

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 088/20
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: Sexual Violence additional funding award
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 8 th July 2020
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate the following funding that was awarded by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to the Synergy Rape Crisis Partnership following successful applications submitted by Essex PFCC:
- £100,000 from the Rape Support Fund to support in response to COVID-19
 - £431,970 from the MoJ's additional ISVA provision (£185,130 for 2020/21 and £246,840 for 2021/22)

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of up to £531,970 to the Synergy Rape Crisis Partnership. Funding will be utilised to mitigate the impact that COVID-19 has had and to provide additional ISVAs in order to continue to support victims of sexual violence.

3. Benefits of the proposal

Rape Support Fund

The COVID-19 pandemic has 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.

Circa 300 victims have deferred / paused the support they receive due to reasons relating to COVID 19 which mean they are unable to access support remotely, including feeling unsafe living with the perpetrator; having no private space; having a learning difficulty or mental health problem that makes remote support inappropriate, or being too young to access support remotely. In preparation for re-engaging this cohort, funding will be used to increase staffing capacity utilising a bank of specialist workers.

ISVA Provision

Over the last four years demand for services has increased each year at an average of 21.28%. Complex needs and unprecedented reporting of sexual violence have led to an increased demand for ISVA services in Essex. The additional ISVA funding will allow six additional ISVAs to support and manage this rising demand

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The PFCC has a statutory 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 all other crime support services.
- 4.2. COVID-19 has had an impact on these commissioned services which includes:
 - Cost impact brought about by moving to remote / virtual working to ensure victims continue to be supported
 - Increased complexities of victims and an increased volume of victims remaining in services for longer
 - New risk of a post-COVID surge in victims as 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 tranches:
 - £10 million to domestic abuse services
 - £15 million to sexual abuse services
 - £3 million for ISVAsIn order to distribute these funds, the MoJ agreed to pass these allocations through Police and Crime Commissioners.
- 4.4. Decision sheet 074/20 announced the outcome of the funding made available for domestic abuse and sexual abuse services. The additional award to the Essex PFCC of £100,000 from the Rape Support Fund was subject to an additional application to MoJ in order to support Synergy, Essex Rape Crisis Partnership
- 4.5. The Essex PFCC was also invited to apply to the £3 million ISVA fund and submitted a proposal for six ISVAs in order to implement a pre-charge ISVA service. ISVAs provided pre-charge would sit within the Early Coping Team and:
 - offer informed choice sessions to victims who have not reported
 - accompany victims to ABEs, SARC and GUM appointments
 - support victims at NFA meetings with police
 - liaise with the Officer in Charge and assist with the right to review

Following the charging decision, victims who need longer term support would be triaged into the long-term recovery team. Longer term qualified ISVAs would have the capacity to focus fully on post-charge cases and the pending trial thus ensuring increased engagement with the criminal justice system. Currently Essex ISVAs are in high demand often working over capacity to support Essex victims. This new way of working would mean that ISVAs identify need earlier and are able to assess the short-term and long-term cases, ensuring victims receive the right support and also increasing the capacity of the service.

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 funding however this will risk the ability of services to deliver a quality service and manage increasing demand

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

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. There are no operational implications for Essex Police

8. Financial implications

Rape Support Fund

- 8.1. The PFCC will provide a one-off grant of up to £100,000 from the 2020-21 Victims Fund to the Synergy Rape Crisis Partnership. 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

ISVA provision

- 8.3. The PFCC will provide additional grants to the Synergy Rape Crisis Partnership of:
- £185,130 from the 2020-21 Victims Fund
 - £246,840 from the 2021-22 Victims Fund

9. Legal implications

Rape Support Fund

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

ISVA Provision

- 9.2. This is subject to a contract variation which the Essex Police procurement team is managing.

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. Please see the equality impact assessment attached.



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EQUALITY IMPACT AS

12. Risks

- 12.1. No risks have been identified. The Essex Rape Crisis Partnership is an established and experienced commissioned service which is in a contractual agreement with the PFCC. It meets all contractual requirements and is regularly monitored with regard to its performance.

13. Governance Boards

n/a

Report Approval

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

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: 

Print: P.Brent-Isherwood

Date: 6 August 2020

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 

Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 13 July 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:

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:

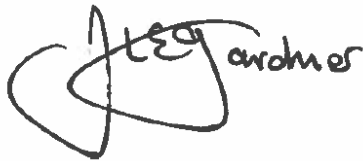
Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:



Sign:

Print: Jane Gardner

Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 7 August 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....
.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: