

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number:** 138-20

**Classification** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** Violence & Vulnerability Communities Grants / VVCG (December 2020 – March 2021)

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Countywide

**Report by:** Samantha Grant

**Date of report:** 2 December 2020

**Enquiries to:** [Samantha.grant@essex.police.uk](mailto:Samantha.grant@essex.police.uk)

### **1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate £131,549.25 from the 2020-21 Essex Violence & Vulnerability Joint Budget to 18 local charities that support vulnerable children and young people.
- 1.2. The V&V Communities Grants (VVCG) are funded from the 2021-21 Essex Violence & Vulnerability Joint Budget. The VVCGF is for activity from 14<sup>th</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of up to £131,549.25 to the organisations listed in table 1 in section 4. Funding will be utilised to support the impact that COVID-19 has had on the organisations in order to continue to support vulnerable children and young adults, involved in or at risk of serious violence.

### **3. Benefits of the proposal**

- 3.1. COVID-19 pandemic required many small organisations to deliver their services using alternative methods in response to the restrictions that were enforced.
- 3.2. During COVID-19 there is also a change in terms of support to vulnerable children and young adults. With vulnerable children 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. Additional funding will support organisations manage this change in requirements for this vulnerable group through this difficult time.

#### 4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. COVID-19 has had an impact on these organisations which includes
- Cost impact moving to remote/virtual working to ensure vulnerable children and young people continue to be supported
  - Increase complexities of vulnerable children and young people
  - New risk of post COVID surge in victims as restrictions are reduced
- 4.2. In response to the impact of COVID the Voice of Communities workstream of the Violence and Vulnerability partnership has developed the VVCG, as part of delivering against the Violence and Vulnerability work programme and responding to the changing needs.
- 4.3. The VVCG has two funding strands:
- 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.
- 4.4. The VVCG were allocated to 18 organisations across Essex following a bidding round and review of the applications by a panel of stakeholders that included representatives from 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 and young people at risk of serious violence 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**

<b>Small organisation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Changing Lives	Outreach programmes including mental health sessions, wellbeing and sports for those aged between 11 - 25, taking referrals from schools and other agencies in Harlow for children who are at risk of serious violence. Supporting the development of a hub in Harlow town centre.	10,000.00

Lads Need Dads	Personal development programme for a cohort of boys age 11 - 12 years living in Colchester; to build resilience through male-led group mentoring, to enable them to cope with problems and issues faced at home and school and explore the important choices they face in their adolescent development, to prevent escalation of negative behaviour.	6,632.00
Southend YMCA	RESET programme to help young people (aged 10- 20) to consider and work through the risks and consequences associated with life choices (particularly around unhealthy and exploitative relationships and criminal activity).	9,072.00
Evolve Intervention	Workshops in school around 'risky' behaviours with a focus on building self-esteem. Develop provision to be able to offer funded coaching and mentoring sessions to children or young people who are at risk of criminal exploitation, with both parents and professionals being able to make a referral.	8,975.00
Maru Karate Kai	Karate provision for identified children and young people from the local area.	2,928.00
Safe Steps	Develop a hub of information for young people, parents and professionals working with young people, including information for all of Essex; content and structure to be able to deliver a professionally constructed online programme, including information about safe relationships.	9,135.00
UTurn4Support	The provision of educational and awareness sessions to provide advice, guidance and supporting actions which advance the young person's knowledge, and skills set to reduce their risk of further victimisation or offending, in Tendring.	6,200
Street Pastors	A Safe Space hub on the high street in Basildon, allowing young people to attend twice a week to engage with the street pastors and key partners (contacting previous children and young people who have accessed the service out on the streets, inviting them to take part).	9,901.00
London Bus Theatre Company	Produce a young people led short film project on County Lines, with 35 vulnerable young people aged 13-18 (from Castle Point), developing a wide range of transferable life skills, reduce their isolation and improve overall well-being. Share the film with the local community and more widely.	9,850.00
Holland shore boxing club	Sports provision, with volunteers from the community, and working with vulnerable children and young people, in Jaywick. Developing respect and life skills through boxing while maintaining a healthy lifestyle through exercise, helping the young people to keep a positive attitude.	4,250.00
Essex Boys and Girls Clubs	Emotional wellbeing outdoor events with young people aged between 11-16.	5,100.00

Gateway Radio club	Working with a cohort of young people in Basildon, using radio as a way to raise self esteem and confidence.	9,000.00
Proximity Schools	To continue to deliver the 'Engagement Pathway' programme. This is a project that spans primary and secondary schools in Thurrock, working with ages 8 to 16. Services provided through local schools, include drop-in cafe, assemblies and drop-in reflective spaces; group interventions and workshops; and bespoke 1:1 mentoring for young people.	9,122.00
St Stephens Community Trust	Youth & Community Support Worker for 2 days per week to support an intervention strategy that will benefit young people to make positive choices to keep them safe, build confidence and resilience.	7,061.00
Crime Stoppers Essex	Print and distribute Fearless materials to identified secondary schools and youth organisations across Essex, supported by targeted social media.	10,000.00
Chelmsford City Council (hold the funds on behalf of 'Keep It 100')	'Keep It 100' - on the unveiling of the Knife Crime Angel, to be placed in a Chelmsford park March 2021 - to hold activities to mark this, working with Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership.	2,032.00
Inclusion Venture	Provide diversionary activities for young people in Tendring aged 13- 21 years; provide trips to expand awareness, challenge current perceptions and develop resilience beyond their current environments.	4,000.00
Project Mind Empower	Provide two six-week specialist programmes, in Colchester, deliverable to up to 15 beneficiaries per group. The referrals will be from supporting agencies, and young people who are identified as at risk of involvement in serious violence, aiming to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors.	8,291.25

4.5. There was a total of 22 applications. 4 applications were unsuccessful. These organisations, and a rationale for the assessment of their applications 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]

**5. Alternative options considered and rejected**

5.1. Given the needs identified due to Covid, various options were considered. However, based on the learning from the Home Office Vulnerable Children (Emergency) Fund, the decision was made, that in order to ensure as extensive reach as possible and to support small organisations across the county in meeting the needs of children and young people involved in or at risk of serious violence, that this route would be progressed (including an open application and a voluntary sector led panel to review the applications, from members of the Voice of Communities workstream of the V&V partnership).

**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, in particular protecting children and vulnerable people from harm.

**7. Police operational implications**

7.1. There are no operational implications.

**8. Financial implications**

8.1. The 2020-21 Essex Violence & Vulnerability Joint Budget is made up of funding the PFCC has received from the Home Office as part of our successful bid to the VRU Fund ((£1,160,000), a contribution from Essex County Council (£500,000) and investment from the PFCC's Community Safety Fund (£200,000). In addition, in 2020/21 the PFCC has also attracted £98,101 from the Home Office Vulnerable Children (Emergency) Fund.

8.2. Funding is to be used by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Any underspend must be returned to the PFCC office.

**9. Legal implications**

9.1. The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

**10. Staffing implications**

10.1. There are no staffing implications.

**11. Equality and Diversity implications**

11.1. All support services are available and accessible to all. This funding will support the continuation for this during COVID-19. *Please find the Equality Impact Assessment attached separately.*

**12. Risks**

12.1. All services identified in section 4 have demonstrated the need and the requirement for this additional funding. There is a risk that funding will not be utilised by the end March 2021, though this has been mitigated by a robust


assessment process and by making it clear to organisations that unspent funding must be returned.

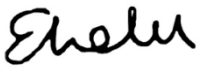
### **13. Governance Boards**

- 13.1. The work supported by the grant 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'.

**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: 8 December 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign:   
Print: Elizabeth Helm  
Date: 8 December 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  2. Of Appendix? YES   
NO  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

Date redaction carried out: 11 December 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: 9 December 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....  
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Sign: .....

Print: .....

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: .....