

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 095/20

Classification Not protectively marked

Title of report: Home Office Vulnerable Children (Emergency) Fund (July 2020)

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Samantha Grant (Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit Project Manager)

Date of report: 27th July 2020

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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate up to £98,101 from the 2020-21 Home Office Vulnerable Children (Emergency) Fund to 14 local charities that support vulnerable children and have been impacted by COVID-19. The fund is for activity from 1st April to 31st December 2020.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of up to £98,101 to the organisations listed in table 1 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 vulnerable children.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. The COVID-19 pandemic required many small organisations to deliver their services using alternative methods in response to the restrictions that were enforced.
- 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 terms of support to vulnerable children. With vulnerable children unable to access support services directly, many of the organisations have switched their delivery to online support, phone calls and offering virtual small support groups. Additional funding will support

organisations to manage this change in requirements for this vulnerable group through this difficult time.

- 3.4. Post COVID-19 there is also a concern that volumes will significantly increase into support services as COVID-19 restrictions are lessened. Funding will be utilised to prepare for this increased demand; to ensure contact is maintained with this cohort of vulnerable children, and to encourage a return to face to face support when they need it and it is possible to return to these.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. COVID-19 has had an impact on these organisations which includes:

- A cost impact of moving to remote / virtual working to ensure vulnerable children continue to be supported
- Increased complexities of vulnerable children and young people
- A new risk of a post-COVID surge in victims as restrictions are reduced

- 4.2. In response to this the Home Office Vulnerable Children (Emergency) Fund has been allocated by the Home Office to the 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across England and Wales.

- 4.3. Essex was awarded £98,101. This is proposed to be allocated to 14 organisations across Essex following a bidding round and review of the applications by a panel of stakeholders that included representatives of the PFCC, Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit and the voluntary sector. The panel considered the applications and assessed the activity of the bids to support vulnerable children as well as the impact on delivering their service due to COVID-19. Those successful organisations and a summary of their activities are shown in table 1 below:

Table 1 – small organisations awarded funds

Small organisation	Activities	Allocation
Bar'N'Bus	Working in partnership with local churches, schools, councils and groups to provide professional, community-based youth work, seeking transformation and fullness of life for young people. Employing professional youth workers as well as recruiting, training and supporting teams of volunteers to offer a wider provision of community youth work.	£4,090.00
Changing Lives	Working to increase physical activity in the community and prevent children from involvement in anti-social behaviour and gang activity through sports sessions and social enterprise workshops.	£8,519.00
Chelmsford 5 th / 9 th Scout Group	Scout group providing life skills and adventure activities for children of all abilities from 5 ½ years to 19 years. Youth work in one of the most deprived wards in Chelmsford.	£7,729.63

Girls Empowerment Initiative (GEI)	Providing empowerment programmes to girls who are at risk of harmful religious cultural practices.	£13,800.00
London Bus Company	Increasing young people's confidence, self-esteem, employability and transferable life skills through a range of drama and film making activities. The organisation focuses on the most deprived communities within Essex.	£5,850.00
NOO YU	Delivering a service with relationships at the core, combined with working in youth justice, and using sport and fitness to support changing behaviours.	£8,123.10
Outhouse East	Supporting the delivery of equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of Essex with a focus on LGBTQ+ youth. Operating a counselling service, youth support and social groups.	£15,124.88
Refugee Action - Colchester	Support organisation for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants across North Essex, providing support to vulnerable minors.	£900.00
Supporting Asperger Families in Essex (SAFE)	A parent support group that works to raise awareness of Asperger's and provide support for individuals and families.	£4,841.52
Waltham Abbey Youth 2000	Providing for activities aiming to improve sporting, leisure, cultural, education and employment opportunities for young people of Waltham Abbey, an area deprivation.	£7,000.00
Motivated Minds	Offering a variety of services including counselling, advocacy, practical support, training and workshops.	£6,624.00
Proximity	Services provided through local schools, including a drop-in cafe, assemblies and drop-in reflective spaces; group interventions and workshops, and bespoke 1:1 mentoring for young people.	£1,994.00
Achievement Through Football (ATF) Southend	Working with marginalised communities to build resilience, confidence and wellbeing. By engaging in physical activity sessions, the aim is to build trust and then access to public / third sector support including counselling sessions.	£6,504.87
Seabrooke Community Association	Run by the community for the community. Running three different children and young people's groups. Situated in an area of deprivation.	£7,000.00

4.4. 16 applications were unsuccessful. These small organisations, and a rationale for their assessment as unsuitable, are listed in table 2:

Table 2 – small organisations which applied for the fund and were not successful

Organisation	Reason unsuccessful	Amount requested
██████████	██████████	██████████

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

4.5. This fund is in addition to the Essex 'joint violence and vulnerability budget' of £1,410,000 for 2020-21 to address serious violence and the harm it causes.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. Given the timescale from the grant announcement (22nd June 2020) and the requirement for a delivery plan (initially by 30th June, then amended to 7th July), various options were considered, including direct awards from the PFCC to organisations the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit is already working with. However, the decision was made that, in order to ensure as extensive reach as possible, an open application process would take place.

6. Police and Crime Plan

6.1. This fund will support organisations working with the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership, enabling partner organisations to support the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan, particularly protecting children and vulnerable people from harm.

7. Police operational implications

7.1. There are no operational implications for Essex Police.

8. Financial implications

8.1. The PFCC will provide 14 one-off grants totalling £98,101 from the 2020-21 Home Office Vulnerable Children (Emergency) Fund to the organisations listed in section 4 (table 1).

8.2. Funding is to be used by 31st December 2020. Any underspend must be returned to the Home Office.

9. Legal implications

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 a condition of the Home Office 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. Please find the Equality Impact Assessment attached separately.

12. Risks

12.1. All successful organisations identified in section 4 have demonstrated the need and the requirement for this additional funding.

12.2. There is a risk that funding will not be utilised by the end of December 2020, though this has been mitigated by a robust assessment process and by making it clear to organisations that unspent funding must be returned.

13. Governance Boards

13.1. The work supported by the grants awarded to these small organisations will be reported to the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership, and delivery will be overseen by the workstream 'Voice of Communities'.

14. Background papers

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment

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: 21 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)

.....
.....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:

Redaction of unsuccessful organisations' names from table 2 in paragraph 4.4 due to the possible reputational risk it may cause these 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:

Elizabeth Helm

Print:

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: