</div> |             |