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| Approved By: Charles Garbett, Acting Chief Executive and Treasurer (s 151 officer) | Classification of Paper: Not Protectively Marked |
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| Report to PCC | Report reference number PCC/ Pcc/0015 /13 |
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| Date of Decision Date of Report 15 April 2013 | Area of County/Stakeholders affected Countywide / the Public |
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Title of report: 2013/14 funding to Southend Council to maintain the Positive Futures Youth Engagement Programme in Basildon and Southend previously funded from the Home Office Positive Futures Grant.

Report by Duncan Taylor, Research & Analysis Manager, Essex County Council

Enquiries to Duncan Taylor, Research & Analysis Manager, Essex County Council

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate £45,200 to Southend Council to maintain the Positive Futures Youth Engagement Programme in Southend and Basildon previously funded from the Home Office Positive Futures Grant.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of the above funding to support the Youth Engagement Programme across Basildon and Southend.

3. Benefits of Proposal

3.1 Performance and review:

Positive Futures is monitored and evaluated by Substance (external social research co-operative) since the commencement of the programme. Data and evaluation of each project has taken place throughout this time and used to regularly review performance and trends. The project has been rigorously performance managed and reviewed against central Home Office priorities and the local outcomes identified

3.2 Impact:

Recorded Impact during 2012 – 13:

- Engaged with 656 young people of those 459 recorded positive outcome including
- Delivered average of 14 outreach sessions per week Including Street Dance, Basketball, Football, DJ mixing
- Positive young person's outcomes include improved attendance and behaviour, gained qualifications,
- Community benefit – reduction in ASB, confidence and community cohesion
- Improved community cohesion i.e. involving all parts of community in projects i.e. street dance performances for friends & family, community football matches,

3.3 Value for Money:

For every pound invested by the Home Office, Southend & Basildon PF programmes generated in £6.25 in funding and/or in-kind contributions.

4. Background and proposal

4.1 The programme has received core funding via the Home Office for over 9 years and is hosted locally by Southend Borough Council, and works in partnership with Basildon Borough Council. The programme has been delivering youth diversionary activities in partnership with statutory, community and voluntary agencies and has established an excellent reputation in contributing to the reduction of crime and the fear of crime, improving health & wellbeing, and providing alternative education programmes for the most vulnerable groups.

4.2 Positive Futures uses a range of innovative structured interventions to support and engage vulnerable / at risk young people from twilight outreach sessions, music & arts workshops, to tailored bite size accredited projects. The programme works with statutory agencies including Community Safety Partnerships, local Police, health providers, housing associations, the Youth Justice system, schools and alternative education schemes.

4.3 The programme has also been used to help inform and influence young people about a range of issues such as substance misuse, and provides an excellent opportunity for local services including the Police to breakdown barriers and build lasting relationships. Projects have also been used to help breakdown barriers and improve cohesion and relationships between young people and the wider community.

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- 4.4 The programme currently delivers approximately 20 structured engagement projects per week across Southend and Basildon. The sessions are managed by professional tutors, who also act as role models and mentors to young people. The programme has engaged with over 5000 young people since 2004, providing a range of positive outcomes, qualifications and life changing opportunities.
- 4.5 The Home Office has made the decision to end Positive Futures as a national programme on 31st March 2013 and has tasked individual projects to secure funding and support from local partners.

5. Police and Crime Plan

- 5.1. The project has been delivered in line with local priorities and informed by local needs assessment over the last 12 months. This has been jointly agreed with our Community Safety Partnership and associated stakeholders.
- 5.2. This proposal to maintain the Youth Engagement Intervention Programme across Basildon and Southend supports the key priority areas in the Police and Crime Plan around:
- Tackling the consequences of drugs, alcohol abuse and mental health issues
 - Reducing youth offending and all types of re-offending
 - Ensuring local solutions meet local problems. (The programme will link with both Southend & Basildon CSP's / policing teams).
- 5.3. It also accords with the PCC's approach set out in the Police & Crime Plan where there is a continuing need to support those existing services involved in tackling the causes and consequences of crime.

6. Police Operational Implications

- 6.1 There are no operational implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The PCC would fund £45,200 contribution to the Youth Intervention Programme but will set out clear outcomes and performance monitoring arrangements to ensure that the service delivers on his priorities to tackle the consequences of drugs, alcohol abuse and mental health issues and reduce youth offending and all types of re-offending.

The key mechanisms to evidence effective and efficient service outcomes will include:

- Number of successful engagement sessions
- Positive young person's outcomes include improved attendance and behaviour, gained qualifications
- reduction in ASB
- Improved Community cohesion

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During 2013/14 the OPCC will be monitoring and evaluating the impact of the £45,200 grant with a view to determining the extent of support for such future initiatives.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 Essex Police Standard Terms and Conditions apply and compliant to the Home Office Grant Agreement.

9. Staffing and other resource implications

- 9.1 There are no staffing issues. The project manager is employed directly by Southend Council and delivery staff are self-employed contractors.
- 9.2 There are potential resource implications for the PCCs Office as the service and performance outcomes and to a lesser extent financial performance, will have to be regularly monitored to ensure effective and efficient delivery against the Police and Crime Plan priorities.


10. Equality and Diversity implications

- 10.1 The continuation of this service would ensure that an underserved and hard to engage section of society would continue to have a specific element of support.

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Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the Chief Executive and CFO and the PCC Solicitor where legal implications arise.

Chief Executive/M.O 
Chief Financial Officer
PCC Legal Advisor (As necessary)

Decision

I agree the recommendations to this report


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PCC/Deputy PCC

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because

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PCC/Deputy PCC

Publication

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Reasons for non-publication (*state 'None' if applicable*)

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Signed/Print name

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| Report for publication | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

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