

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number:** 046/20

**Classification** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** 2020-21 CSDF changes in response to COVID-19

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Countywide

**Report by:** Kirsty Smith

**Date of report:** 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

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### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate up to £150,000 of the 2020-21 Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) to the Essex Community Foundation (ECF), which will administer grants to Essex organisations in response to the impact of COVID-19.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the allocation of up to £150,000 of the 2020-21 Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) to the Essex Community Foundation (ECF) to administer community support grants through the Essex Coronavirus Response and Recover Programme.
- 2.2. That the first round of bidding to the CSDF is suspended in order to facilitate this.
- 2.3. That the PFCC approves ECF's 5% management fee for the administration and management of this grant, up to a maximum value of £7,500 for 2020-21.
- 2.4. That decision-making in respect of individual grant awards be delegated to the Assistant Director of Commissioning (who will be taking up the new post of Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery with effect from 14 April 2020), who will report weekly to the PFCC's SMT on the decisions taken.

### **3. Benefits of the proposal**

- 3.1. In order to support local third sector organisations that are supporting the most vulnerable in our communities during this difficult time it is proposed that up to £150,000 of the CSDF is allocated to Essex Community Foundation to support the Essex Coronavirus Response and Recover Programme, and that the PFCC suspends the first round of the CSDF process in order to fund this. Essex Community Foundation would administer and match appropriate applications to the funds and ensure funds are allocated to organisations that are improving community safety for the people of Essex
- 3.2. Partnering with Essex Community Foundation and other funders across Essex ensures that we are responding to the impact of COVID-19 together and supporting organisations who are helping the most vulnerable, making it easier for them to access funds.
- 3.3. Essex Community Foundation is an experienced administrator of funds and is well-known amongst community and voluntary sector organisations. ECF will be able to identify need, circulate funds into the community quickly, and monitor how effectively they are being utilised.

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

- 4.1. The PFCC's Community Safety Development Fund's purpose is to support local voluntary and community safety groups to deliver effective approaches to preventing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in Essex.
- 4.2. Unfortunately, the outbreak of COVID-19 has had an impact on the local voluntary sector, and impacted the most vulnerable in communities. Essex Community Foundation has launched the Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme to help organisations during the coronavirus pandemic. The purpose of the programme is to provide financial support to organisations delivering vital services to older and vulnerable people; organisations helping to relieve pressure on public services, and those co-ordinating a local community response.
- 4.3. Essex Community Foundation will take a 5% fee for the management of this grant, equivalent to £7,500 of the grant value.
- 4.4. Essex Community Foundation is an independent organisation that manages a number of funds from multiple donors. They match applications from voluntary organisations and individuals to the funds they hold. Essex Community Foundation has received funding from the National Emergencies Trust and has used other local funders, as well as through the re-purposing of existing grants, to create the Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme.
- 4.5. The Community Safety Development Fund has an annual value of £300,000 and would typically open at the beginning of the financial year. This decision will see up to 50% of the CSDF utilised for the Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme. Applications will be received and assessed by ECF and recommendations will be made to the PFCC. Decision-making will be delegated to an appropriate member of the PFCC's staff who will support or reject

recommendations and report decisions to PFCC Senior Management Team on at least a weekly basis. This marks a divergence from the standard CSDF decision-making process of using an independent panel. This approach is recommended in order to ensure decisions can be taken quickly, and reflects the challenges presented by the COVID19 pandemic. Grants will be issued and managed by the Community Foundation.

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

- 5.1. The PFCC has committed to utilising the Community Safety Development Fund to support community organisations to deliver community safety projects. The PFCC can choose to continue to administer the CSDF purely for community safety projects however in these unprecedented times communities of Essex have different needs and working with partners who are refocusing funding to support the response and recovery to COVID-19 will see the most effective use of PFCC funds.

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

- 6.1. The funds allocated to Essex Community Foundation will be utilised to support projects and organisations that prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, and support community safety in line with the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

## **7. Police operational implications**

- 7.1. There are no operational implications for Essex Police.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1. The PFCC will provide a one-off grant of up to £150,000 from the 2020-21 Community Safety Development Fund as a contribution to the Essex Community Foundation. The Community Foundation will manage individual grants to successful organisations and will receive £7,500 of the grant for fees associated with the management of the grants.

## **9. Legal implications**

- 9.1. The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

## **10. Staffing implications**

- 10.1. There are no staffing implications for the PFCC

## **11. Equality and Diversity implications**

- 11.1. The Essex Community Foundation will administer the funding. The ECF is an experienced organisation that has demonstrated that it can assess decisions fairly and will support those groups that clearly demonstrate how they support communities in need. The PFCC will monitor the use of the grants, including how particularly under-represented groups are supported.

## **12. Risks**

- 12.1. Allocating funding to an external organisation has inherent risk, but this is mitigated by recognising ECF's reputation and experience in managing such grants, and in the decision-making process put in place to support this.

## **13. Governance Boards**

- 13.1. This proposal was discussed and supported at the PFCC's SMT meeting on 3.4.20.

## **14. Background papers**

None

**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: 3 April 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)

.....  
.....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   
NO

2. Of Appendix? YES   
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:**  
Roger Hirst

**Print:** .....

**PFCC**

**Date signed: 7 April 2020**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

**Sign:** .....

**Print:** .....

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** .....