

D O N N A J O N E S

**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

H A M P S H I R E & I S L E O F W I G H T

T H E C O M M I S S I O N E R ' S

SAFER
COMMUNITIES FUND

H A M P S H I R E & I S L E O F W I G H T

Guide to Applying for Funding

Starting 1 April 2027

Foreword

Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner

Creating stronger and safer communities is at the heart of my Police and Crime Plan. Alongside investing in policing, I am committed to supporting local organisations that work tirelessly to prevent crime, tackle anti-social behaviour, and improve the quality of life for residents across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The Safer Communities Fund is one of the ways I invest in our communities, providing grant funding for organisations to deliver projects that make a positive difference. Through this fund, I want to support initiatives that address local concerns, strengthen community resilience, and help ensure Hampshire and the Isle of Wight remain safe places to live, work and visit.

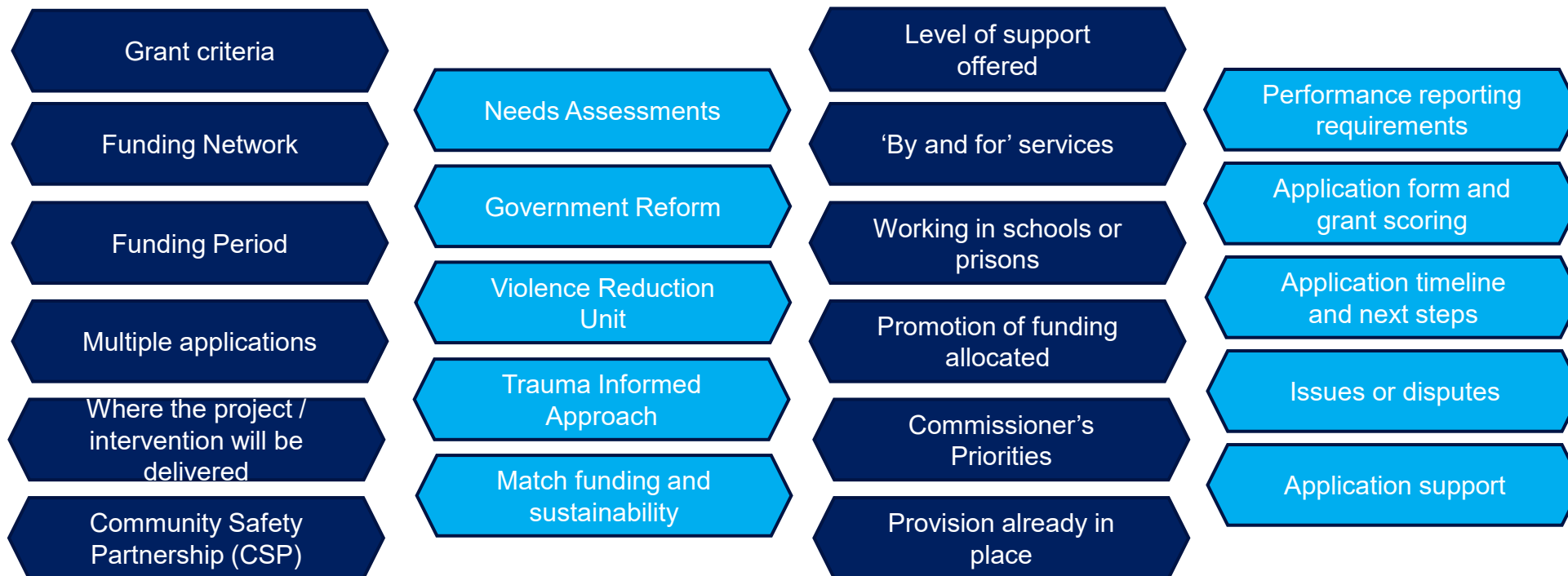
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Information to consider before applying

To help you complete your application, you must read this guidance document in full before applying for funding. Select a button below to find out more about each area.



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Grant criteria

To be eligible for funding the following criteria must be met:

- Be a not-for-profit organisation unless its profits are used to fulfil its social purpose.
- Provide a free of charge and confidential service.
- If providing support to victims of crime the support must be made available whether or not a crime has been reported to the Police.
- Must comply with all relevant equality legislation.
- Focus on projects or interventions that help individuals to cope and recover from the impact of crime or help increase community safety.
- Delivery of the funded project or intervention must take place within Hampshire and/or the Isle of Wight.
- Final decisions regarding the allocation of funding are made by the Commissioner.

