

## PFCC Decision Report

<b>Report reference number:</b> 055/20
<b>Classification</b> Not protectively marked
<b>Title of report:</b> ARU disproportionality research 2020-21
<b>Area of County/Stakeholders affected:</b> Countywide
<b>Report by:</b> Greg Myddelton <b>Date of report:</b> 12 May 2020 <b>Enquiries to:</b> <a href="mailto:greg.myddelton@essex.police.uk">greg.myddelton@essex.police.uk</a>

### 1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the commissioning of Anglia Ruskin University to undertake a research project on disproportionality in the local criminal justice system (CJS).

### 2. Recommendations

Approve the allocation of £10,000 Community Safety Funding to ARU to undertake a research project into disproportionality within the local criminal justice system.

### 3. Benefits of the Proposal

The PFCC and Essex Police propose that a research project into disproportionality within the local criminal justice system be undertaken by Anglia Ruskin University. This research would consider whether disproportionality is something which is caused by, and should be addressed directly by, criminal justice agencies, or whether there are other underlying / external factors that influence lives and behaviour at an earlier juncture that lead to disproportionality within the CJS. If this is the case, other agencies might be asked to look at any such influences and how they might be addressed.

### 4. Background and proposal

This project would be undertaken via the existing contract that Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner have with Anglia Ruskin University to deliver a research project each academic year.

In spring 2019 both the Criminal Justice Board and Reducing Reoffending Board considered the issue of disproportionality and established a 'Disproportionality Task and Finish Group' (TFG).

By the end of 2019 the two Boards had agreed that they did not have the resource or expertise to analyse the available data appropriately. The Boards still maintain a desire to understand if there is disproportionality across the whole system, and if there is a need to take a system-wide approach, potentially involving other boards and partnerships.

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

Both Boards initially determined to undertake their own research and analysis of the available data. After reviewing the data immediately available it became clear that the Boards had neither the resource nor expertise to analyse the data sufficiently and meaningfully.

Both Boards considered the option to not explore the issue further. It was felt, however, that there was sufficient evidence to indicate that disproportionality may exist, and it is therefore important to understand where and why this is the case.

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

"Closer working with local partners including criminal justice agencies" is recognised as a key element of delivering the objectives within the Police and Crime Plan.

## **7. Police Operational Implications**

Essex Police will part fund this research but there will be no direct, operational impact on the Police of carrying out the fieldwork.

## **8. Financial Implications**

The PFCC will allocate £10,000 from the 2020-21 Community Safety Fund to Anglia Ruskin University via the existing Essex Police / PFCC contract with ARU (Contract Reference 201/044).

## **9. Legal Implications**

The grant is subject to the conditions of the aforementioned contract.

## **10. Staffing and other resource implications**

No direct staffing implications

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

The Equality Act explains that the second aim (advancing equality of opportunity) involves, in particular, having due regard to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Take steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

## **12. Risks**

No risks associated with this funding.

## **13. Governance Boards**

This proposal was presented to the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April and has been approved in principle by the Reducing Reoffending Board and Essex Criminal Justice Board.

**Report Approval**

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

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign:

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 26 June 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:

Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 29 June 2020

**Publication**

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (*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

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

**Sign:** .....

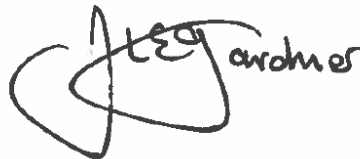
**Print:** .....

**Chief Executive/Treasurer**

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

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report;



**Sign:**

Jane Gardner

**Print:** .....

**Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed: 1 July 2020**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

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

**Sign:** .....

**Print:** .....

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

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