

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

<p>Report reference number: 142-20</p> <p>Classification; Not protectively marked</p>
<p>Title of report: Modern Slavery Awareness activity</p>
<p>Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide</p>
<p>Report by: Kirsty Smith</p> <p>Date of report: 18 December 2020</p> <p>Enquiries to: kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk</p>

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To gain approval to allocate £6,000 of the 2020-21 Community Safety Fund, which was made available through an additional grant from the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Programme, to organisations that will contribute to an awareness campaign across Kent and Essex.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Commissioner approves the allocation of up to £6,000 to organisations identified in section four. Funding will be utilised to support a modern slavery awareness campaign including a targeted series of business sectors and a broader awareness campaign led by Crimestoppers.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. COVID-19 restrictions have impacted significantly on individuals and the business community across Kent and Essex. It is reported that some businesses have seen an increase in demand and unfortunately for others income has fallen. During these unusual times there is a risk that rates of modern slavery could grow, leading to an increase in the number of vulnerable people being exploited.
- 3.2. A modern slavery awareness campaign targeting these businesses will provide information on
- Ethical supply chains and recruitment
 - Legal and societal obligations and responsibilities.
 - How to identify modern slavery and report it

- 3.3. Alongside this series of events Crimestoppers will be running an online awareness campaign to encourage members of the public to anonymously report suspected case of modern slavery.
- 3.4. Crimestoppers have a strong brand and a trusted reputation and utilising this will provide increased interaction with the message we are sharing

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The Modern Slavery Unit (MSU) in the Home Office provided an opportunity for Police and Crime Commissioners to bid for additional funding, through the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Programme (MSOICP).
- 4.2. Each PCC could bid for funding of up to £3000 to run targeted prevention activity and awareness raising campaigns within vulnerable sectors of the community or higher-risk business sectors, in response to the local risk of modern slavery.
- 4.3. Essex PFCC and Kent PCC worked together with the support of Kent and Essex collaborative joint policing team to develop a joint application in order to maximise funding and utilise the joint shared resource across both counties.
- 4.4. Funding will be used to respond to the new areas of risk that have developed during the pandemic. Focusing on the business sector, some businesses have rapidly expanded which increases their supply chains and introduced an increased risk that these are not free from modern slavery. It is important that businesses are aware and conscious of their supply chains and meeting legal requirements to prevent exploitation. Unfortunately, some businesses and employees find themselves in financial hardship and therefore are at increased risk of exploiting or being exploited for labour or domestic servitude.
- 4.5. It is important to Kent PCC and Essex PFCC to educate and raise awareness to prevent exploitation therefore funding will be distributed across two projects:

1. Virtual awareness raising to businesses

A selection of mini virtual events will take place to raise awareness of modern slavery to businesses across Kent and Essex. With the support of the Chamber of Commerce the mini events will target sectors such as construction, food delivery and parcel delivery services which have seen increases in demand since the pandemic. Each mini event will focus on individual topics such as:

- Ethical supply chains and recruitment
- Legal and societal obligations and responsibilities.
- How to identify modern slavery and report it

£1,000 has been allocated to support the delivery of the virtual events which include

- Marketing and promotional activity which will be sourced using Essex and Kent Police providers
- Chamber of Commerce staff resources and expenses to help facilitate the events

2. Awareness raising via social media

Due to COVID restrictions more people are at home and online therefore we will deliver a four- week digital social media campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery including where to report with the support of Crimestoppers.

£5,000 has been allocated to support Crimestoppers to deliver the digital campaign

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. In preparation of submitting an application for this funding, Essex PFCC, Kent PCC and Kent and Essex joint policing team explored a variety of tactical options to respond to modern slavery in both counties and was able to be delivered within the restrictions of the pandemic, utilising the shared resources across both counties. This included consideration of face-to-face events, online only events and direct engagement with businesses. After careful consideration and given the current restrictions imposed as a result of the global pandemic the option outlined in the recommendation above is seen as the best one to implement.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. This grant supports the PFCC priority to disrupt and prevent organised crime.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. Essex and Kent joint prevent and protect policing team will be coordinating the delivery of this project.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will allocate £6,000 to organisations identified in section four from 2020/21 Community Safety Fund. The additional funding has been provided from the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Programme.

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. Not applicable for Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.

12. Risks

- 12.1. There is a risk that the project does not deliver on the desired outcomes. Essex PFCC, Kent PCC and the prevent and protect policing team have experience in delivering similar projects successfully with the support of Chamber of Commerce and Crimestoppers which will help them avoid this outcome.

13. Governance Boards


- 13.1. This application has been approved by the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Programme but has not been discussed at any of the PFCC boards.


14. Background papers

N/A

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: 6 January 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign: 
Print: Elizabeth Helm
Date: 11 January 2021

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:

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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

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 13 January 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC