1. **Purpose of report**
   1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of £20,000 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the CSDF to Choices Family Support Service Ltd, whose activities will contribute to the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan for Essex.

2. **Recommendations**
   2.1. Approve the allocation of the CSDF grant to Choices Family Support Service Team to part-fund the opening of a café/bistro in Basildon that recruits, trains and employs ex-offenders.

3. **Benefits of Proposal**
   3.1 Choices Family proposes to open a café/bistro in Basildon Town Centre. The project will form part of their supported employment and training scheme. It is projected that the business will generate 15 new jobs of which at least 50% will be ex-offenders. Where necessary the target group will be trained in a variety of catering, hospitality and administration roles, including management.

   3.2 Choices Family will provide wrap-around support service to ensure staff receive all the necessary support to enable them to succeed.

   3.3 The project’s aims are:
   - To improve employment opportunities to ex-offenders including those whose activities would make them undesirable to mainstream employers
• To reduce the levels of recidivism by providing ex-offenders with the work skills and experience to secure paid employment either with ourselves, others, or to support them to become self-employed.

3.4 Choices Family Support intend to become an accredited training centre training over 50 people per year in catering and business administration. As well as enabling the target group to gain employment through their own organisation they plan to assist in the placement of trainees with other employers or assist them in establishing their own businesses.

4. **Background and proposal**

4.1 The project has made applications for match-funding from Foundation East & Essex Community Foundation. The aim is for the café to be self-sustaining in the long-run through sales revenue and contributions from volunteers.

5. **Police and Crime Plan**

5.1 Supports priorities in the Police and Crime Plan as follows;

- Reducing youth offending and youth re-offending
- Improving crime prevention
- Tackling the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse and mental health issues
- Ensuring local solutions meet local problems

6. **Police Operational Implications**

6.1 No operational impact

7. **Financial Implications**

7.1 The PCC would fund a £20,000 contribution to Choices Family Support Services

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 There are no staffing issues

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.