

**2023-2024**

**Victims Fund**

**Criteria and**

**Application Form**

**Objectives of the fund in 2023/2024:**

*‘To improve the outcomes for victims of crime in the West Midlands’*

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Lloyd House

Colmore Circus Queensway

Birmingham

B4 6NQ

**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.

For 2023/24 the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands, Simon Foster, has been allocated funding by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to commission victims services, including restorative justice. 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:<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/254459/code-of-practice-victims-of-crime.pdf>
* Services for victims of sexual and/or domestic violence
* Support services for family members
* Any associated costs that arise in the process of commissioning/provision of victims’ services

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.

Cost of Living Crisis

In response to the ongoing and undeniable impact of the cost of living crisis on victims, this year the victims fund will be ringfenced for organisations and projects that have either been directly impacted or are working with victims who have been directly impacted by the ongoing challenges.  For Victims Commissioner Cllr Nicky Brennan this fund is of upmost importance, in a recent survey seeking views from both victims and organisations, Nicky Brennan found that organisations are being placed under an extreme amount of pressure through rising demands placed on their services and ever-growing waiting lists, this together with the cost of living crisis has resulting in creating a perfect storm in which organisations are struggling to provide these vital services.

This year the fund will consider applications from organisations that seek to alleviate some of this financial pressure and will consider costs directly related to the cost of living crisis such as increased recruitment/running costs.

Nicky Brennan’s survey also revealed that victims of crime (as well as organisations tasked with supported them) are facing personal challenges which have resulted in exacerbating their vulnerabilities and so this fund will also consider applications from projects seeking to support victims directly.  This could take the form of small hardship funds, care packages or additional capacity to meet increased demand.

**Application Process**

Applications will be first considered by a panel consisting of the Victims Commissioner, and Strategic Policy Leads from 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 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](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:315:0057:0073:EN:PDF), 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 2023-24 will be held on one occasion only. The submission deadline is 17:00 on the 15th February 2023**.** 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

Applicants will be notified as to the outcome of their application week commencing 27th February 2023.

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 discussed in the Police & Crime Plan are:

* Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) including;

• Domestic Abuse

• Sexual Abuse Child Sexual Abuse

• Sexual Exploitation including Sex Work and Child Sexual Abuse

• Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

• Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

• Forced Marriage

• Stalking

• Harrassment

• Rape

* Hate crime
* Modern slavery & Human Trafficking
* Restorative Justice
* Support services for children and young people
* Fatal road traffic collisions
* Volume Crime

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

**APPLICATION FORM**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Organisation and Status** | ***Amount Requested*** | | | |
|  |  | | | |
| **Name of Project** |  | | | |
| **Brief description of the proposed service/project** | | | | |
| *Please summarise your project in* ***no more than 250 words*** *– you will be asked to provide further details in questions below.* | | | | |
| **Showstopper Criteria Check** | | | **Yes** | **No** |
| *It is your responsibility to ensure that your documents are included with this application form. Your application may not be considered if you do not do so.* | | | | |
| *Are you able to use the requested funds within the 2023/24 financial year?* | | |  |  |
| *Will the funding be used to support victims of crime to cope and recover?* | | |  |  |
| *Will the service be easily accessible to victims and free of charge?* | | |  |  |
| *I have included a redacted bank statement with this application (this means that you can blank out the list of financial transactions on the statement). This must relate to the bank account that funding would be paid into.* | | |  |  |
| *I have included twelve months accounts from the last financial year (if your organisation is less than one year old, please include a business plan)* | | |  |  |
| *I have included an uptodate Data Protection Policy (reflecting GDPR)* | | |  |  |
| *I have included an uptodate Child Protection Policy* | | |  |  |
| *I have included an uptodate Vulnerable Adults Policy* | | |  |  |
| *I have included an uptodate Equality and Diversity Policy* | | |  |  |
| **Supporting victims to cope and recover**  *Describe why there is a need for your project and how many victims will the service be provided to?* | | | | |
| **Accessibility and cost**  *Set out how the proposed service/project will be accessible to victims and provided free of charge* | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **Equality considerations**  *What equality considerations have been made in the development of this service?* | | | | |
| **Consultation**  *Has any engagement taken place with victims, the community or partners? If yes, what?* | | | | |
| ***Activities and outcomes***  *Please describe how your activites will help victims to achieve the four outcomes listed in the table below* | | | | |
| ***Outcome*** | | ***Activity*** | | |
| ***Example (improved health and wellbeing)*** | | ***Weekly 1 hour one to one emotional support sessions for victims of domestic violence*** | | |
| ***Improved health and wellbeing*** | |  | | |
| ***Better able to cope with aspects of everday life*** | |  | | |
| ***Increased feelings of safety*** | |  | | |
| ***Better informed / empowered to act on information***  *(i.e. this covers more than just victims being informed about the progress od their case. It also links to a sense of understanding what is available to them in terms of support, and feeling empowered to act on this)* | |  | | |
| ***Monitoring requirements***  *You will be required to provide monitoring information on a quarterly basis, this will include numbers of victims supported, source of referral, victim age, gender etc, activities delivered and outcomes achieved and victim satisfaction.*  *Please describe what processes and systems you have in place to collect this data.* | | | | |

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| **Area for delivery**  In which policing area will your project be delivered?   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Birmingham |  |  | Sandwell |  |  | Wolverhampton |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Coventry |  |  | Solihull |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Dudley |  |  | Walsall |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| *Has your agency previously received funds from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner? Yes/No*  *If yes, please provide details:*  *Has /Is your agency receiving funding as part of another project funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner? For example, your agency may be working collaboratively with another organisation and is in receipt of funding through Active Citizens.*  *Yes/No*  *If yes, please provide details* |
| **What will happen when the Police and Crime Commissioner funding expires? It is unlikely that your project will receive funding from Victims Fund in the next financial year.**  *If the project requires ongoing funding where will this come from?* |
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| **Any other relevant information** |
| **Applicant details** |
|  |
| Organisations name: |
| Name of project manager: |
|  |
| Position held in organisation: |
|  |
| Telephone number: |
|  |
| Address: |
|  |
| Email address:  Website address: |
|  |
| Signature: |
|  |
| Date: |
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