

Approved By:	Classification of Paper: Not Protectively Marked
Report to PCC	Report reference number PCC/ 022/14
Date of Decision Date of Report 31 March 2014	Area of County/Stakeholders affected Countywide
Title of report PCC Community Safety & Victims Fund – MARAC secretariat	
Report by Greg Myddelton	
Enquiries to Greg Myddelton (greg.myddelton@essex.pnn.police.uk)	

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £75,000 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the Community Safety Fund, and the allocation of a further £27,000 grant from the Victims Commissioning Fund, to Essex Police for the recruitment of the MARAC secretariat, whose activities will contribute to the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan for Essex, particularly those parts in relation to tackling domestic abuse.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of funding to support the activities of the Essex Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1 MARACs are regular local meetings where information about high risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies. This process allows a risk focused, co-ordinated safety plan to be drawn up to support the victim.
- 3.2 Effective MARAC arrangements support victims of domestic abuse and can help reduce incidents of abuse and reduce the risk of harm.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1 The MARAC secretariat team is hosted by Essex Police. Historically the funding for MARAC has been piecemeal and ad hoc. Sources have included, Essex Police, Essex County Council, Thurrock Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Safer Essex and The Home Office.
- 4.2 Essex Police has always funded the employment of the MARAC Co-ordinator at an annual cost of £38,964. Essex Police has also provided the office premises and costs in terms of IT and other support. In addition, Essex County Council is providing £15,000 towards the MARAC administration function.
- 4.3 Currently there are eleven MARACs operating across the county but these have recently been increased to reduce the current backlog of MARAC cases. There are currently 2.5 permanent MARAC administrative staff, plus overtime staffing, which bring the levels up to approximately 4. A recent CAADA (co-ordinated action against domestic abuse) review of the Essex, Southend and Thurrock MARAC recommended that 5.6 administration staff are required, based on the number of referrals received. Having considered the CAADA recommendation, our proposal is to fund 5 administrative posts which is felt by the MARAC team to be sufficient to deliver against volumes.
- 4.4 This funding is for 2014-15 only in order to give new JDATT (Joint Domestic Abuse Triage Team) and IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) arrangements to embed. It is proposed that at the 6-month point a further review of the MARAC is conducted to consider resourcing and funding for 2015-16 onwards.

5. Police and Crime Plan

- 5.1. This proposal supports the PCC's vision and delivery of the following key areas of focus:
- Improving crime prevention
 - Ensuring local solutions meet local problems
 - Supporting victims of crime

6. Police Operational Implications

- 6.1 There are no operational implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The PCC would fund a total of £102,000 contribution to Essex Police for the MARAC secretariat function.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The award of the grant is subject to the PCC's standard funding agreement.

9. Staffing and other resource implications


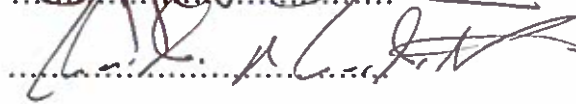
9.1 Proposal to increase number of MARAC administration staff from 2 to 5 FTEs.

10. Equality and Diversity implications

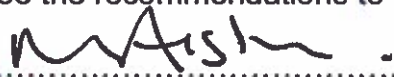
10.1 There are no equality and diversity implications

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

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

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication

YES

NO

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

