

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 074/20
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: MoJ extraordinary funding - Outcome
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith (Commissioning Officer)
Date of report: 8 th June 2020
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate up to £613,993 of the 2020-21 Victims Fund which was made available through an additional grant from the Ministry of Justice contribution to support organisations that support victims of crime following the impact of COVID-19.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of up to £613,993 to the organisations listed in section 4. Funding will be utilised to mitigate the impact that COVID-19 has had on the organisations in order that they can continue to support victims of crime.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1 The COVID-19 pandemic required victim support services to deliver their services using alternative methods in response to the restrictions that were enforced. All commissioned support services responded quickly and positively to these changes and amended their working models to provide remote and virtual support.
- 3.2 The delivery of remote working had a financial impact on some of the organisations. This funding will help recoup some of these costs.
- 3.3 During COVID-19 there has also been a change in victim demand. Victims are staying in services longer following the impact that COVID-19 has had on victims individually e.g. being unable to engage in therapy / support sessions, re-

traumatisation. COVID-19 has also impacted on the criminal justice process with court cases being cancelled and prolonged investigations which increases the length of engagement with the support services. Additional funding will support organisations to manage this unexpected cohort of victims through this difficult time.

- 3.4 There is also a concern that volumes will significantly increase into support services following the cessation of COVID-19 restrictions. Funding will be utilised to prepare for this increased demand and ensure victims are supported when they need to be, reducing the requirement for waiting lists.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The PFCC has a responsibility to commission services to support victims of crime. In order to deliver this the Ministry of Justice provides a Victims Grant which is utilised by commissioning domestic abuse, sexual abuse and other crime support services.

- 4.2. COVID-19 has had an impact on these commissioned services which includes:

- A cost impact of moving to remote / virtual working to ensure victims continue to be supported
- Increased complexities of victims and increased numbers of victims remaining in services for longer
- A new risk of a post-COVID surge in victims once restrictions are lifted

- 4.3. In response to this the Ministry of Justice secured £28 million from the Treasury in order to support commissioned services. The MoJ allocated this funding in three groups:

- £10 million to domestic abuse services
- £15 million to sexual abuse services
- £3 million to ISVA services

In order to distribute these funds, the MoJ agreed to pass the funding through Police and Crime Commissioners.

- 4.4. Essex was successful in obtaining £620,000 of the available funds. This was allocated in three pots:

POT 1	Commissioned domestic abuse services	£310,000
POT 2	Non-commissioned domestic abuse services	£155,000
POT 3	Commissioned and non-commissioned sexual abuse services	£155,000

4.5. It is proposed the funds are allocated to the below organisations:

POT 1 - Commissioned Domestic Abuse Services	Total Available	£310,000
	Total Allocated	£311,000

Organisation	Funding awarded	Description
COMPASS – Safe Steps (Domestic Abuse)	£82,915	The three organisations form our DA partnership across Essex. Funding will be used predominantly for temporary staff to manage demand but will also be used to continue to support remote working so services continue to be accessible to victims
Next Chapter (Domestic Abuse)	£83,673	
Changing Pathways (Domestic Abuse)	£75,756	
The Change Project (Domestic Abuse)	£53,000	This is an intervention for DA perpetrators but for every perpetrator a victim is also being supported. The allocation will provide core funding as the project has experienced a significant loss of income due to COVID
Victim Support (Domestic Abuse)	£7,681	This is a generic service to support victims of various types of crime, but this funding is directed to the domestic abuse support only, managing the increase in DA referrals and DV Protection Orders
Alpha Vesta	£7,975	Alpha Vesta works with business to support their workers and victims of crime. Since COVID impacted, Alpha Vesta has seen a sharp rise in demand as business and organisations recognise the threat and want to educate themselves to help

		support staff to remain safe.
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POT 2 Non-commissioned Domestic Abuse Services	Total Available	£155,000
	Total Allocated	£147,993

Organisation	Funding awarded	Description
Safer Places	£82,685.50	Funding will predominantly be used for the anticipated increase in demand and will support with temporary staff, allowing an increase in opening times to increase accessibility to support
One Voice	£20,122	Provision of domestic abuse support to gypsy and traveller communities. The allocation will provide core funding due to loss of income and to mitigate the increased pressures of remote working
Volunteering Matters	£2,188	The organisation uses volunteers to engage communities who support the most vulnerable. Most of its work supports those affected by domestic abuse and engages young people impacted who have been referred due to a lack of understanding of healthy relationships.
Chelmsford Counselling	£30,773.86	Counselling service offered by a very established charity in Essex. All costs are for anticipated demand and utilising the counselling service remotely to support DA victims.
Families Need Fathers	£9,760	Whilst a national organisation, it has a dedicated Essex worker and provides emotional support and guidance in relation to family

		breakdown. Funding will be used to continue to provide information, advice and support services, helping parents to achieve a positive outcome for their children.
Advocacy after Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA)	£2,463.84	National service which provides peer support and guidance and specialist and expert advocacy to families bereaved by suicides after domestic abuse. The organisation has demonstrated it is supporting Essex victims and funding is proportionate to these victims.

POT 3 - Commissioned and Non-commissioned Sexual Abuse Services	Total available	£155,000
	Total Allocated	£155,000

Synergy Rape Crisis Partnership (Sexual Abuse)	£155,000	Synergy is made up of three rape crisis centres as a joint bid. Funding will be used for temporary staff to manage demand and to continue to support remote working
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* The PFCC did not receive any applications from non-commissioned services that support sexual abuse victims

4.6. There were two organisations that were unsuccessful in their application to Pot 2 – non-commissioned domestic abuse services. The applications were unsuccessful as they did not meet the criteria:

Organisation name	Amount requested	Reasons unsuccessful
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC has a responsibility to commission services to support victims of crime. The PFCC can choose not to utilise this additional funding that has been made available however this will risk the ability of services to deliver a quality service and manage the demand / impact of COVID-19.
- 5.2. Theoretically, the PFCC could choose to provide funding to other support organisations across Essex. The services identified in section 4 are services who have followed an agreed process and demonstrated their support to victims of Essex. By not supporting services that have followed due process the PFCC would become non-compliant with the MoJ’s terms of funding and funding could be withdrawn, meaning that no organisations in Essex would feel the benefit.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1 Victims are at the heart of the Police and Crime Plan and this funding will ensure that victims continue to be supported during these unprecedented times.

7. Police operational implications

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

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will provide one-off grants totalling up to £613,993 from the 2020-21 Victims Fund to the organisations listed in section 4. The additional funding has been provided by an additional MoJ contribution.
- 8.2. Funding is to be used by 31st October 2020. Any underspend must be returned to the MoJ

9. Legal implications

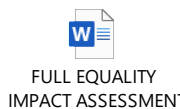
- 9.1. The award of the grants will be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement with the addition of additional data monitoring arrangements which are a condition of the MoJ grant.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. There are no staffing implications for the PFCC.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. All support services are available and accessible to all. This funding will support the continuation of this during COVID-19.



12. Risks

- 12.1. No risks have been identified. All services identified in section 4 have demonstrated the need and the requirement for this additional funding. They are all established commissioned services who are in a contractual agreement with the PFCC. They meet all contractual arrangements and are regularly monitored on their performance.

13. Governance Boards

n/a

14. Background papers

Decision report 071/2020 (MoJ Emergency Funding – Assessment process)

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 20 August 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 24 August 2020

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 NO 2. Of Appendix? YES NO

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

Redaction of unsuccessful organisations' names (set out at paragraph 4.6) due to the possible reputational risk it may cause the organisations.

Date redaction carried out: 9 September 2020

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: Elizabeth Helm

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed: 25 September 2020

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Roger Hirst

Print:

PFCC

Date signed: 3 September 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: