

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 021/20
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Columbus project 2020-21
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Greg Myddelton
Date of report: 17 February 2020
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To approve the allocation of a one-off grant of £133,883 from the PFCC's 2020-21 Community Safety Fund to The Change Project as a contribution toward the cost of the Columbus and domestic abuse perpetrator outreach services.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £133,883 to The Change Project to continue to deliver domestic abuse perpetrator services in 2020-21.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. This funding will contribute to the continuation of the Columbus domestic abuse perpetrator project and outreach work that The Change Project has been delivering since 2017. The delivery team will consist of a Service Manager, 2 full time Domestic Violence Awareness Practitioners (DVAPs), the Integrated Support Service and part time administration.
- 3.2. In 2020-21 the project will deliver:
 - 250 referrals
 - 150 attempted contacts following initial assessment
 - 60 contact cases where direct service interventions are delivered
- 3.3. In the first half of 2019-20, Columbus achieved 100% attendance at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), with 59 individuals referred and

19 receiving a total of 41 behaviour change sessions. 18 partners were supported through The Change Project's Partner Support Service.

4. Background and proposal

4.1. This project builds on the success of the DRIVE pilot that ran in Essex from 2016-19. Columbus is a scaled-down model of DRIVE that expands provision to the whole of Essex rather than the pilot areas of Colchester and Tendring. Quantitative and qualitative data shows that the DRIVE perpetrator intervention is reducing the use of abusive behaviours, increasing safety for victims and children, and doing so to a greater degree than in cases where only support to the victim is being provided. The number of DRIVE service users using each type of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) behaviour reduced substantially. For example, the use of high-risk:

- physical abuse reduced by 82%;
- sexual abuse reduced by 88%;
- harassment and stalking behaviours reduced by 75%, and
- jealous and controlling behaviours reduced by 73%.

4.2. PFCC funding is pooled with contributions from Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea BC.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. The PFCC may choose not to invest in this project, but that would likely result in the service being withdrawn, which would significantly restrict the available options for perpetrators of domestic abuse; an issue that is prioritised in the partnership strategy on domestic abuse and the Police and Crime Plan.

6. Police and Crime Plan

6.1. This funding will protect vulnerable people from harm, may improve reoffending rates, and break the cycle of domestic abuse. It is a good example of collaborative commissioning and partnership working between local commissioners.

7. Police operational implications

7.1. No direct operational implications

8. Financial implications

8.1. The PFCC will provide a one-off grant to the value of £133,883 from the 2020-21 Community Safety Fund to The Change Project. The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board is exploring options for a more formal, long-term contracting arrangement for domestic abuse perpetrator services from April 2021.

9. Legal implications

9.1. This funding is subject to the terms of the PFCC's standard grant agreements.

10. Staffing implications

10.1. The use of this funding to employ staff or sessional workers will be the responsibility of the host organisation. No liabilities, immediate or ongoing, will be placed on the PFCC as a result of this funding.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

11.1. This project requires individuals to consent to their engagement and be willing to change their behaviour. Cases will be referred to the project through the MARAC, as well as from statutory and voluntary sector services. This should ensure a broad range of referrals that do not discriminate by any protected characteristics.

11.2. The project offers different models of delivery, including drop-in as well as more formal 1:1 and group interventions, providing choice and control for those engaged.

12. Risks

12.1. It is recognised that working with perpetrators of domestic abuse can increase risk of harm to victims. This is mitigated by risk assessments carried out by the Change Project prior to engagement, and close-working with the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service where individuals are engaged in the project.

13. Governance Boards

13.1. The proposal to continue supporting this project was approved by the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board on 20th November 2019.

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:



Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 25 March 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: N/A – Below the threshold for CFO

Print: approval

Date:

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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.....N/A.....

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

2. Of Appendix?

YES

NO

NO

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

.....
.....N/A.....

Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

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

Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 27 March 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC