

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 132/20
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: MoJ Extraordinary funding round two - Outcome
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 17 th November 2020
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1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval to allocate £303,699 of the 2020-21 Victims Fund, which was made available through an additional grant from the Ministry of Justice contribution, to organisations that support victims of crime following the impact of COVID-19.

2. Recommendations

Approve the allocation of up to £303,699 to organisations listed in section 4. Funding will be utilised by these services to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 so they can continue to deliver vital services to victims of crime.

3. Benefits of the proposal

The COVID-19 pandemic and the safety measures put in place to reduce infections have meant that victim support services have had to deliver their services in different ways. The support services we commission have responded quickly and positively to these changes and have successfully adapted their working model to be able to provide remote and/or virtual support.

The continuation of COVID-19 restrictions has had a financial impact on some of these organisations and their ability to continue to deliver their services safely. This funding will help services continue to deliver these vital services.

During COVID-19 there has been a shift in demand from victims. In quarter two 2020/21 PFCC victim commissioned services saw a 31% increase in the number of victims being supported compared to quarter one of 2020/21. This increase followed a 6% decrease the previous quarter. Funding will be used to respond to this increased demand and ensure victims are supported to cope and recover

when they need to be and reducing the risk that victims will experience significant delays in provision.

We also know that since the COVID-19 pandemic started to impact services victims are spending longer being supported by the services we fund. Victims are also experiencing delays in complimentary services which support their recovery such as Therapy or support sessions, while delays in the criminal justice process are increasing the length of engagement with the support services. Additional funding will help organisations to manage this unexpected increase in demand and help victims continue to get the support they need.

4. **Background and proposal**

The PFCC's has responsibility for commissioning services to support victims of crime. In order to deliver this the Ministry of Justice provides a Victim's Grant which is used to commission services which support victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and all more general victims support services.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on these commissioned services, including:

- being required to move to remote/virtual working to ensure victims continue to be supported
- an increase in the complexities of issues faced by victims
- an increase in the length of time victims require support for
- an increase in the volume of victims seeking help

In response to this the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in June 2020 secured £28 million from the treasury in order to provide additional support to services. MoJ allocated this funding in 3 groups

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

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners were used to distribute these funds to services locally.

Essex PFCC successfully distributed its allocated amount of £620,000 (decision sheet 074-20)

As the pandemic has continued to impact on society and these support services, the MoJ have recently secured additional emergency COVID funding of £7,000,000. This funding is to support organisations in response to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and the continued impact on victim services.

Essex was successful in obtaining £303,699 of the available funds. This was allocated in two pots

POT 1	Commissioned and non-commissioned domestic abuse services	£143,699
POT 2	Commissioned and non-commissioned sexual abuse services	£160,000

In order to allocate funding to have the greatest affect, the support services who received funding as part of round one were asked to provide an assessment of their future financial needs. Using this assessment, it is proposed the funds are allocated to the below organisations:

POT 1 - Commissioned and non-commissioned domestic abuse services	Total available	£143,699
	Total Allocated	£143,699

Organisation	Funding requested	Funding awarded	Rationale
COMPASS – Safe Steps	£17,200	£17,200.00	During COVID referrals have increased on average by 69% compared with 2019/2020. Funding will be used to extend a number of temporary roles that were recruited in round one of funding until 31 st March 2021.
Next Chapter	£26,202	£26,202	Next Chapter referrals have increased and website traffic across their support pages has increased by 700% from an average of 250 visitors per week pre-lockdown to a peak of 1850, this has stabilised at a weekly average of 850 visitors (still over 300% increase on pre-lockdown levels). In order to effectively move clients from the IDVA support to a lighter touch support, freeing up practitioners to focus on higher risk/need clients, the service is providing a range of additional programmes. These programmes will work alongside their counselling provision to help transition clients. Funding will be used to extended temporary resource until March 2021 and to run an additional programme to support transition.
Changing Pathways	£15,750	£15,750	To extend a stalking advocate role until March 2021.
The Change Project	£31,535	£16,931	From March 2020 to August 2020 The Change Project has had a 74% increase compared to the same period last year. This trend does not appear to be slowing down. They have also seen a 150% increase in enquires for the

