



west midlands office of the police and crime commissioner

2025-2026

Victims Fund

Grant Criteria and Process for specialist services

Objectives of the fund in 2025/2026:

'To improve the outcomes for victims of crime in the West Midlands'

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West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's Victims Fund

Grant Criteria and Process for specialist services

Background Information

Local Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for commissioning support services for victims of crime in their area. This follows the Government consultation *'Getting it Right for Victims and Witnesses'* and recognises that whilst all victims must have clear expectations about how they will be treated and the support on offer, local services must have flexibility to meet the different and changing needs.

Services commissioned by the PCC will form part of a varied network of support that exists for victims across the West Midlands, funded by other commissioners and through charitable donation.

The Police and Crime Commissioner must ensure funding is spent on:

- Victims of crime, particularly victims in the priority categories outlined in the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime: [Code of Practice for Victims of Crime](#).
- Support services for family members
- Any associated costs that arise in the process of commissioning/provision of victims' services
- Services for victims of all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls including Hidden Harms

The Police and Crime Commissioner will work with all organisations, from the community safety and criminal justice sectors, to voluntary and community groups, to ensure the needs of victims are met through improved services, with duplication avoided.

Hidden Harmful Practices

If you are an organisation that supports victims of hidden harmful practices in the West Midlands, you are able to bid for up to £20k through the Victims Fund. This year, the fund will consider applications from organisations working to support victims of hidden harmful practices. Through the Victims Fund, Simon Foster has made £110k available for organisations and wants to shine a light on harmful practices which despite being hidden, have an immense and long-lasting impact on the victim.

The UN defines harmful practices as 'persistent practices and behaviours that are grounded in discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, age and other grounds as well as multiple and/or intersecting forms of discrimination that often involve violence and cause physical and/or psychological harm or suffering'. Harmful practices include female genital mutilation, so-called honour-based abuse, forced marriage and human trafficking. By focusing this fund on hidden harmful practices, we wish to offer funding for projects and organisations that support victims of more hidden forms of harmful practices such as conversion therapy, transnational marriage abandonment and faith/spiritual-based abuse. For further information and examples, see the criteria below.

Application Process

Applications will be first considered by strategic policy and commissioning leads followed by a panel consisting of strategic and political representatives of the OPCC.

The panel will consider the information supplied by the applicant and how well the project meets the criteria. The recommendation made by the panel will be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for consideration. It is possible the Commissioner may want to meet with organisations to discuss the bid further.

Successful bids will be processed and all grants will come with conditions to ensure both sides understand the agreed outcomes. Successful bids will be required to provide evidence of spend and the outcomes of the service at agreed points in the year.

Grants available

Voluntary and community organisations are invited to apply for grant funding to deliver specialist services designed to help victims of hidden harms cope with the immediate impact of crime and recover, as far possible, from the harm experienced. The PCC has determined the maximum amount for projects is £20,000, however he does have the discretion to make larger awards to outstanding bids. Costings need to be realistic and will be subject to significant scrutiny.

Criteria

In order to comply with the requirement in the Victims Code and [Victims' Directive](#), services commissioned or provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner must be in the interests of the victim and be:

- Free of charge
- Confidential
- Non-discriminatory (including being available to all regardless of residence status, nationality or citizenship)
- Available whether or not a crime has been reported to the police
- Available before, during and for an appropriate time after any investigation or criminal proceedings

Grant applications should also show:

- Clear timescales
- A baseline position and intended outcomes that fit with the eight categories of need (with measures)

- What additional resources (people or money) are available from partners to complement any awarded resources by the Police and Crime Commissioner
- If this is a one off project or not. If the bid looks for pump priming the bid should show how funding will be sustained afterwards
- Clear performance management processes

Monitoring and Evaluation

Successful bidders will be asked for quarterly reports throughout the year demonstrating the impact of the service, how they have worked with victims and how the money has been spent. The report should include:

- What the money was spent on
- The impacts/outcomes of the project, with evidence
- Any victim engagement through the project and on-going, if applicable
- Evidence of spend (statement of accounts) and information if there are any remaining balances including how this money will be repaid or a formal request for funding to be carried over with timescales for spend in the new financial year.

As funding is public money, successful applicants may be asked to provide additional information for audit purposes.

Deadline for applications

Funding rounds for the financial year of 2025-2026 will be held on one occasion only. The submission deadline is 17:00 on the 28th Feb 2025. Late applications will not be considered. Please read the application carefully as failure to submit requested finance information and safeguarding and data protection policies may lead to your application being unsuccessful.

Please make sure that you attach:

- Redacted bank statement
- Audited accounts / Unaudited accounts depending on Organisation status
- Vulnerable adult and child safeguarding policies
- Data protection policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Anti Racist Policy

Applicants will be notified as to the outcome of their application week commencing 17th March 2025.

If you have been successful in accessing funding from the OPCC on a previous occasion, it is less likely that you will receive funding again for the same project.

You may apply for funding for a different project.

The priorities for this round of Victims Funding include:

- Harms that occur around puberty such as breast ironing, labia pulling and menstrual ostracising
- Transnational marriage abandonment (sometimes called bride abandonment)
- Dowry abuse and bride price
- Caste-based abuse
- Faith/belief/spiritual-based abuse, including witchcraft
- Conversion therapy
- Female infanticide
- Virginity testing and hymenoplasty

- Widowhood practices – including homelessness, discrimination, poverty, ostracism, violence towards widows following spousal death

If you work with victims who have experienced any other form of hidden harmful practice not listed above, we would still welcome an application as we understand that this list is not exhaustive.

A copy of the Police and Crime Plan is available at <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan-2021-2025/>