

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 057/20

Classification Not protectively marked

Title of report: Restorative Engagement Forum training 2020

Area of County/Stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Greg Myddelton

Date of report: 27 April 2020

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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the commissioning of the Restorative Engagement Forum to deliver a complex and sensitive restorative justice training session for the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service (ERMS).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £350 to the Restorative Engagement Forum for the delivery of a one-day training course in handling complex and sensitive restorative cases.

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1. This training will equip restorative justice facilitators within the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service (ERMS) with the skills required to deal effectively and appropriately with the most complex and sensitive restorative cases; typically those involving sexual and domestic abuse, including coercive control.
- 3.2. The training is bespoke to the needs of our delegates, which include the ERMS service manager, coordinators and administrator as well as a small number of volunteer facilitators. This training will mean the service is equipped to handle more complex cases that may be referred by partners such as the Prison Service, National Probation Service and Police.
- 3.3. Our ERMS service has incrementally increased the volume and complexity of cases it deals with. This training will ensure the service is properly skilled and

equipped to continue its development and will also support our staff and volunteers' individual development.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The ERMS is a Ministry of Justice funded service that offers victims the opportunity to meet those who committed a crime or incident against them to explain the impact the incident had. It gives offenders the opportunity to consider the impact their actions had on another individual and has been proven to have a positive impact on reoffending rates.
- 4.2. Restorative cases involving coercive control and other forms of domestic or sexual abuse require special handling, including risk assessments and initial meetings with those involved. This specialist training has been used by ERMS previously and is tailored to support those managing complex cases.
- 4.3. This training will be delivered virtually due to the social distancing requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC may wish not to commission this training, but that would limit the ability of the ERMS to handle more complex and sensitive cases. It may also have a negative impact on staff and volunteers that view this as a development opportunity.
- 5.2. There may be other organisations that can deliver this training but the ERMS has used Restorative Engagement Forum previously and knows, and values, the quality of their training. The proposed approach is compliant with Financial and Procurement Regulations.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. The Police and Crime Plan makes specific reference to enabling more victims to access justice. Within the Plan, the PFCC also commits to making greater use of restorative justice, which this training would facilitate.

7. Police Operational Implications

- 7.1. This training would enable the ERMS to take on more complex cases referred by the Police and has the potential to improve victim satisfaction and reduce reoffending.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will allocate a one-off grant of £350 from the 2020-21 Victims' Fund to the Restorative Engagement Forum.

9. Legal Implications

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

10. Staffing and other resource implications

10.1. No staffing implications.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

11.1. The ERMS is available to all victims or offenders, referred by statutory and non-statutory partners or via self-referral from our website.

12. Risks

12.1. There are no risks associated with this funding decision.

13. Governance Boards

13.1. This decision was proposed to SMT on 27.4.20 and approved in principle.

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)

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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	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:

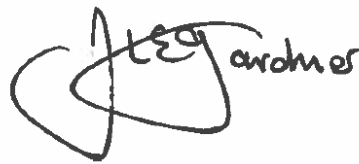
Print:

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: 30 June 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: