

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 001/2018
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Essex Rape Crisis Partnership extension
Area of County/Stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by : Kirsty Smith Date of report: 4 th January 2018 Enquiries to: Kirsty.smith@essex.pnn.police.uk

1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the allocation of £680,000 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the victims commissioning budget to Essex Rape Crisis Partnership to provide specialist services to victims of rape and sexual abuse across Essex.

2. Recommendations

Approve the allocation of the victims commissioning fund to Essex Rape Crisis Partnership which will allow the extension of the service for an additional year until 31st March 2020

3. Benefits of Proposal

The extension of the Essex Rape Crisis Partnership provides

- Independent Sexual Violence advocate and community based support for all victims of sexual abuse across Essex
- Stability and consistency to an existing service to allow better future planning
- Efficiency savings from a pan Essex approach to sexual abuse ensuring good and appropriate support across all geographic areas of Essex.
- Continued positive outcomes for victims through the service. Over 90% of victims feel an improvement in all measured outcomes

4. Background and proposal

Essex Rape Crisis Partnership (ERCP) provides specialist services to victims of rape and sexual abuse across Essex. ERCP is comprised of South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC), Southend Rape Crisis Centre, and the Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA which covers Mid & North Essex. The contract commenced on 1st April 2016 following an OJEU competitive procurement process. At the time the service was ground breaking forming a countywide sexual abuse service that was multi agency and a full wrap around service. The contract awarded to ERCP was for 3 years until 31st March 2019 (with option for two 1 year extensions) at an annual cost of £680,000.

Essex Rape Crisis Partnership provides two services to Essex;

1. Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) – Specialise emotional/practical support and advocacy for victims throughout the criminal justice system. ISVAs work in partnership with criminal justice agencies to provide a service to victims involved in the criminal justice process. ISVAs also provided access to range of information including sexual health and wellbeing support (£240,000 annual cost)
2. Community based support – face to face counselling, therapy,, general advocacy, group work, child and family practice, work with young people and adolescents (£440,000)

ERCPs main aim is to support the needs of victims of sexual abuse. ERCP measure this activity by monitoring the improvement victims display through some specific outcome including

- Improvement mental and physical health
- Improvement relationship with family friends, social interactions and social relationships
- Improved personal safety
- Improved feeling of safety

Over the last 18 months ERCP have consistently demonstrated they meet the needs of sexual violence victims in Essex with 94% of victims saying they feel more confident about their own personal safety following the support provided by ERCP.

Essex Police figures show as of October 2017 there were 3,428 victims of sexual offences (over a rolling 12 months) an increase since October 2016 where there were 2,899 offences. This increase of sexual offences from Essex Police figures is also being seen by a corresponding increase in the demand for the ERCP support services. ERCP are also seeing a consistent growth in demand to their support service. ERCP are continuing to manage the demand for their services closely and continually looking at efficiency opportunities without compromising the service to victims. The increasing demand for ERCP services, demonstrates the importance for a consistent support service to meet the continued need of victims in Essex.

Sexual Violence will become a stronger focus for the PFCC office with a round table meeting to be held in early 2018 with a range of partners across Essex. The purpose of this meeting is to emphasise the importance of having a collaborative and engaged partnership to prevent, support and intervene in

sexual violence matters. Having ERCP as a strategic experienced partner by our side in these conversations will ensure that we have the victim's needs at the heart of the conversation.

The increased focus in sexual violence, and the increasing demand for ERCP services, demonstrates the importance for a consistent support service to meet the continued need of victims in Essex. ERCP over the last 18 months have continued to demonstrate strong performance and dedication to ensure victims of sexual violence have support throughout the criminal justice system but also support to cope and recover from the impact of the crime. It is therefore proposed to extend the contract for an additional year until 31st March 2020 at a cost of £680k from the 2019/20 victims commissioning fund, providing security and stability for the partnership. This funding has been budgeted for, and is consistent in value with the cost of the service since its inception in 2016.

5. Police and Crime Plan

This proposal supports priority 4 of the Police and Crime Plan reversing the trend in serious violence. More specifically it ensures that we meet the objective of ensuring victims of rape and sexual violence receive the help and support they need, and work with criminal justice partners to ensure that perpetrators are convicted.

6. Police Operational Implications

No police operational implications

7. Financial Implications

OPFCC to fund a one off contribution from the Victims Commissioning Fund 2019/20 of £680,000 to Essex Rape Crisis Partnership to provide specialist services to victims of rape and sexual abuse across Essex. Quarterly performance monitoring is in place through the OPFCC to ensure key performance indicators are met. The grant monies are paid quarterly in advance subject to satisfaction performance.

The independent Sexual Violence Advisor service is jointly commissioned with NHS England as part of the wider sexual abuse services which incorporates Sexual Assault Referral Centres.

7. Legal Implications

All legal obligations are identified within the contract which commenced on 1st April 2016 and was finalised through the Kent and Essex Police Procurement teams. No legal implications are expected in the extension of this service to 31st March 2020.

8. Staffing and other resource implications

There are no staffing and resource implications

10. Equality and Diversity implications

There are no equality and diversity implications

11. Background papers

N/A

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer, prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC .

Chief Executive/M.O

Sign: *[Signature]*

Print: S. Hancock

Date: 9/2/18

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Sign: *[Signature]*

Print: CHARLES A GARNETT

Date: 8 February 2017

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (state 'None' if applicable)

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

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet YES
NO

2. Of Appendix YES
NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, Treasurer or Chief Executive are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report;

Sign: 

Print: R.C. Hest

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 22/2/18

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed:

