

## PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

<b>Report reference number:</b> 129/19
<b>Classification</b> Not protectively marked
<b>Title of report:</b> Healthwatch evaluation on Sexual Abuse
<b>Area of County/Stakeholders affected:</b> Essex
<b>Report by :</b> Kirsty Smith
<b>Date of report:</b> 23 August 2019
<b>Enquiries to:</b> kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk

### 1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the allocation of £2,500 in the form of a crime and disorder reduction grant from the 2019-20 Victims Fund to Healthwatch Essex.

### 2. Recommendations

To provide a grant of £2,500 from the 2019-20 Victims Fund to Healthwatch Essex in order to engage victims to support sexual violence and abuse support services procurement activity.

### 3. Benefits of the Proposal

Engaging victims in the sexual violence and abuse support services procurement activity will ensure that any new commissioned service will:

- Be victim centred
- Be accessible to victims
- Identify and understand victims' needs

Using Healthwatch to facilitate this will ensure that:

- There is an independent source identifying victims to engage in the procurement process, and
- Victims are well supported throughout the process

#### **4. Background and proposal**

The PFCC has a statutory responsibility to commission support services for victims of crime in order to help victims to cope and recover.

The current Sexual Violence and Abuse Support Service contract ends in March 2020. A procurement exercise has begun to identify a service provider to continue to support sexual abuse victims from April 2020.

It is important to include victims within the procurement process. Any new service will be working directly with victims and therefore it is important that the PFCC procures a service that meets all the victim's needs. It is therefore proposed that, within the procurement exercise, bidders will submit a case study which victims will evaluate.

Healthwatch is an independent charity set up under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Healthwatch undertakes high quality research and engagement activity to uncover live experiences of services and to be a voice for the people of Essex.

It is proposed to use Healthwatch to source a group of individuals who have experienced sexual abuse who are willing to engage with the procurement activity and contribute to supporting the development of a future service.

#### **5 Alternative options considered and rejected**

The PFCC has the option not to allocate this funding, but engaging victims within this process will ensure that the commitment of the Police and Crime Plan to ensure victims are at the heart of what we do is continued to be upheld.

#### **6 Police and Crime Plan**

This project supports the Police and Crime Plan commitment to keep victims at the heart of what we do. The contribution of victims in the procurement exercise will also support the Police and Crime Plan priority to reverse the trend in serious violence and ensure victims of sexual violence receive the help and support they need.

#### **7 Police Operational Implications**

There are no operational implications for Essex Police.

#### **8 Financial Implications**

The PFCC will provide a one-off grant of £2,500 from the 2019-20 Victims Fund to Healthwatch.

#### **9 Legal Implications**

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

**10 Staffing and other resource implications**

There are no staffing implications for the PFCC.

**11 Equality and Diversity implications**

There are no equality and diversity implications.

**12 Risks**

The below risk has been identified but with close management and mitigation in place the risk is deemed low:

*Increase the risk of re-traumatisation of victims by participating in this process –*  
To reduce this risk Healthwatch will seek volunteers to engage with this process who are willing to support it. Healthwatch will review suitability to ensure that individuals are in a good place to support the activity. Healthwatch has experience in engaging victims in research projects and the particular individual who is leading the project has experience of supporting victims. If an individual requires any further specialist support during or after the exercise this will be made available.

**13 Governance Boards**

This is not subject to any governance boards.

**14 Background documents**

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: P. Bevan-Brewster.....

Date: 1 October 2019.....

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Sign: [Signature].....

Print: Abbey Gough.....

Date: 1/10/2019.....

**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:

.....  
.....

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: J Gardner  
Print: JANE GARDNER

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 1 OCTOBER 2019

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

.....  
.....  
.....

Sign: .....

Print: .....

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: .....

