



RECOMMENDATION REPORT

DECISION: 08/2026	DATE: 21/05/2026
TITLE: PREMIER LEAGUE POLICE PARTNERSHIPS PILOT	
AUTHOR: BETH WILLMOTT – POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT OFFICER (GRANTS AND FUNDING)	
SPONSOR: REBECCA KEECH – SENIOR POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER (COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT)	
Executive Summary In 2025, the Premier League Charitable Fund launched the Police Partnerships Pilot Fund for 2026/27, aimed at strengthening collaboration between football community organisations and the police to improve engagement at a local level. Local trusts were required to submit bids to the Premier League to secure funding, with only a limited number being successful. As part of the funding criteria, successful trusts were also required to secure pound-for-pound match funding from their local Police and Crime Commissioner or police force. Following an initial allocation of £180,000 in 2025/26, the OPCC has agreed to provide further funding to the 6 successful trusts. For those trusts that were not successful, the OPCC has agreed to either act as the sole funder or provide match funding in partnership with an agreed organisation. The Commissioner is recommended to provide an additional £360,000 to ensure every area of Lancashire benefits from a prevention offer.	
Recommendation The Commissioner is asked to approve the allocation of £360,000 to support the Premier League Charitable Fund Police Partnerships Pilot.	

PART I

1. Background and Advice

In 2025, the Premier League Charitable Fund launched the Police Partnerships Pilot Fund for 2026/27, aimed at strengthening collaboration between football community organisations and the police to improve engagement at a local level.

Local trusts were required to submit bids to the Premier League to secure funding, with only a limited number being successful, and those successful were required to secure pound-for-pound match funding from their local Police and Crime Commissioner or Police Force. The Premier League has allocated £20,000 to the following Trusts:

- Blackburn Rovers Community Trust
- Blackpool FC Community Trust
- Burnley FC in the Community
- Morecambe FC Community Foundation
- Preston North End Community and Education Trust
- Wigan Athletic FC Community Trust

Following an initial allocation of £180,000 in 2025/26, the OPCC has agreed to provide further funding to the 6 successful trusts. For those trusts that were not successful, the OPCC has agreed to either act as the sole funder or provide match funding in partnership with an agreed organisation. The funding allocations are as follows:

Football Trust	Area	District	OPCC Funding Allocation	Duration
Accrington Stanley Community Trust	Hyndburn	East	£40,000	12 months
AFC Fylde Community Foundation	Fylde	West	£40,000	24 months
Blackburn Rovers Community Trust	Blackburn	East	£40,000	18 months
Blackpool FC Community Trust	Blackpool	West	£40,000	18 months
Burnley FC in the Community	Burnley	East	£40,000	18 months
Fleetwood FC Community Trust	Lancaster	West	£40,000	12 months
Morecambe FC Community Foundation	Lancaster	West	£40,000	18 months
Preston North End Community and Education Trust	Preston	South	£40,000	18 months
Wigan Athletic Community Trust	West Lancs	South	£40,000	18 months

This funding will support delivery of the Champions programme, an innovative initiative for young people aged 10–25 who are involved in or at risk of offending behaviour. Through trusted mentoring relationships, the programme promotes personal

development and wellbeing, helping to reduce offending and antisocial behaviour, with effectiveness demonstrated through independent evaluation.

The Commissioner is therefore recommended to approve an additional £360,000 to ensure every area of Lancashire benefits from a comprehensive prevention offer.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

The prevention programme supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priorities Tackle Crime & Anti-Social Behavior and Get Tough on Serious Violence, particularly:

- "I will support local diversionary projects."
- "I will support intervention programmes helping young people at risk of offending behaviour."

3. Consultations

N/A

4. Implications:

a. Legal

None to Consider.

b. Financial

£360,000 will be allocated from Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) monies to support this programme across the 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years.

c. Equality Impact Assessment

Equality data is currently gathered for all applications.

d. Data Protection Impact Assessment

There are no direct Data protection implications in the making of this decision

5 Risk Management

None

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.

Officer declaration	Date
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above	
CONSULTATION – As above	
Author Signature: Beth Willmott Date: 20/05/26	
Sponsor I have read the above report and confirm this is factually correct. Signature: Rebecca Keech Date: 20/05/26	
Section 151 Officer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner 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. Signature: Steve Freeman Date: 20/05/26	
Chief Executive (Monitoring Officer) for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire 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. Signature: Anna Hopkins Date: 20/05/26	