



RECOMMENDATION REPORT

DECISION: 24/2026	DATE: 23.09.26
TITLE: GROUNDED FUTURES – SOLACE COFFEE/RENEWED HORIZONS.	
AUTHOR: Steve Hanley, Head of Policy and Partnerships.	
SPONSOR: Steff Hull, Senior Policy and Partnerships Manager	
Executive Summary This recommendation seeks the approval of the Police and Crime Commissioner to allocate £17,000 to Solace Coffee and £9,500 to Renewed Horizons to fund an employment programme delivered in Preston Prison with links to employment on release.	
Recommendation The Police and Crime Commissioner is recommended to allocate £26,500 to support the delivery of this programme.	

PART I

1. Background and Advice

- 1.1. Solace Coffee is a Community Interest Company (CIC) specialising in training and upskilling those who may find it difficult to find employment elsewhere. They are embedded in HMP Preston. They will deliver this project in partnership with 'Renewed Horizons', a community interest company that supports people who are economically inactive or excluded from the labour market.
- 1.2. The grounded futures project will create a sustainable training model that delivers purposeful activity, practical skills development, work experience and stronger employment outcomes for prisoners during their time in Preston Prison.
- 1.3. Solace Coffee CIC require £17,000 to support the following activity.
 - Six-week accredited programme. The existing Grounded Futures six-week programme is costing at £900 per learner.
 - The programme includes:
 - Level 2 Barista
 - Level 2 Food Hygiene
 - Level 2 Customer Service
 - Practical hospitality skills
 - Employability skills Individual progression planning
 - Assessment and certification
 - Preparation for work experience and employment.
 - The original model provides three accredited certifications per learner.
- 1.4. The programme will provide:
 - Support for 18 learners, which provides:
 - 18 full six-week programme places
 - Up to 54 accredited certifications.
- 1.5. Solace Coffee will also deliver two additional cohorts at HMP Preston, each delivered over 3.5 days.
- 1.6. This will support a further 10 young men through intensive hospitality, barista, employability and progression activity.
- 1.7. These participants will be tracked separately from the 18 full programme places to avoid double-counting.
- 1.8. Through-the-gate support: The additional funding will support 10 young men through the gate, providing continuity from custody into the community.
 - This will include:
 - Liaison with probation.
 - Further training Paid work experience.
 - On-the-job training.
 - Employment progression.
- 1.9. Funding is also proposed for Renewed Horizons CIC of £9,500 to continue their agreed employability, classroom and rehabilitation support within the Grounded Futures model.

This will provide support to all participants in the programme to enable opportunities for employment on release to be provided.

- 1.10. The support package provides support and education to give prison leavers appropriate skills and knowledge for entering the work place and continues post release as employment is taken up by the individuals.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

- 2.5 Supports the delivery of the priority Get Tough on Serious Violent Crime – by creating a vehicle to remove people from the criminal justice system hence lessening their offending and the effects of their offending.
- 2.6 It will also support the Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy with respect to addressing the drivers of criminal behaviour and supporting individuals to move away from crime and towards more positive pathways.

3. Consultations

- 3.5 The Governor of Preston prison and his education team have been involved in the development of the programme and the Probation service has been consulted.
- 3.6 As a result of consultation with the probation service, assurance has been provided that probation officers will be updated as well as the Prison Employment Leads of all prisoners participating on the programme.

4. Implications:

a. Legal

Funding to be issued directly to Solace Coffee on a Grant Agreement. The recommendation for signing includes delegated powers, and the 151 Officer has agreed to sign the Grant Agreement thereafter.

b. Financial

The grants of £26,500 in 2026/27 is to be funded from the POCA reserve.

c. Equality Impact Assessment

Subject to the equality assessments performed by Solace Coffee as the service provider.

d. Data Protection Assessment

This will be managed by Solace Coffee and Preston Prison in respect of their working model.

5 Risk Management

The Grant and associated Risks will be managed as per the Community Grant Management Policy

6. Background Papers

Internal grant funding proposal

Officer declaration	Date
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above	
CONSULTATION – As above	
Author Signature: Steve Hanley Date: 1 October 2026	
Sponsor I have read the above report and confirm this is factually correct. Signature: Steff Hull Date: 1 October 2026	
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: 1 October 2026	
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: 1 October 2026	