

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 002/21
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme <i>The Change Project</i>
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 12 th January 2021
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to extend the contract for Domestic Abuse (DA) perpetrator behaviour change services provided by The Change Project for a further year (£180,000 per year between the two partners) in partnership with Essex County Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve a Single Tender Action for the services of The Change Project to deliver The Change Hub a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator behaviour change programme between 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.
- 2.2. To approve the allocation of £80,000 from PFCC Community Safety Fund 2021-22 which will contribute to the £180,000 cost of the service.
- 2.3. To approve the allocation of £100,000 of partner pass-through funding to The Change Project as Essex County Council's contribution.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. The Change Project delivers The Change Hub a service that receives referrals from Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) but also Statutory and Voluntary Services.
- 3.2. The Change Hub is open to standard, medium and high-risk referrals and will support perpetrators in accredited behaviour change programmes to reduce the risk of
 - Physical abuse

- Sexual abuse
- Harassment and stalking
- All jealous and controlling behaviour

3.3. The Change Hub also works directly with Victims. Victims are involved with the process (where appropriate and safe to do so) and The Change Hub provide additional support for them to cope and move on from the abuse they have experiences. This supports the victim and their families to feel safer

4. Background and proposal

4.1. Over the last five years partners have developed a whole family approach to building appropriate and sustainable perpetrator behaviour change programmes. This is aligned to the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board and Strategy.

4.2. The Change Hub follows-on from Project Columbus and the DRIVE pilot project. The DRIVE project was a three-year pilot that aimed at developing and evaluating a new approach to holding perpetrators of domestic abuse to account and helping to keep domestic abuse victims and children safe.

4.3. The Drive Project in Essex was piloted in Colchester and Tendring and concluded in March 2019. The Columbus project subsequently ran for a further year until March 2020 extending coverage to the whole of Essex and Southend (excluding Thurrock).

4.4. Once Project Columbus finished a further review took place on the existing services available and The Change Hub was created. The Change Hub brings together the learning from Project Columbus and the outreach work of the Change Project. The Change Hub rather than focusing on high risk MARAC cases is open to all risk perpetrators.

4.5. Current grant funding for this service expires 31st March 2021.

4.6. It was the intention of the DA perpetrator commissioning group to review and consider a longer-term sustainable model for a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator programme. This longer-term model would take a whole system approach and look at the 'journey' of a DA perpetrator from early intervention, community outreach, 121 behaviour change and disruption. However, due to COVID-19 partners have decided to extend the existing contract until this longer-term piece of work can be completed.

4.7. It was also recognised that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on providers of DA services and as a result many providers have had to seek emergency funding to adapt and maintain existing delivery. In this context it was seen as unnecessary to add additional pressure to providers by launching a significant tender for future services.

4.8. Recognising the positive outcomes of The Change Project it was agreed to further continue with The Change Hub service for a further year until 31st March 2022. In order to continue to deliver this a single tender action is required.

- 4.9. In delaying the longer-term tender activity, it will also enable a wider review of perpetrator projects to be undertaken. This can now include the evaluation of a Home Office programme where we are looking at how we can deliver bespoke behaviour change programmes targeting harder to reach communities. We will also be able to take advantage of the data analysis project through Essex Centre of Data Analytics to understand the profile of perpetrators across Essex.
- 4.10. The activity that is happening will provide useful insight into understanding the support requirements of DA perpetrators in Essex and how to create a long term, sustainable behaviour change programme.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

Two alternative options have been considered and subsequently rejected

- 5.1 The PFCC could choose not to invest in this service but that would mean there would be no specialist support available to change domestic abuse perpetrator behaviour in Essex. This doesn't support the priorities of the PFCC to break the cycle of domestic abuse and could impact victims of domestic abuse.
- 5.2 Launch a new tender process for the DA perpetrator service and end the current contract arrangement 31st March 2021. This option was rejected because:
- Any procurement activity requires significant commitment and resource from PFCC staff, Essex Police procurement teams, PFCC partners including Essex County Council and to the voluntary sector organisations who would consider applying. It is felt that COVID-19 has impacted all organisations and therefore it is not appropriate at this time to conduct such a large piece of work unnecessarily.
 - In 2021 it is the intention of the PFCC and its partners to understand better the needs of DA perpetrators. By completing a new tender before March 2021 could lead to a service that is not fit for purpose or value for money.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1 This service will enable the PFCC to deliver against the priority in the Police and Crime Plan to break the cycle of domestic abuse, by providing behaviour change support to perpetrators to prevent them causing harm.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. There are no direct operational implications.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will provide £80,000 to The Change Project from the Community Safety Fund.
- 8.2. The PFCC will pass through funds of £100,000 from Essex County Council to The Change Project.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. All legal obligations are identified within the contract which are finalised through the Seven Force Procurement teams

10. Staffing implications

10.1. There are no staffing implications

11. Equality and Diversity implications

11.1. Over the next 12 months it is the ambition of the SETDAB partnership to understand the profile of DA perpetrators across Essex. Typically, the demographic data shows that The Change Project predominantly support white males aged between 18 and 44. This is in line with the current view of DA perpetrators in Essex. However, this area of work is largely unknown.

11.2. Recently the PFCC was awarded funding from the Home Office to deliver bespoke work to deliver behaviour change programmes to harder to reach communities which can include ethnicity, sexuality and we have also included some geographical rural locations. Using this data and the data being reviewed by Essex Centre for Data Analytics we are hoping to have a much better understanding of the demographic of DA perpetrators across Essex. This will allow for better targeted support services to meet the demands and needs of all that require support.

12. Risks

12.1. There is a risk that The Change Project no longer wish to deliver the service. This risk has been assessed as low following indicative discussions with the provider within performance review meetings.

13. Governance Boards

This has been discussed with SETDA partners and supported by the SETDA perpetrator group.

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: 1 February 2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:



Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 3 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

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

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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: 22 February 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: