

Organisation Name		Reference code
Safer Places		2025-10-YWG28
Organisation Address		
Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way Harlow CM18 7BL UK		
Website Address		
https://www.saferplaces.co.uk/		
How did you hear about the Triangle Trust?		
Website		
Please describe your organisation's purpose in one or two sentences.		
Safer Places is a charity offering trauma-informed support, refuge and specialist services to women and children affected by domestic abuse - we aim to empower individuals to rebuild their lives in safety, with resilience and independence.		
Type of organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details)		
Charity	Registered Charity Number	Date Registered
Yes	1018832	1993
Community Interest Company	Registered Companies House Number	Date Registered
No	02789572	
Social Enterprise	Has your organisation been awarded the Social Enterprise Mark?	Year Awarded
No		
Grant Summary		
The purpose of this grant is to fund our "Rosie Centre Women & Girls Pathways Programme", utilising our position in the community as a domestic abuse support provider, we want to reach women and girls that local enforcement are currently missing and guide them to safer futures and better decision-making with reduced harm.		
Please describe the specific needs of the young women and girls you work with that this project will address		
<p>Our pilot is based in Harlow, Essex - a town facing high levels of poverty, crime, and educational exclusion, as well as the highest rate of County Lines activity in the county. One in eight children lives in absolute poverty, and many experience multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) such as abuse, neglect, or household instability. These early traumas are strongly linked to poorer mental health, chronic illness, and increased risk of offending later in life.</p> <p>Young women in Harlow face intersecting vulnerabilities that heighten their risk of criminalisation. Many are survivors of domestic abuse, have been excluded from education, or have experienced homelessness and exploitation. The Harlow Listening Report (2024-25) highlights that local young people feel unsafe, lack trusted adults, and want safe, supportive spaces where they can talk openly about their experiences and choices.</p> <p>Despite this, gender-specific diversion and prevention services for young women remain extremely limited. Most youth and crime prevention initiatives are designed around the experiences of boys and young men, leaving young women's distinct needs - shaped by trauma, coercion, and gender-based violence - largely unmet.</p> <p>Harlow's six secondary schools each have over 1,000 pupils and are expected to</p>		

deliver wide-ranging education on health, safety, relationships, and employment with very limited resources and time. As a result, these vital topics are unfortunately often delivered superficially, as "tick-box" exercises, rather than as meaningful, sustained support. Our project seeks to bridge this gap by providing specialist, trauma-informed, gender-responsive engagement that schools and statutory partners cannot currently offer.

Between June 2024 and July 2025, there were 328 knife-related crimes in Harlow - ranking the town 7th out of 14 in Essex. While headline statistics are slowly declining, this masks the underlying causes of why young women are carrying knives or becoming involved in crime. Essex Police have recognised that enforcement alone cannot reach those who are hidden, fearful, or distrustful of authority. As a deeply trusted community organisation, Safer Places is well positioned to engage these young women through relationship-based support and referrals via partnership pathways. We frequently support young women who have been coerced or exploited into criminal activity due to abuse or survival pressures. This includes economic abuse, gang involvement, drug and weapon carrying, shoplifting, or sexual exploitation. Coercive control often blurs the line between victim and perpetrator - abusers may manipulate victims into committing crimes by exploiting their trust, fear, or dependence. These dynamics are often invisible to statutory services, making gender-sensitive, trauma-informed intervention essential.

Recent research into girls carrying knives shows that their involvement is often rooted in trauma, coercion, and a perceived need for protection. Even when carried for self-defence, the risk of use and harm increases significantly.

This project directly responds to these needs by offering preventative education, trauma-informed mentoring, and safe pathways out of exploitation and criminalised environments. It will address not just the symptoms - such as knife-carrying - but the root drivers, including fear, coercion, and lack of opportunity, helping young women move toward safety, stability, and positive futures.

What are the key outcomes you will be seeking to achieve for young women and girls either at risk of offending or who are already caught up in the criminal justice system? How will you track the impact you are making?

We want to develop a project that includes both prevention and intervention, diverting and supporting young women and girls involved in or at risk of engaging in crime or carrying knives. Our aim will be to create a multifaceted, integrated system that not only addresses the immediate issues but also tackles the root causes and provides support for the individual. We want to first listen to why these women and girls are carrying knives and offer some diversion and preventative options for them via workshops and support.

Outcomes:

- Reduction in first-time and repeat offending
- Increased awareness of coercion, exploitation, and weapon carrying, making safer choices etc.
- Improved mental health, self-esteem, and stability
- Stronger connections with mentors and peers, and the community
- Greater engagement in education or employment

Measurement:

- Pre/post surveys to collect feedback and qualitative data to show impact
- Changes in quantitative measures via tools such as MyStar/Outcome Stars
- Attendance and retention tracking to measure engagement
- Partner data from Police, YOT, Probation on re-offending and referrals
- Case studies to provide storytelling and deeper insights that capture lived experiences and outcome

1. Prevention

Prevention efforts will focus on reducing the likelihood of young people becoming involved with crime and knives in the first place. This will include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Awareness Workshops delivered at our Rosie Centre, which provides a vital community hub for women and children in the Harlow area. • Peer-to-Peer Mentoring, where trained young women with lived experience share insights and model positive change to our clients and the community. • Creative and discussion-based sessions exploring safety, relationships, and decision-making. <p>2. Intervention</p> <p>For young people already involved in crime, intervention is crucial. This will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the root causes of why these young people are involved in crime (poverty, exposure to violence, lack of opportunities) and offer tailored support in these areas. • Many young people involved in crime often have underlying mental health issues. We can offer counselling and therapy services or signpost to appropriate agencies. • Offering support and access for continuing education or vocational training for those who have left school early or had negative experiences in education. • Help with finding stable employment, apprenticeships, or training programs to provide financial independence and a positive alternative to criminal activity. • Many young people involved in crime lack healthy social connections and we would like to use the Resilience X programs that focus on building empathy, and problem-solving to help them develop positive future relationships. • We will use Outcome Stars to co-create and plan with the young person what their support should look like.
<p>What are the key activities you will undertake with this funding to achieve these outcomes?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish referral pathways with Essex Police, YOT, Probation, and schools - enabling young women cautioned or identified as at risk to be signposted into support. • Deliver diagnostic assessments and personalised support plans from our Rosie Centre in Harlow. • Facilitate targeted workshops on coercion, knife harm, emotional wellbeing, and decision-making. • Provide mentoring and counselling for high-risk young women. • Offer peer-led and creative sessions that build confidence and empower safer choices.
<p>Does your proposed project already exist or is this a new piece of work? If this project is already operating, please describe to us how you will use this as an opportunity to build on what you have achieved to date. If this is a new piece of work, please explain what this funding will enable you to do differently.</p>
<p>This is a new extension of our work, piloting a dedicated, trauma-responsive model for young women - both our existing clients and those reached through community outreach - who are at risk of criminalisation. The project fills a clear local gap for gender-specific prevention and early intervention services in Harlow.</p> <p>The funding will enable us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a new pilot programme within our established Rosie Centre. • Co-design project content with youth councils and lived-experience mentors to ensure relevance and authenticity. • Strengthen multi-agency coordination with police, education, and community partners. We are particularly keen to engage local secondary school Youth Councils to gather their perspectives and shape the approach. • Build an evidence base for future expansion across Essex. <p>This work will sit within our Rosie Collective model (established in June 2025) a place-based, multi-agency partnership designed to address the complex challenges faced by women, children, and young people affected by domestic abuse, trauma, and social disadvantage.</p> <p>The Rosie Collective builds on the success of The Rosie Centre, by expanding into a</p>

wider collaborative network of statutory agencies, charities, and community groups all working toward a shared goal: empowering women and improving life outcomes for their children. Key partners include NHS England, Probation Services, DWP, Rainbow Services, Peabody Housing, Streets2Homes, Employability and Integration Support, Sexual Health Services, and Harlow Council. We are also developing strong partnerships to deliver services for children and young people, such as Rainbow Services' carpentry project for youth at risk of gang involvement.

Our model places non-statutory partners at the heart of delivery. Because these partners are not associated with enforcement, they are often better positioned to build trust and engagement. They can provide practical, immediate support - such as food bank vouchers, emergency grants, or home safety measures - and act as advocates with statutory services, helping to contextualise a woman's situation and reduce the risk of punitive responses.

What expertise and track record do you have to be able to deliver this work successfully? Please specifically mention your expertise linked to gender and trauma informed approaches.

Safer Places is a trusted and embedded organisation that has served the Essex community for over 50 years. This longevity and community trust are vital when supporting vulnerable women and girls and when delivering education and prevention initiatives that empower people to make safer choices.

As a women-led organisation, we have deep expertise in trauma-informed and gender-sensitive practice. Our team includes qualified therapists, counsellors, peer mentors, and frontline practitioners who build strong, professional relationships with clients and guide them through their recovery journeys with empathy and care. Our children's services are led by a specialist with professional credentials in Early Years, a degree in Children's Studies, and a Master's in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, supported by a multidisciplinary team of teachers, early years practitioners, and therapists. Over 50% of our staff have lived experience of abuse or disadvantage, enabling authentic, compassionate, and effective support for our clients.

Relevant expertise and qualifications include:

- Trauma Aware Bronze Award (One Small Thing): Achieved through a comprehensive review of our practices, this award evidences our commitment to embedding and continuously improving trauma-informed approaches.
- SAFE Award (expected April 2025): Recognises that Safer Places has met the recommended safeguarding standards for both children and adults.
- National leadership in child-centred practice: We understand the cyclical nature of abuse and disadvantage, which is why our approach prioritises children's healing and wellbeing. Our Community Interest Company (CIC) developed the nationally recognised OCNLR-accredited Children's Domestic Abuse Advocate Training-a trauma-informed, child-centred qualification for professionals such as refuge staff and teachers. This course was cited as best practice in the Office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's report and launched in Parliament with Dame Nicole Jacobs. It remains the only training of its kind in the UK.
- Experienced educators and community facilitators: We regularly deliver Healthy Relationships and Domestic Abuse Awareness sessions in local schools, equipping young people with the knowledge and confidence to recognise and challenge abuse. Safer Places is recognised as a leader in trauma-informed, evidence-based support for families affected by domestic abuse and adversity. Our service model draws on over two decades of international research into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress - particularly the work of Professor Eamon McCrory (UCL) and Harvard University. This research underpins our belief that with the right interventions - safe environments, stable homes, and strengthened parenting capacity - the long-term effects of early trauma can be mitigated. We have worked directly with Professor McCrory to shape our approach, and he has contributed as a speaker at our professional conferences.

Please explain how the grant will be spent
<p>The grant will fund a 2-year pilot programme to deliver trauma-informed, gender-responsive prevention and intervention work with young women and girls in Harlow. Funding will support staffing, delivery, and evaluation to ensure measurable, lasting impact.</p> <p>Costings:</p> <p>Intervention Practitioner(s) Year 1: £32,000 Year 2: £16,000 Notes: 12 months Year 1, 6 months Year 2. Funding will cover either one full-time practitioner or two part-time practitioners sharing the equivalent of one full-time post (£32,000 FTE including on-costs). This flexibility allows recruitment based on candidate availability and community need. Practitioners will deliver one-to-one and group interventions, coordinate referrals, and ensure consistent multi-agency collaboration. Two part-time roles enhance continuity, coverage, and safeguarding.</p> <p>Workshops Year 1: £3,000 Year 2: £3,000 Notes: Delivery of structured educational workshops in schools and community settings (healthy relationships, coercion, safety, and decision-making) across 24 months.</p> <p>Peer Mentors Year 1: £2,000 Year 2: £2,000 Notes: Training and ongoing mentoring. Young women with lived experience will support peers, co-design programme content, and act as relatable role models.</p> <p>1:1 Counselling/Therapy Year 1: £1,500 Year 2: £3,500 Notes: Trauma-informed counselling and therapy sessions for participants experiencing mental health challenges or trauma symptoms. More sessions in Year 2 as the programme develops.</p> <p>Resources & Materials Year 1: £1,500 Year 2: £1,500 Notes: Production of high-quality resources, creative materials, and workbooks for group and outreach sessions.</p> <p>Monitoring & Evaluation Year 1: £0 Year 2: £2,500 Notes: Mostly in Year 2 for final evaluation. Includes data collection, participant feedback, and final evaluation report to evidence outcomes, inform future funding bids, and demonstrate long-term impact.</p> <p>Overheads/Admin/Contingency Year 1: £1,000 Year 2: £1,000 Notes: Core operational costs including safeguarding, insurance, venue hire, project management, and administrative support.</p> <p>Total: £70,000 (over 2 years) The £70,000 grant will be phased over two years, with £40,000 in Year 1 and £30,000 in Year 2. Year 1 covers 12 months of Intervention Practitioner support, initial workshops, peer mentor training, and resources. Year 2 funds the remaining 6 months of staffing, continued workshops, counselling, mentoring, and evaluation. This budget offers strong value for money, with most resources directed toward frontline prevention and intervention work that directly reduces women and girls' risk of entering - or re-entering - the criminal justice system. By funding skilled practitioners, peer mentors,</p>

and therapeutic support, the project delivers early, trauma-informed interventions that address the root causes of offending, reducing long-term costs to statutory services such as policing, courts, and social care.

Expenditure is proportionate and outcome-focused, ensuring that every element - from workshop delivery to evaluation - contributes to measurable reductions in offending behaviour and improvements in safety, wellbeing, and opportunity. Through the Rosie Collective partnership model, existing infrastructure, community venues, and local networks will be used to maximise reach and minimise overheads.

The learning, data, and community relationships developed through this programme will create a sustainable foundation for continued delivery and replication, contributing to a long-term, system-level reduction in the criminalisation of women and girls across Essex.

Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?

- The Project Lead (Intervention Practitioner) will oversee delivery, partnerships, and monitoring.
- Facilitators, therapists, and mentors will lead group sessions and 1:1 support.
- Peer mentors will co-facilitate activities and model lived-experience leadership.
- Monitoring and evaluation will be overseen by the Safer Places Data & Impact Team, with communications via partner feedback from statutory agencies.

How do you plan to continue this work once the grant ends?

Our long-standing partnerships across Essex will ensure that referral pathways, collaboration, and community trust continue well beyond the grant period. The evidence and impact data gathered through this pilot will form the basis for future funding applications to local authorities, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and national charitable trusts, supporting the continuation and expansion of the model across Essex.

We maintain strong partnerships with Essex Police, Probation, and youth agencies, and all staff receive training in gender-sensitive and trauma-responsive practice. Essex Police have highlighted the value of our collaborative, community-based approach - recognising that enforcement alone cannot address the root causes of harm. Together, we aim to build long-term, preventative solutions that break cycles of abuse in Harlow and beyond.

Safer Places also sits on key partnership boards, including the Safer Harlow Partnership Panel, SETDAB Reference and Housing Groups, the Victims and Witnesses Action Team, and the Women and Girls Action Team, ensuring our expertise informs strategic planning and local action.

Many multi-agency initiatives struggle with sustainability due to short-term funding, limited integration, and staff turnover. The Rosie Collective overcomes these barriers by fostering trusted, long-term relationships between statutory, voluntary, and community partners. What makes this model effective is its shared vision - all members are committed not just to their individual outcomes, but to the collective goal of improving lives. The Collective delivers a coordinated community response, harnessing the full strength and resources of the local area.

While Harlow faces significant challenges, it also possesses strong community capital. It is a town built by generations of families with a deep sense of belonging and mutual support. Although financial resources are limited, there is abundant local goodwill and a thriving network of community groups, volunteers, and small businesses ready to contribute to positive change.

We have already seen this in action, for example:

- A local gardening group advising our "Growing Together" Gardening Wellbeing Project with clients.
- A running club pairing women with running buddies to build confidence and connection.
- Local businesses recently donating to our Summer of Fun campaign to fund

<p>family trips and shared experiences.</p> <p>These examples illustrate the depth of community engagement and generosity that underpins our work. By embedding the project within the Rosie Collective's established infrastructure, and by leveraging this local energy and partnership network, we are confident the initiative will remain sustainable, collaborative, and impactful long after the grant period ends.</p>
<p>Is your organisation led by women and are at least 80% of your organisation's total beneficiaries' women and girls? Please provide a breakdown of your beneficiary numbers for the past 2 years.</p>
<p>Safer Places is proudly women-led:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustees: 2 of 11 identify as men • Senior Management Team: 1 of 9 identify as men • Staff: 4 of 65 identify as men <p>Between 01.04.23-31.03.24, 91.64% of our clients were female.</p>
<p>Does your organisation have existing knowledge and expertise working across the criminal justice system?</p>
<p>Yes. Safer Places has extensive experience working within and alongside the criminal justice system through long-standing partnerships with Essex Police, Probation, and Youth Offending Teams (YOT). Our staff are trained in justice-linked, trauma-informed, and gender-responsive approaches, and we provide specialist support to women subject to community orders or leaving custody, ensuring continuity of care and compliance with license conditions.</p> <p>For over 15 years, we have supported women and girls affected by abuse who are involved in or at risk of offending, delivering holistic, wraparound support that addresses mental health, safety, and socioeconomic needs. Our team works closely with partner agencies such as substance misuse services, police, and probation to ensure an integrated response that balances accountability with rehabilitation.</p> <p>In addition to direct criminal justice work, Safer Places plays a key preventative role through early intervention and education. In partnership with Harlow Council, we deliver Healthy Relationships sessions to Year 6 pupils, helping young people understand respect, trust, consent, and equality in their relationships. We also run Domestic Abuse Awareness workshops in secondary schools, empowering students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the key components of healthy relationships. • Recognise signs of unhealthy or abusive behaviour. • Understand how abuse affects emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing. • Develop communication and boundary-setting skills. • Know where and how to seek help or support. <p>This combination of justice-based intervention and early prevention ensures we are addressing both the causes and consequences of abuse and offending. Our experience across these systems means we are well-placed to deliver effective, trauma-informed, and gender-specific support that helps young women and girls move away from cycles of harm and towards safer, more stable futures.</p>
<p>Will you be receiving funding from any other sources for this project?</p>
<p>Not yet. We are applying to other national and local funding to develop our capacity for prevention work around criminal involvement and making safer choices for both adults and children.</p>
<p>Do all staff have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks? If no please state why.</p>
<p>Yes</p>
<p>Reason why not all staff have DBS checks.</p>
<p>Total funding requested in this application (£10,000 to £80,000 with a maximum of £40,000 in one year)</p>

£70000	
Proposed grant start date	Proposed grant duration in months
5/1/2026	24
How much funding is required each year?	
Year 1	Year 2
£40000	£30000
What was your organisation's expenditure in the most recent financial year?	What was your organisation's annual income in the most recent financial year?
£4451783	£4337011
What value of unrestricted reserves did your organisation have at the end of the most recent financial year?	
£2103165	