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Funding Network

To be eligible to receive funding, organisations must be members of the [Funding Network](#):

- Organisations that are not currently members may submit a Funding Network application alongside their application to the Safer Communities Fund. Further information about the Funding Network and details of how to apply can be found on the [Funding Network](#) webpage.
- Please note that a Safer Communities Fund application cannot be approved until the organisation's Funding Network application has been completed and approved.
- We recognise that some organisations may be applying to the Funding Network for the first time. The Commissioning Team is happy to provide support and guidance throughout the application process and welcomes enquiries from prospective applicants.

The maximum amount of funding that can be applied for per application, per 12-month period is determined by your Funding Network membership tier:

- **Tier Three** - Up to **£50,000** per application in a 12-month period
- **Tier Two** - Up to **£30,000** per application in a 12-month period
- **Tier One** - Up to **£10,000** per application in a 12-month period

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Funding period

The application window will open on **1 September 2026** and **close at 15:00 on Friday 16 October 2026**.

Funding will commence on **1 April 2027** and will be awarded for a minimum of twelve months. Any extension is not guaranteed and will be subject to the Commissioner's decision. It will also be contingent upon the project or intervention maintaining strategic relevance, achieving agreed outcomes, and the availability of funding.

Multiple applications

The Commissioner welcomes multiple applications from an organisation. However, organisations may submit a maximum of **four applications** in total.

Only **one application per project or intervention in each geographical area** will be accepted. For example, if a project or intervention involves multiple posts, only one application should be submitted for those posts, up to the maximum value permitted under the [Funding Network tier](#) of which the organisation is a member. Applications must not be divided into multiple submissions to circumvent this requirement.

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Where the project / intervention will be delivered

Understanding where a project or intervention will be delivered is important to ensure that funded provision is distributed across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in a way that meets the needs of communities across districts, boroughs and unitary authorities. It also helps the OPCC understand who we need to consult for each application.

As part of the application process, we will ask which geographical area(s) a project or intervention will be primarily delivered in. We understand that delivery may cover a number of geographical areas and therefore require applicants to advise the split across the different areas. However, rather than advising where a project may occasionally be delivered, we ask applicants to identify where the majority of delivery will take place. For example, if a project is delivered within Southampton but may include one or two individuals from Eastleigh, Southampton should be selected as the primary delivery location.

The application form will limit the percentage of coverage to a minimum of 20% per geographical area, and we ask that a maximum of five areas are selected to show where the majority of delivery will take place.

There will be an option to select larger geographical areas, such as Countywide (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton) and Hampshire (excluding Portsmouth and Southampton), where a project or intervention will be delivered across a wider area. These options should only be selected where applicants can demonstrate that delivery and access to the service will be broadly distributed across the area selected, rather than concentrated within a smaller locality.

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Community Safety Partnership (CSP)



Effective community safety activity relies on strong partnership working. Across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, a range of local partnerships bring together statutory agencies, voluntary and community organisations, and other stakeholders to understand local needs, coordinate activity, and tackle community safety issues.

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are a key example of this approach. CSPs bring together statutory partners, including the police, local authorities, probation services, health organisations and fire and rescue services, alongside other local partners such as voluntary community and social enterprise (VCSE). Collectively they coordinate the partnership response to community safety in their local area, and it is important that applicants demonstrate how they will work with local partnerships and contribute to delivering local priorities.

Projects funded through the Safer Communities Fund should form part of the wider local response rather than operate in isolation. Applicants are therefore expected to demonstrate how they will engage with relevant local partnerships and contribute towards local priorities and outcomes.

In your application, you should:

- Identify the relevant partnership(s) covering the area or issue your project will address.
- Explain how you will work collaboratively with those partnership(s) during project delivery.
- Demonstrate how your project aligns with local priorities, identified needs and existing services.
- Describe how you will share learning, outcomes and information with partners where appropriate.

This engagement could include attending partnership meetings, contributing to local initiatives, coordinating activity with partner agencies, sharing project outcomes, or participating in local planning and problem-solving arrangements.

You should also demonstrate how your project aligns with the priorities and needs identified within the relevant area. To support this, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has produced a series of Needs Assessments, which should be considered when developing your application.

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Needs Assessments

The Needs Assessments provide an evidence-based overview of community safety needs across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. They bring together crime, demographic and vulnerability data to identify key areas of need and opportunities for prevention and early intervention.

The assessments are structured around the four strategic priorities and are intended to support commissioning decisions and funding applications. Applicants are expected to use relevant evidence from the appropriate Needs Assessment to demonstrate local need and explain how their proposed activities will address identified community safety challenges and strategic priorities.

Please refer to the assessment most relevant to the area in which your project will be delivered:

- [Basingstoke and Deane](#)
- [Fareham](#)
- [Havant](#)
- [New Forest](#)
- [Southampton](#)
- [East Hampshire](#)
- [Gosport](#)
- [Hampshire & Isle of Wight \(including Portsmouth and Southampton\)](#)
- [Portsmouth](#)
- [Test Valley](#)
- [Eastleigh](#)
- [Hart](#)
- [Isle of Wight](#)
- [Rushmoor](#)
- [Winchester](#)

[Annex A](#): A reference document explaining the evidence base, data sources and analytical approach used to identify community safety needs and funding priorities. This supports the above Needs Assessments.

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Government Reform



The Local Government Reorganisation will commence from April 2028. This is the process in which the Government will replace the current two-tier system of local councils (county and district councils) with a single tier of larger, all-inclusive "unitary" authorities. The primary goal is to simplify public services, improve financial resilience, and cut administrative waste.

In May 2027, all residents across Hampshire will vote for councillors to sit on a shadow council for their area that will oversee the set up of their new unitary authority. In April 2028 they will become the councillors for the new authority.

For Hampshire and Isle of Wight the unitary authorities will be as follows:

- **North Hampshire** (Basingstoke, Hart & Rushmoor).
- **South West Hampshire*** (Eastleigh and Southampton).
- **Isle of Wight**
- **Mid Hampshire** (New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester and East Hampshire).
- **South East Hampshire*** (Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport and Fareham).

* The above model also includes the following boundary changes:

- The parishes of Totton and Eling, Marchwood, Hythe and Dibden, Fawley (currently under New Forest District Council) and Chilworth, Nursling, Rownhams and Valley Park (currently under Test Valley Borough Council) will become part of the South West Unitary.
- The parishes of Newlands (currently under Winchester City Council), Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle (currently under East Hampshire District Council) will become part of the South East unitary.

Applicants should consider and demonstrate how their project or intervention can adapt to the changes should funding be extended beyond March 2028.

For further information: [Devolution and local government reorganisation FAQs | Local Government Association](#)

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Violence Reduction Unit

The core role of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is to lead and coordinate a partnership response to reducing serious violence, taking a whole-system and public health approach to drive system change.

VRUs are expected to:

- Bring together police, local authorities, health services, education, youth justice, probation, the voluntary sector and communities.
- Develop a Strategic Needs Assessment to understand the causes and patterns of serious violence.
- Produce and oversee a Response Strategy to address those causes.
- Use data and evidence to identify risk factors and target resources effectively.
- Commission, coordinate and evaluate interventions.
- Promote early intervention and prevention, particularly for children and young people.

In October 2025, the Home Office introduced Young Future Prevention Panels (YFPPs) as part of wider VRU activity. The purpose of YFPPs is to identify children and young people at risk of being drawn into crime or serious violence and connect them to support earlier through a multi-agency process.

Stronger applications will demonstrate their ability to take referrals from and provide feedback to relevant partnership forums in the communities they aim to support. For any project or intervention seeking to engage young people who are at risk of offending, there is an expectation that, where appropriate, they will support any Young Future Prevention Panels.

When considering the type of provision being proposed, it is recommended that applicants consider evidence of ‘what works’ using the Youth Endowment Fund toolkit. [Youth Endowment Fund toolkit.](#)

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Trauma Informed Approach

The Commissioner is particularly interested in services that understand the value of being trauma-informed, and there is an expectation that OPCC commissioned services will proactively work in a trauma-informed way. Life experiences can lead to trauma, which we may carry with us throughout our lives. Carrying trauma can make it harder for us to trust others and feel safe, and it can create barriers to accessing services. It is important that we are aware of this and work in a way that is healing and reduces the risk of triggering and re-traumatisation.

A trauma-informed approach is universal, meaning that everyone is communicated with in a trauma-informed way. This does no harm to those unaffected by trauma and does much good for those who are. Services are provided based on the six principles of trauma-informed practice:

- Safety
- Trust
- Choice
- Collaboration
- Empowerment
- Cultural considerations

For further details please visit: [Working definition of trauma-informed practice - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-definition-of-trauma-informed-practice)

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Matched funding and sustainability

Applications are scored against a number of criteria, one of which is funding secured towards your project from elsewhere. Other secured funding will greatly strengthen your application for funding from the Commissioner, and we therefore encourage you to approach other organisations to support your project.

It is encouraged that your project or intervention has a robust and sustainable delivery model including plans for future financial sustainability. The Commissioner wants to encourage and enable organisations to move towards their projects becoming sustainable in the long term. Therefore, you will be asked to demonstrate within your application how you will plan to move towards becoming more financially sustainable and priority will be given to those organisations who can demonstrate this for the next few years.

Where an application relates to the continuation or expansion of an existing project or intervention, applicants will also be expected to demonstrate how previous funding has contributed to agreed outcomes and objectives, provide evidence of impact achieved, and show how any previous commitments have been delivered.

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Level of support offered

In order to help us understand the level of support you are offering, we need you to tell us which of the following best reflects your service:

- Primary (prevent a problem occurring in the first place).
- Secondary (when a risk has been identified, offer more targeted support to prevent further escalation and increase protective factors).
- Tertiary (support for high risk and high harm individuals with entrenched needs).

‘By and for’ services

These are specialist services that are led, designed and delivered by and for the users and communities they aim to serve (for example survivors from ethnic minority backgrounds, Deaf and disabled victims and LGBT+ victims). We encourage applications from ‘By and for’ projects or interventions.

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Working in schools or prisons

The Commissioner receives a number of applications for projects to work in schools, colleges or in prisons. From the applications, it is not always clear if prior arrangements have been made with the institution that the project plans to work with. Applications should **only** be submitted if agreement has been made in principle should funding be awarded. The application should include details of those organisations and the agreement that has been made.

Promotion of funding allocated to projects or interventions

The Commissioner will publicly announce the funding has been awarded to organisations under the Safer Communities Fund once the formal decision has been taken and applicants have been notified of the outcomes.

Following the announcement, grant recipients will be expected to acknowledge the Commissioner's funding contribution in communications relating to the funded project or intervention, where appropriate. The Commissioner's Communications and Engagement Team will work with recipients to identify opportunities to raise awareness of funded projects and interventions through joint communications activity.

Further details regarding communications and publicity requirements, including the acknowledgement of funding support, will be set out within the grant agreement and recipients will be expected to comply with these requirements.

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Commissioner's Priorities

The following priorities have been identified by the Police and Crime Commissioner for this funding round and support the delivery of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. Applications that align with these priorities are particularly encouraged.

Priority areas:

- Reduced harm from **serious violence**, with fewer young people at risk of exploitation and involved in crime - Supports early intervention, prevention, and partnership approaches to criminal activity, particularly among under 25s, reflecting the PCCs focus on tackling serious violence, supporting young people, and addressing root causes.
- Reduced **violence, abuse and exploitation against women and girls**, with improved prevention and earlier intervention, particularly among young people who cause harm - Focuses on preventing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), protecting victims, and reducing offending, in line with the Strategic Policing Requirement and compliments existing commissioned services.
- Reduced **reoffending** through effective interventions, rehabilitation, and support for those at risk of repeat offending - Aligns with the Commissioner's commitment to reduce offending, including addressing drug and alcohol use.
- Reduced **anti-social behaviour** and increased public confidence, so communities both feel safer and are safer - Reflects the Commissioner's priority to drive down ASB and improve perceptions of safety alongside actual reductions in harm.

Applications that fall outside these priority areas will still be considered. However, applicants must clearly demonstrate the need for their project, explain why this need is not currently being met, and show how the proposed project or intervention will contribute to improving community safety and reducing harm within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

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Provision already in place

The Commissioner, working with a range of statutory partners, commissions and funds services that support victims of crime, reduces crime and anti social behaviour, and helps safeguard vulnerable people across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

There are no specific exclusions under this grant programme. However, applicants are expected to understand the local support and services already available within their area and to consider how their proposal compliments, enhances or fills gaps in existing provision.

As part of the application process, organisations must provide evidence of both:

- the identified need for the proposed project or intervention; and
- the additional value the project or intervention will deliver, demonstrating how it adds and compliments to, rather than duplicates, existing services and support.

Information about services and projects currently funded by the OPCC:

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Basingstoke and Deane | • East Hampshire | • Eastleigh |
| • Fareham | • Gosport | • Hart |
| • Havant | • Portsmouth | • Isle of Wight |
| • New Forest | • Test Valley | • Winchester |
| • Southampton | • Rushmoor | |

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Performance reporting requirements

It is essential that the Commissioner can demonstrate the measurable impact of all funded activity.

As all grant funding is derived from public money, the Commissioner is accountable to the Police and Crime Panel and the wider public for ensuring that funding is allocated responsibly, transparently and in a way that delivers the greatest benefit to communities. Performance reporting must therefore be proportionate, transparent and aligned to the level of funding awarded.

When determining the performance reporting requirements for a project, the following factors will be taken into consideration:

- The value of the grant awarded.
- The nature of the project or intervention.
- The level of risk associated with the project.
- The information required by the Commissioner to assess delivery, value for money and impact.

Projects or interventions will be required to submit performance reports every three to six months, depending on the scale and nature of the activity being delivered.

The OPCC Commissioning Team will work with the provider to develop a proportionate reporting framework and bespoke reporting template. This will typically include quantitative performance data alongside a narrative report to demonstrate progress, outcomes and the overall impact of the funding.

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Application form and grant scoring

Each application will be scored using only the information provided within the application and against the scoring criteria as follows:

Excellent	5	A response that is detailed, relevant, descriptive and clearly evidenced in answering the question.
Good	4	A response that fully answers the question. However, it lacks sufficient depth, detail, supporting evidence, or relevance to the commissioners' priorities in places.
Average	3	A response that partially answers the question, and provides limited depth, detail, supporting evidence, or relevance to the commissioners' priorities. Further clarity would be needed to support the response.
Poor	2	A response with significant gaps that contains little or no supporting detail or examples.
Unacceptable	0	No response or a response that does not answer the question, with no meaningful supporting evidence.

There are several 'Showstopper' questions in the scoring criteria. If an applicant fails to adequately evidence how their project or intervention meets any of these criteria (scores a 2 or lower) then their application will automatically be deemed unsuccessful.

A Word version of the application questions is available to help applicants prepare their responses before completing the online application form: [Download the Word version of the application questions](#). Applications must be submitted via the online application form found on the [OPCC website](#). The document is provided for reference only.

Applicants who require reasonable adjustments or alternative application arrangements due to a disability, accessibility need, or other circumstance that prevents them from using the online application form should contact the Commissioning Team at opcc.commissioning@hampshire.police.uk

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Application timeline and next steps



Application period and deadline

- Application period is 1 September to Friday 16 October at 15:00/3pm
- Applicant(s) will be notified of the result(s) February 2027
- Funding will start 1 April 2027

Application form

Applications must be submitted via the online application form found on the [OPCC website](#).

Please note that not all application questions are applicable to Tier One Funding Network members. Where this is the case, the question has been clearly marked.

Grant scoring

Further details on how your application will be scored can be found in the

- [Grant criteria and scoring document](#)

Once your application is complete

The OPCC will consult with and involve the CSPs, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, local authorities and the Youth Justice Services where appropriate. Applications will be scored and moderated and then presented to the Commissioner, who will make the final decision on the allocation of funding.

Grant agreement

To enable applicants to view what a standard OPCC grant agreement format looks like: [link to example grant agreement](#).

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Issues or disputes

As outlined throughout this guidance, all applications are assessed through a fair, open and transparent process against the published eligibility and assessment criteria. However, Final decisions regarding the allocation of funding are made by the Commissioner.

If your organisation wishes to raise a query, complaint or dispute regarding your application to the Safer Communities Fund, this should be submitted in writing to opcc.commissioning@hampshire.police.uk. The matter will be reviewed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and a response will be provided within **20 working days** of receipt.

Please note that submitting a complaint or dispute does not guarantee that an application decision will be changed.

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Application support

We will be running four drop in sessions to support applicants with any questions they may have:

- Thursday 3 September at 10:00
- Tuesday 8 September at 14:00
- Monday 21 September at 09:30
- Wednesday 7 October at 13:30

If you would like to attend any of these sessions or need any support outside of these sessions then please email opcc.commissioning@hampshire.police.uk

We hope this guidance has provided everything you need to submit a strong application. If you have any questions, please get in touch. We look forward to hearing about your project / intervention ideas and the difference they could make in local communities.

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