**Peer Action Collective (PAC) Project
Expression of Interest**

The VRN is looking for **two** grassroots community groups based in East and West Leicester to join as partners in the Peer Action Collective (PAC) project, delivered in collaboration with Young Leicestershire and Leicestershire Police, running from September 2025 to September 2027. PAC is a ground-breaking youth-led initiative that empowers young people to conduct research in their communities and turn their findings into action.

There are two opportunities available – one for a grassroots community group based in East Leicester, and one for a group based in West Leicester. Each group should have direct access to children and young people with lived experience of violence and policing, as well as experience in delivering projects that empower them.

Each of the two grassroots community groups will receive a total of £25,000 over the two years to support young people to take on roles in designing and delivering peer research and social action projects to implement change locally and nationally.

**Background**

The Violence Reduction Network (VRN) is an alliance of organisations, groups and communities that believe violence is preventable and through working together in tackling its root causes, we can make Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland safer for our young people and communities.

The [Violence Reduction Network (VRN)](https://www.violencereductionnetwork.co.uk/) has partnered with the [Youth Endowment Fund](https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/) (YEF) to become one of four delivery partners in the national [Peer Action Collective (PAC)](https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/peer-action-collective/) project being delivered between September 2025-September 2027. The project will be delivered in collaboration with Leicestershire Police and [Young Leicestershire](https://youngleicestershire.org.uk/), a local charity with expertise in youth employment and youth-leadership.

The research topic focus is policing, and the project will be delivered across East and West Leicester as these are our priority areas. The involvement of communities is central to our work and therefore grassroots community groups are vital partners in the delivery of this project.

**About the Peer Action Collective (PAC)**

PAC is a youth-led model which aims to empower young people, particularly those with lived experience of crime and violence, to create positive change.  It is delivered in two phases:

1. **Peer research**: Eleven PAC Leads (16-20 years) are recruited and trained to be peer researchers and then design, carry out and analyse the research with 500 other young people. These roles are paid. The research area is policing, and young people will work with the YEF to agree the topic and research question. The young researchers will present their findings and recommendations to key stakeholders.
2. **Social action:** Following on from the research, the same eleven young people will co-design and deliver youth-led projects to support change. They will recruit and support a wider group of 50 change makers and 100 social action participants thereby providing volunteering opportunities to a larger group of young people from within the same communities.

We anticipate that PAC will benefit our work collectively in the following ways:

* Strengthen youth involvement opportunities including the introduction of peer research into our area.
* Increase experience and employability of young people engaged in the project.
* Create high-quality peer research and insights and evidence-informed social action.
* Improve our understanding around the issues and solutions in relation to policing and violence.
* Influence change and improve our services across local and national organisations.
* Ensure we are connected to a ground-breaking national youth-led network.
* Develop our knowledge and skills around peer research so we can utilise this method on an on-going basis.

**About this opportunity**

Our two grassroots community groups on the project will meet the following criteria:

* Be embedded in a community within East or West Leicester (with access to their own venue)
* Have a strong reach of children and young people aged between 10-20 with lived experience of violence and policing
* Have employed youth worker(s) within the organisation who have positive relationships with young people within your community and have experience of providing pastoral support to young people who have been involved in violence or had experience with the police
* Have experience in empowering young people to take part in youth leadership and/or social action projects
* Have experience of working collaboratively with partners and working on a project plan
* Have a track record of completing quarterly monitoring documents and submitting them on time
* Interested in being part of the research topic focus on policing, and implement change locally and nationally
* Experienced in safeguarding young people and have an up-to-date safeguarding policy with safeguarding trained staff and a Dedicated Safeguarding Lead.

**Responsibilities throughout the two-year project are highlighted below with the specific responsibilities for grassroots community groups:**

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| **Project stage**  | **Timeframe (flexible)** | **Responsibilities of VRN, Young Leicestershire and Leicestershire Police:**  | **Responsibilities of each grassroots community group:**  |
| PAC Oversight  | September 2025 – September 2027  | Develop a PAC Project Board that meets bi-weekly to design, develop and oversee the PAC project from design through to delivery. Members on the board will include representatives from the VRN, Leicestershire Police, Young Leicestershire and grassroots community groups.  | Assign a manager from your grassroots community group to attend bi-weekly PAC Project Board meetings. Please note - there is a requirement to be flexible to attend additional meetings outside these Board meetings where required.  |
| Project co-design  | September 2025  | Arrange co-design sessions with young people to design the detail of the project including recruitment, support, research and social action delivery.The VRN and Young Leicestershire will be responsible for providing incentives during focus groups.  | With support from the VRN and Young Leicestershire, arrange an in-person focus group with young people aged 16-20 (with lived experience of violence) to design the PAC leads recruitment process, induction and support element throughout the project. With support from the VRN and Young Leicestershire, arrange an in-person focus group with young people aged 10-20 (with lived experience of policing) to design the research elements and wider role recruitment opportunities throughout the project. |
| Recruitment  | September 2025 - November 2025  | Recruit 11 x young people (aged 16-20 with lived experience of violence) into employed roles as PAC leads. | Identify and support young people to apply for the PAC lead role (For e.g. supporting with completing a video or written application and supporting with preparing for an interview).Identify an additional young person to support with the interviews. |
| March 2026 -June 2026 (project 1)December 2026 - March 2027 (project 2) | Identify 150 young people (aged 10-20 with lived experience of policing) to take the roles as peer research participants and engage in in-person research with PAC leads.  | Identify and support a minimum of 25 young people (in total across the project) to engage in the in-person research within your community.Provide any follow up support for young people who have engaged in the research (For e.g. providing a safe space, short-term youth work support, onward referrals, supporting to access additional support).  |
| Survey disseminated in December 2026 | Identify 350 young people (aged 10-20 with lived experience of policing) to take the role as peer research participants and complete a survey. | Identify and support a minimum of 25 young people from your community to complete the survey.  |
| June 2026 -December 2026 (project 1)June 2027 -September 2027 (project 2) | Recruit 50 young people (aged 10-20 with lived experience of policing) into volunteer roles as Changemakers. Changemakers are required to support PAC leads in reviewing research findings and designing social action projects. They are required to engage for 12 hours or more in the project and will be required to attend training.  | Identify and support a minimum of 10 young volunteers from your community to become Changemakers (For e.g. supporting with completing a video or written application).Provide additional support to changemakers to empower them to complete their role (For e.g. supporting changemakers to attend face-to-face training sessions, attend team-building days, complete 12 hours of volunteering in designing social action projects with PAC leads).  |
| September 2026 - December 2026 (social action project 1)June 2027 -September 2027 (social action project 2) | Identify 100 young people (aged 10-20 with lived experience of policing) to take the role as social action participants. Social Action Participants are required to take part in social action projects for up to 10 hours. | Identify and support a minimum of 15 young people from your community to become social action participants. |
| Support  | December 2025 - September 2027 | Provide pastoral support to PAC leads (ensuring individual needs are met). | Provide additional mentoring and pastoral support to PAC leads from your community to enable and empower them to take part in the project (For e.g. one-to-one support, mentoring, practical support e.g. assisting the PAC leads to carry out the research, supporting to book travel arrangements and supporting with communication with other adults).\*Expenses for young people can be claimed from Young Leicestershire.  |
| March 2026 -September 2027 | Provide support to young people in various roles of the PAC project including research participants, changemakers and social action participants.  | Provide additional mentoring and pastoral support to young people from your community, throughout their various roles in the project (For e.g. one-to-one support, mentoring, practical support e.g. assisting with designing and delivering social action, supporting to book travel arrangements and supporting with communication with other adults).\*Expenses for young people can be claimed from Young Leicestershire. |
| Venue support  | December 2025 - September 2027 | The team will be co-located within communities and meet regularly for team meetings, group supervision sessions, 121 meetings and training sessions. | Provide meeting rooms (and basic refreshments including tea/coffee) with a flexible booking process system when required. A rough guide for this is half a day a week.  |
| December 2025 - September 2027 | The team are required to attend:* National training sessions
* Hold local training sessions
* Provide a continuous learning and development offer for PAC leads and wider PAC team
* Annual residential to support PAC leads
 | Ensure representation at various training sessions. There will be approximately one per month.  |

**Funding available**

There is £50,000 available for this project. Each grassroots community group will receive £25,000 for the two-year project (£12,500 per year) to support with staff time costs and venue costs.

**Contract monitoring requirements**

The key point of contact through this contract will be the Community and Young Person Involvement Manager within the VRN.

Grassroots community partners will be required to:

* Attend bi-monthly PAC Project Board meetings with representatives from the VRN, Young Leicestershire and Leicestershire Police.
* Complete and submit monitoring data on a quarterly basis to the VRN.
* Attend quarterly contract management meetings with the VRN.
* Engage in the evaluation process led by national partners if required.
* Be willing to collaborate in comms activity and actively be involved in promoting the work of PAC

**Completing the expression of interest form**

This expression of interest form is an opportunity for you to share why you would like to be a partner on the PAC project. The questions link to the essential criteria and will ask you 5 short questions including the following:

**Please confirm that you have shared your safeguarding policy with the VRN to** **vrn@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk** **and will adhere to the PAC Safeguarding Plan.**

In this response we want to confirm that you have an up-to-date safeguarding policy (with a clear process to safeguard children and young people, safeguarding trained staff and a Dedicated Safeguarding Lead).

**In no more than 500 words, please explain how you meet the essential criteria to become a partner on this project:**

*The grassroots community groups must be:*

* *Embedded in a community within East or West Leicester (with access to their own venue)*
* *Have a strong reach of children and young people aged between 10-20 with lived experience of violence and policing*
* *Include youth worker(s) who have positive relationships with young people within your community and have experience of providing pastoral support to young people who have been involved in violence or had experience with the police*
* *Have experience of working collaboratively with partners and working on a project plan*

In this response we want to ensure you are embedded in East or West Leicester and have a strong reach of children and young people with experience of violence and/or policing. We want to ensure you have dedicated and experienced youth workers already in place, who already have strong relationships with these young people, and we want to ensure you have experience of working collaboratively with partners and adhering to a project plan.

**In no more than 250 words, please share why you are passionate about being a partner on this project:**

In this response we want to hear about why you are interested in being part of this groundbreaking national project, and your interest in the research topic of policing. Please share the benefits this project will bring to your young people, and your community.

**In no more than 250 words, please share any previous experience you have had in delivering youth voice, youth leadership or youth-led social action projects that will be vital for this project:**

In this response we want to hear about any previous experience you have had in relation to delivering youth voice, youth leadership or youth-led social action projects and how you will bring your skills and experience to this project.

**In no more than 250 words, please share any previous experience you have had in completing monitoring documents and submitting on time in line with project timelines?**

This project involves meeting tight deadlines with our national partners and therefore it is paramount that our grassroots community groups are experienced in completing project forms and submitting on time. Please share any previous experience you have had on this. If you have previously not met deadlines but have since had additional administration support, please share how you will ensure that you can meet tight timescales.

**The application process**

The application process will open on 30/07/2025 and the deadline for completion is on 21/08/2025 at 23:59.

The process involves the following steps:

* 1. Please familiarise yourself with [PAC](https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/peer-action-collective/) and the project requirements, and ensure you meet the essential criteria and have the capacity to become a partner in PAC.
	2. Complete the Expression of Interest form [**here**](https://forms.office.com/e/f49we8phHt)and send your safeguarding policy to vrn@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk.
	3. You will receive confirmation from the VRN that we have received your application within 48 hours of receipt.
	4. An internal panel will score your expression of interest. The top 2 scorers in each area will be invited to join a one-hour virtual interview on Friday 29/08/2025. The question(s) for the interview will be shared in advance.
	5. All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be informed by Tuesday 02/09/2025.
	6. Successful applicants will receive a funding agreement from the VRN/OPCC to sign, and then the payment process will begin.