

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 077-21

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: 11th May 2021

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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the allocation of a further round of Ministry of Justice funding for support services, including those that support the victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, that have been impacted by COVID-19.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The PFCC approves the distribution of this additional Ministry of Justice funding to the organisations set out in section 4.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. In 2020 the Ministry of Justice made funding available to support services that were at risk of no longer being able to support victims of crime because of the impact COVID-19 was having on their operations. The PFCC agreed to allocate this funding to 13 organisations as set out in previous decision sheets 132-20 and 074-20.
- 3.2. With the continuation of COVID-19 restrictions, services continue to be impacted. This includes organisations who are experiencing a prolonged increase in demand and those which are seeing more victims presenting with complex needs requiring more support for longer.
- 3.3. Previous funding provided by the Ministry of Justice expired on the 31st March 2021. The additional funding, covered by this decision, will enable services to meet the continued needs of victims and ensure the services are available across Essex.

3.4. Funding will also be provided to specialist organisations who support underrepresented groups and those with protected characteristics.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The PFCC's has responsibility to commission services to support victims of crime and has placed supporting victims at the heart of their police and crime plan. To support this statutory responsibility and strategic priority the Ministry of Justice provides a Victims' grant which is used to commission 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 to support services as they responded to the impact of COVID-19 and the public health restrictions the government had to put in place.
- 4.3. Essex PFCC was successful in obtaining and distributing £717,273 of available funding. The funding awarded previously expired on the 31st March 2021.
- 4.4. Since this first round of funding the MoJ have announced further funding of £40m for victims' services in order to ensure that services continue to be available in 2021-22. £4.625m of this funding has been allocated to Sexual Violence and £8.95m for Domestic Abuse and has been allocated to PCCs and PFCC to distribute.
- 4.5. The Ministry of Justice will allocate this to PCCs by providing an uplift to their existing annual 2021/22 Victims Grant. The increase in funding for Essex is set out below.
- Domestic Abuse £287,115
 - Sexual Violence £139,778
 - Rape Support Fund £147,709
- 4.6. Essex PFCC was also successful in obtaining additional funding for Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) for two years
- £500,820 for 2021/22
 - £554,023 for 2022/23
- 4.7. The PFCC has worked with existing commissioned organisations to understand their additional anticipated funding needs to ensure victims remain supported throughout 2021-22. This will mitigate the ongoing impact that continued COVID-19 restrictions are having.
- 4.8. The PFCC also encouraged non-commissioned organisations who improve and provide support for underrepresented groups to apply for funding.
- 4.9. Following a robust and thorough process it is proposed funding should be award to the organisations set out below.

4.9.1. Domestic Abuse Uplift- £287,115

Organisation	Description	Awarded amount
Kids Inspire	Trauma Resolution therapeutic packages, for Children and Young People aged 11-18yrs who have experienced DA & SV, and their families.	£25,612.00
One Voice	Staffing and supervision, costs in order to support victims of DA from the traveller community	£12,098.00
Refuge Action Colchester	Domestic Violence outreach worker supporting BAME victims.	£14,000.00
EMAN	Engagement for ethnic minority women in and with rural areas. Creating this network will provide opportunities to raise awareness and signpost to existing commissioned services	£4,626.00
Alpha Vesta	Training Coordinator to raise awareness and influence/set DA policies to business across Essex.	£30,000.00
Changing Pathways	Funding to support the increased demand which will include paralegal support in order to help process the increase protection orders and funding for therapeutic group work	£51,555.00
Next Chapter	Additional staff resource for domestic abuse practitioners in order to respond to the increase demand	£69,028.00
Safe Steps	Temporary staff for the COMPASS helpline to support with the increased demand in DA calls.	£80,196.00
		£287,115

4.9.2. Sexual Violence £139,778

Organisation	Description	Awarded amount
Synergy Essex (Essex Rape Crisis Partnership)	Increased staffing capacity and new therapeutic intervention to bring down waiting list	£134,778.00
Project Goldcrest (Essex Police)	Additional self-administering forensic examination boxes to support roll out across Essex	£5,000
	Total	£139,778

4.9.3. Rape Support Fund

Organisation	Description	Awarded amount
Synergy Essex (Essex Rape Crisis Partnership)	Increased staffing capacity and new therapeutic intervention to bring down waiting list. Also funding to support increased workspace for face to face work due to COVID	£147,709
	Total	£147,709

4.9.4. Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) for two years

Organisation	Description	Awarded amount 2021/22	Awarded amount 2022/23
Synergy Essex	4.5 ISVAs	179,965	176,476
Changing Pathways	1 IDVA 1 Children's and young person IDVA	68,444	67,221
Next Chapter	3 IDVA (supporting complex needs and LGBT+) 1 Children and Young Person IDVA	113,200	137,240

Safe Steps	3 IDVA (supporting complex need)	72,550	91993
Victim Support	2 Specialist DA post	66,660.50	81,093
Total	4.5 ISVA 11 IDVA	500,820	554,023

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.
- 5.2. The funding approach was previously agreed in decision sheet 011-21 in line with the criteria set by Ministry of Justice and ensuring that funding is allocated based on the needs of victims across Essex. The PFCC could amend this approach that will require approval from Ministry of Justice however this will delay awarding valuable funding to organisations that require support.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. Victims are at the heart of the Police and Crime Plan and this funding will ensure that victims continue to be supported during these unprecedented times.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. There are no operational implications

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will provide funding to the organisations identified in section 3 from the funding awarded to the PFCC from the MoJ
- Domestic Abuse 2021/22 - £287,115
 - Sexual Violence 2021/22 - £139,778
 - Rape Support Fund 2021/22 - £147,709
 - Additional IDVA/ISVAs 2021/22 - £500,820
 - Additional IDVA/ISVAs 2022/23 - £554,023

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.
- 9.2. 7F Procurement has been engaged to ensure the funding awarded is reflected in any existing contracted arrangements.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. There are no PFCC staffing implications
- 10.2. Funding will be used to employ additional staff by the organisations listed in section 3. These organisations will be responsible for the management and performance of any new staff.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. All support services are available and accessible to all with dedicated community workers, raising awareness at local groups and building partnerships with other local organisations who work directly with specific communities. This funding will support the continuation of this for example, some of the additional IDVAs will focus support to victims with complex needs, this includes individuals with disabilities particularly mental health.
- 11.2. The open application process was promoted online through press release, published on the PFCC website, shared with the PFCC network of organisations including those within the voluntary sector to extend the reach and engage as many organisations as possible, to encourage them to access funding.



MoJ outcome
2021-22 EIA.docx

11.3.

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. Any organisation will be subject to the PFCC standard grant agreement and will have to agree to provide performance monitoring at agreed intervals.

13. Governance Boards

The PFCC Senior Management Team (SMT) have been briefed and received progress updates at the SMT meeting.

A previous decision sheet 11-21 was approved that outlined the approach to additional funding.

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: *D. Horsman*

Print: ... Darren Horsman - Deputy MO ..

Date: 17.5.2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: *Julia Berry*

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 17 May 2021

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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.

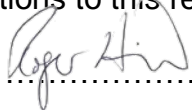
Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: ROGER HIRST

PFCC

Date signed: 30 June 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: