

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 070/19
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: Modern Slavery Helpline
Area of County/Stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by : Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 12 th April 2019
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1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the allocation of £8,000 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the 2019-20 Community Safety Fund to Unseen's Modern Slavery Helpline, whose activities will contribute to the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan for Essex.

2. Recommendations

To seek approval of £8,000 to Unseen's Modern Slavery Helpline to continue to provide a dedicated helpline for victims, the public, statutory agencies and businesses to access information and support about modern slavery 24/7.

3. Benefits of Proposal

In Essex, between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2018, the helpline made 53 referrals and received reports of modern slavery situations involving 882 potential victims.

Essex Police utilises the helpline and provides the phone number to all potential victims and members of the public.

With its 24/7 availability and the countrywide coverage, the helpline has a detailed central database that has often proved invaluable when gathering insight and information.

Potential victims or members of the public do not necessarily want to talk about modern slavery to law enforcement in the first instance due to fears of repercussions. The helpline has been a useful support to Essex Police to bridge the gap between it and the public.

4. Background and proposal

Through the helpline:

- Potential victims are able to speak to fully-trained Helpline Advisors who can help them access relevant services, including Government-funded support through the National Referral Mechanism
- Statutory agencies can call to gain support in dealing with potential victims, and to receive guidance in accessing all the information and tools available through the associated Resource Centre
- Businesses can call for information, advice and also to report any concerns they have about potential instances of modern slavery in their operations
- Members of the public and those delivering services on the front line can also report any modern slavery suspicions or concerns about individuals, premises or locations.

The helpline is managed by Unseen, a charity working towards a world without slavery. A request was received via the APCC to all PCCs seeking support to ensure the sustainability of the helpline. Positive feedback was received from Essex Police and community groups that highlighted the value of the helpline by supporting victims of crime but also by providing invaluable information to statutory agencies and members of the public. It is therefore proposed that the Essex PFCC supports Unseen to continue to deliver the Modern Slavery helpline by providing funding of £8,000.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

The alternative option that was rejected is to decline funding support to Unseen's Modern Slavery Helpline. The Police and Crime Plan commits to supporting victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. This helpline contributes to this commitment by providing support. The helpline also provides additional value by providing insight and intelligence to Essex Police in order to stop modern slavery in our county.

6. Police and Crime Plan

Unseen's Modern Slavery Helpline contribute to the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan specifically priority 5 (tackle gangs and organised crime).

7. Police Operational Implications

No direct operational implications

8. Financial Implications

The PFCC will fund a one off contribution of £8,000 from the 2019-20 Community Safety Fund to Unseen for the Modern Slavery Helpline.

9. Legal Implications

The grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

10. Staffing and other resource implications

No staffing implications.

11. Risks

There are no risks identified

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: *J Gardner*

Print: *Jane Gardner*

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: *25 June 2019*

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: