

FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM
Appendix A

Area of Assessment:	Violence & Vulnerability Communities Grants / VVCG (December 2020 – March 2021)
Date of Assessment:	02/12/2020
Owner:	Samantha Grant
New or existing policy/function:	Violence & Vulnerability

Stage 1 – Detail of policy, function, project or proposal

Briefly describe the aims, objectives and outcomes of the policy/function

To ensure the allocation of £131,549.25 of the 2020-21 Essex Violence & Vulnerability Joint Budget is made in accordance with the agreed criteria for the Violence and Vulnerability Communities Grants (VVCG) and has maximum impact for Essex communities.

This Violence and Vulnerability Communities Grants (VVCG) are funded from the 2020-21 Essex Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget, of £1.8m, to address serious violence and the harm it causes.

The VVCG are grants for registered charities and small not for profit organisations to support vulnerable children and young people involved in or at risk of serious violence, following the impact of COVID-19. The fund is for activity from 14th December 2020 to 31st March 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic requires many small organisations to deliver their services using alternative methods in response to the restrictions that are in place. In order to deliver remote working this has had a financial impact on some of the organisations. During COVID-19 there is also a change in terms of support to vulnerable children and young adults. With vulnerable children and young people often unable to directly access support services, many of the organisations have switched their delivery to online support, phone calls and offering virtual small support groups. These grants will support organisations manage this change in requirements for this vulnerable group through this difficult time.

In order to manage these grants, the PFCC has worked in partnership with voluntary sector partners, to jointly administer an application process, which would enable as much reach as possible, into small community organisations, across the county.

Applications assessed by the PFCC, Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit and representatives from the voluntary sector, reviewed applications upon

- financial impact of COVID
- evidence of need/demand
- impact to vulnerable children and young people involved in serious violence or at risk of being affected by serious violence

What policies/procedures/functions are relevant to this area?

This works is part of the Violence and Vulnerability (V&V) priorities as set by the Essex V&V strategic partnership. For 2020/21, the priorities are:

- i. Influence and help shape wider parts of the system (especially in terms of universal and early intervention)
- ii. Target locations, geographically and at key points where we can reach out to people
- iii. Develop the capacity of the Essex workforce and support them in their delivery
- iv. Better understand, (provision in Essex and whether it is effective; the developing data picture; and share our insights to bring about change)
- v. Focus on a small number of individuals which create the most harm (delivering interventions directly with this cohort, particularly at critical junctures in their lives, to reduce the harm and risk to them and to the wider community)
- vi. Voice of communities, (working with the voluntary and community sector to develop our work with communities)
- vii. Be informed by the communities we serve and engage communities in

This area of work is aligned to priority vi.

Stage 2 – Consider the Evidence

Which individuals and organisations are likely to be affected by the policy/function and in what way?

Organisations submitted applications which were assessed. 18 successful organisations delivering services to a range of young people within their local communities, are being progressed.

What relevant quantitative data has been considered?

Essex as one of the 18 Violence Reduction Unit (VRUs) areas in England and Wales, is an area recognised as a priority for serious violence, and with this risk of harm to vulnerable children and young people associated with serious youth violence, gangs and county lines.

What relevant qualitative data has been considered?

See above

Has the function/policy been subject to consultation? If no, why not? If yes, which individuals and organisations were consulted and what form did consultation take?

The assessment process was formed locally based on the overall requirements set by V&V partnership, based on advice from the 'voice of communities' workstream and informed by the learning from the Home Office Vulnerable Children (Emergency) Fund received from the Home Office and administered by Essex in August 2020.

The PFCC, with local stakeholders, including the voluntary sector, set up a local panel to review applications for the VVCGs. This panel has representation from the office of the PFCC, Essex Violence & Vulnerability Unit and local voluntary sector representatives.

The VVCGs / grants were for small organisations, as per the criteria summarised below:

- i. Projects & interventions (Available to organisations that meet the set criteria with an income of under £300,000 only) for Essex, Southend and Thurrock registered charities (with a track record of working in their local community).

For support with costs (including core costs) where they are directly delivering activities and interventions in communities that are clearly evidenced as supporting children and young people (up to 25 years old) involved in or at risk of serious violence, AND they have had to change their approach to the work because COVID related reasons (as specified in the criteria).

- ii. One off special event / activity (available to all organisations that meet the set criteria, regardless of annual income) for Essex, Southend and Thurrock registered charities (with a track record of working with communities in the County).

For support with a one off special event/ activity that responds to an identified need due to the current situation with COVID, and this event/ activity can be clearly evidenced as engaging and supporting children and young people (up to 25 years old) involved in or at risk of serious violence.

The fund was promoted through a variety of routes, within the set time scales to ensure a wide reach and to do as much as possible to ensure organisations across the county had the opportunity to apply. Promotion activity included

- Sharing via Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS) contacts, direct e-mail (and placing on ECVYS website)
- Sharing via email through partner network e.g. Community Safety Partnerships
- Social Media post
- Details on PFCC website

Were any gaps in information identified? If so, what consideration has been given to commissioning work where required?

Not applicable. This was a short-term assessment based on impact of COVID.

Stage 3- Assessment of impact

		Yes/No	Comments and evidence where appropriate
Potential for different	Race		All applications identified that they supported and were accessible to all protected characteristics.
	Disability (Including		

	physical, sensory and mental health)		
	Gender reassignment		
	Age	Y	
	Religion or belief		
	Sexual orientation		
	Pregnancy and maternity		
	Marriage and civil partnership		
	Sex	Y	

Stage 4 – Deciding the way forward

If potential for differential/adverse impact remains explain why implementation is justifiable in order to meet the wider policy aims.

No remaining adverse impacts.

Summarise any changes made to the policy to reduce or remove the potential for differential/adverse impact

We took the decision to advertise the opportunity to maximise reach to different organisations, and convening a panel made up of voluntary sector representatives to ensure the review process was fair, representative, and appropriate.

If the function/policy is to be abandoned, please explain why and how the implications will be managed

If we chose not to utilise this funding and provide any funding to organisations who support vulnerable children and young people involved in or at risk of serious violence , this may have an adverse effect on all characteristics.

Describe how the function/policy promotes good relations

Increased funding allows organisations to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young people. This fund was extended to a wide range of small charities and not for profit groups, some at a very local community level, which allows further reach to communities

and protected groups. Following the fund ending there are opportunities for the PFCC to make lasting connections and look at opportunities to support further.

Stage 5 - Monitoring Arrangements

Describe how the function/policy is (or will be) monitored

Monitoring arrangements of the fund is set by V&V partnership. The PFCC has issued a draft grant agreement, which includes the requirement to report on the number of vulnerable children and young people supported.

This is short term funding and therefore data will be captured and reviewed at the end of the funding period (31st March 2021).

Have the assessment outcomes been fed back to those consulted?

n/a

Impact assessed by:	Samantha Grant	Date:	02/12/2020
Approved by (owner):		Date:	