			same period. This funding will provide two facilitators to support the increased demand for the service. The full amount has not been awarded due to funding being prioritised to direct victim support services.
SaferPlaces	£53,770	£37,763	The Rosie Centre provides support for 40 of the most vulnerable victims in Harlow, many face multiple disadvantages and the services are an essential lifeline for them. SaferPlaces have needed to increase programme delivery particularly for women with children in this centre. SaferPlaces are a non-commissioned service and as such have had limited access to funding streams. The funding will be used to continue running services until March 2021. Not all funding requested has been awarded because it was supporting additional training. With limited funding available funding has been prioritised to direct victim support.
One Voice	£7,872	£7,872	One Voice have seen an increase in demand and are now seeing a significant increase in young men seeking support and guidance. Since COVID they have found many young couples who would have been provided with support by extended family and the community are now unable to access this support. As a result, One Voice has seen a marked increase in young people being violent in the home. Funding will be used to address this short fall in traditional forms of support.
Victim Support	£21,981	£21,981	Victim Support have seen an increase in referrals. Funding is to support additional domestic abuse caseworker until the March 2021.

POT 2 - Commissioned and non-commissioned sexual abuse services	Total available	£160,000
	Total Allocated	£160,000

Organisation	Funding requested	Funding awarded	Rationale
Synergy Rape Crisis Partnership (Sexual Abuse)	£160,000	£160,000	As of 31 st Aug 2020, Synergy had 299 clients deferred due to COVID-19. Each of these victims will require weekly counselling support for an average of 14 sessions. Funding will be used to increase capacity within the counselling service. Synergy also will use funding to support continued remote working and funding additional space in order to ensure they can continue to deliver services in COVID secure workplaces.

In round one of this funding the PFCC didn't receive any applications for any non-commissioned services that support sexual abuse victims

There were two organisations that were successful in round one but have been unsuccessful in being awarded further funding based on their submitted evidence of anticipated need in round two. Due to the limited amount of funding available priority is being given to organisations that are delivering support services direct to victims.

Organisation name	Amount requested	Rationale
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

The PFCC has a responsibility to commission services to support victims of crime. The PFCC can choose not to utilise this available funding however this will increase the risk that the services cannot deliver a quality service and manage the demand/impact of COVID-19.

- 5.1. The PFCC could also choose to provide funding to other support organisations across Essex. The services identified in section four 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 we will become non-compliant to the MoJ terms of fund and funding could be withdrawn

6. Police and Crime Plan

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

7. Police operational implications

There are no operational implications

8. Financial implications

The PFCC will provide a one-off grant of up to £303,699 from the 2020-21 Victims Fund to organisations listed in section four. The additional funding has been provided by an additional MoJ contribution.

Funding is to be used by 31st March 2020. Any underspend must be returned to the MoJ.

9. Legal implications

The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement with additional data monitoring arrangements in place as a condition of the MoJ grant.

Following the first round of funding the first monitoring reports are due by the 23rd November 2020. Organisations will not be awarded the second-round funding until these monitoring forms have been returned.

10. Staffing implications

There are no staffing implications

11. Equality and Diversity implications

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

12. Risks

No risks identified. All services identified in section 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

This proposal and the methodology for selecting successful applicants was discussed and agreed at the PFCC's Senior Management Team on 18th of November 2020.

Report Approval

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

Deputy M.O. Sign: 
Print: Darren Horsman
Date: 18 November 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign: 
Print: Elizabeth Helm
Date: 24 November 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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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 name due to the possible reputational risk it may cause the organisation

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Date redaction carried out: 24 November 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
Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst
PFCC

Date signed: 27 November 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC