

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 072/21
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: Home Office Winter Contingency Fund 2020/21
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Samantha Grant
Date of report: 30 th April 2021
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1. Purpose of the report

To seek approval to allocate £68,370 from the 2020-21 Home Office Winter Contingency Fund to nine local charities that support vulnerable children and have been impacted by COVID-19. The fund is for activity from 5th November 2020 to 31st March 2021.

2. Recommendations

Approve the allocation of up to £68,370 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.

3. Benefits of the proposal

COVID-19 pandemic required many small organisations to deliver their services using alternative methods in response to the restrictions that were enforced.

In order to deliver remote working this has had a financial impact on some of the organisations. This funding will help manage some of these costs.

During COVID-19 there was also a change in how support was provided to vulnerable children. With vulnerable children unable to directly access support services, many of the organisations providing support have switched their delivery to online support, phone calls and offering virtual small support groups. Additional funding will support organisations to manage this change in requirements for this vulnerable group through this difficult time.

4. Background and proposal

COVID-19 has had an impact on these organisations which includes

- Cost impact moving to remote/virtual working to ensure vulnerable children continue to be supported
- Increase complexities of vulnerable children and young people

In response to this the Home Office Winter Contingency Fund has been allocated by the Home Office to the 18 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across England and Wales.

Essex was awarded £68,370. This was considered for allocation to the organisations awarded grants previously from the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership; from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner; and adding to the programme of detached youth work in identified localities across the county (delivered by voluntary sector organisations).

For these grant funds the panel considered the applications and assessed the activity of the bids to support vulnerable children as well as the impact on delivering their service due to Covid-19.

For the programme of detached outreach youth work, the organisations delivering this project form part of the work programme of the V&V Partnership for 2020/21, agreed at the start of the year. The delivery is overseen by the Voice of Communities workstream and forms part of the regular reporting to the Partnership.

Table 1 – small organisations awarded funds

Small organisation	Activities	Allocation
Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS)	Violence & Vulnerability – additional detached youth work in identified localities (from the original plan and implemented from September 2020) overseen by ECVYS (with funds paid from ECVYS to those listed here), delivered by Red Balloon, Southend YMCA and Bar'n'Bus, with overall support and co-ordination by Essex Boys and Girls Clubs.	11,846.00
Gateway Community Radio	Funds to employ a project worker to assist in the delivery of the programme. Community radio project working with children and young people in Basildon and Thurrock.	7,000.00
Gifted	Sessions with children and young people, providing 24 isolation relief sessions, delivered digitally. Sessions provide the users with a safe space to share, connect and increase their visibility, in the absence of face-to-face activities, due to Covid.	15,901.00
Colchester United Football in the Community	Targeted youth programme with children and young people at risk of serious violence, with positive activities and 1-1 support.	18,623.00

Southend United Community Education Trust	Continuation of a form of the targeted Kicks programme, supporting vulnerable children and young people who are either at risk of involvement with youth crime or are already involved.	15,000.00
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5. Alternative options considered and rejected

Given the timescale from confirmation of the grant, in January 2021, the position regarding Covid restrictions and lockdown, while various options were considered, including an open application process, the decision was taken to provide a direct awards from the PFCC to organisations Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit were already working with.

6. Police and Crime Plan

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

There are no operational implications.

8. Financial implications

The PFCC will provide five one-off grants totalling £68,370 from the 2020-21 Home Office Winter Contingency Fund to the organisations listed in section 4, (table 1).

Funding had to be used by 31st March 2021. The PFCC worked closely with applicants to ensure they could deliver according to these timescales.

9. Legal implications

The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement with the addition of additional data monitoring arrangements which is outlined as a condition of the Home Office grant.

10. Staffing implications

There are no staffing implications.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

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

All services identified in section 4 have demonstrated the need and the requirement for this additional funding.


13. Governance Boards

The work supported by the grant awarded to these small organisations will be reported to the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership.

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.


Deputy M.O.

Sign: 

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 5.5.2021

Chief Finance Officer | Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 5 May 2021

Publication (double click box to add a tick)

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 (double click box to add a tick)

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:

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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

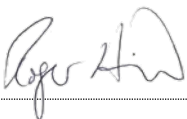
Sign: _____

Print: _____

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign:  _____

Print: **ROGER HIRST** _____

PFCC

Date Signed: **30 June 2021** _____

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

Sign: _____

Print: _____

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date Signed: _____