

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 011/21
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: MoJ additional victims funding – Assessment process
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 16 th February 2021
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval of the process to assess and distribute the additional grant from the Ministry of Justice to organisations that support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the overall approach including the assessment process and criteria for the additional Ministry of Justice grant.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. In 2020 the Ministry of Justice made available funding to support services that had their ability to support victims of crime impacted by COVID-19.
- 3.2. With the continuation of COVID-19 restrictions, services continue to be impacted and many organisations continue to see increase demand and there are a higher number of victims presenting complex needs. With the ongoing restrictions it is still anticipated that referrals to services will increase further and the peak is still to come.
- 3.3. Previous funding provided by Ministry of Justice expires 31st March 2021. The additional funding announced allows for an assessment of need to take place across Essex domestic abuse and sexual abuse services. This in turn will ensure funding is allocated to services to continue to provide support across Essex.
- 3.4. Funding will also encourage specialist organisations that support underrepresented groups and those with protected characteristics to seek financial support and in turn ensure victims are being supported.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The PFCC has responsibility to commission services to support victims of crime. In order to deliver this the Ministry of Justice provides a Victim's Grant which is utilised by commissioning domestic abuse, sexual abuse and all other crime support services.
- 4.2. In May 2020 the Ministry of Justice secured £28 million from the treasury in order to support services respond to the pressures COVID-19 restrictions caused.
- 4.3. Essex PFCC was successful in obtaining and distributing £717,273 of available funding. The funding awarded expires 31st March 2021.
- 4.4. MoJ have further announced additional funding of £40m for victims' services in order to ensure that services continue to be available in 2021-22. Out of the national funding, £4.625m is for organisations supporting the victims of sexual violence and £8.95m for those organisations supporting those impacted by domestic abuse. These amounts have been allocated to PFCC nationally to distribute.
- 4.5. The Ministry of Justice will allocate this to PCCs by providing an uplift to their existing annual 2021/22 Victim's Grant. The increase in funding for Essex is
 - Domestic Abuse £287,115
 - Sexual Violence £139,778
- 4.6. To allocate this funding the PFCC will work with existing commissioned organisations to understand their anticipated additional needs to ensure victims remain supported throughout 2021-22. This will include the ongoing impact that continued COVID-19 restrictions are having.
- 4.7. The PFCC will also allocate funding to services not currently funded. To encourage underrepresented groups to seek support, small specialist organisations that support domestic abuse and sexual violence victims with protected characteristics are invited to apply for funding.
- 4.8. Applications will be assessed by the PFCC upon
 - Clear evidence of need/demand
 - Positive impact services have to victims of crime
 - A clear understanding of how underrepresented victims, such as those with protected characteristics are currently supported, and whether there is adequate tailored provision
 - How proposals ensure proportional service provision for these groups

It is proposed that the PFCC uses the attached template order to request and assess applications



Essex PFCC DA.SV
Victims Fund applic:

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC has a responsibility to commission services to support victims of crime. The PFCC can choose not to utilise this funding available however this will risk the ability of services to deliver a quality service and manage the ongoing demand/impact of COVID-19.
- 5.2. The PFCC could adopt alternative assessment form/processes but the attached is recommended from the MoJ (with some enhancements to ensure we have considered safeguarding and additional due diligence questions)

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

- 7.1. There are no operational implications

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The MoJ have provided the opportunity to apply for funding for the amounts listed below;

Domestic Abuse	£287,115
Sexual Violence	£139,778

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 of this
- 11.2. The open fund for underrepresented groups will be shared on the PFCC website and with PFCC partners to distribute through their networks.

12. Risks

- 12.1. The misuse of funds allocated is a risk that has been identified. For commissioned services this risk is mitigated because organisations are in contract (and full procurement due diligence would have taken place). Commissioned organisations already provide regular performance data in order to monitor activity. The risk is greater with non-commissioned services as the PFCC may have had no previous experience with organisations that bid. In order to mitigate the risk due diligence will take place that will include:
 - Finance check ensuring there are no irregularities within accounts that have been submitted and show sound financial health and a positive cash position
 - Social media/news search
 - Review check against companies' house and the charity commission (where applicable)

- Review of governing documents including review of trustees, board and committee members
 - Robustness and likely effectiveness and efficiency of the application
- Any organisation will be subject the PFCC standard grant agreement and will have to agree to provide performance monitoring at agreed intervals.

13. Governance Boards

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.

Chief Executive / M.O. Sign: [Signature].....

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 23 February 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign: [Signature].....

Print: Julia Berry.....

Date: 24 February 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: 26 February 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: