

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 154-21
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Safer Streets Fund – Chelmsford
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Chelmsford
Report by: Kirsty Smith
Date of report: 11 October 2021
Enquiries to: kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk
Reviewed by SMT member: Janet Perry

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to distribute the funding awarded from the Home Office Safer Streets 3 Fund following a successful bid of £550,000 for Chelmsford.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Approve the distribution of the awarded Home Office Safer Streets 3 funding of £550,000, as identified in the successful bid, to the following organisations

To be distributed to	Value £
Chelmsford City Council	416,000
Anglian Ruskin University	20,000
London Bus Theatre	15,000
Chelmsford SOS Bus	19,000
Street Pastors	10,000
Southend Council	70,000
Total	550,000

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. This Safer Streets funding will be used on preventative measures to reduce crime in Chelmsford. Projects are to be completed before 31 March 2022 and this decision will allow for the timely distribution of funding so projects can start.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. The Safer Streets 3 Fund is a £23m national fund set up to design and deliver local crime prevention plans in hotspot areas to improve the safety of public spaces for all, with a particular focus on areas of potential concern to women and girls. The PFCC for Essex was able to submit three bids for defined local areas within Essex of up to £550,000 each. The areas were chosen based on them being persistently and disproportionately affected by neighbourhood crime.
- 4.2. The PFCC for Essex submitted three bids which had to include a primary secondary and tertiary bid. The PFCC and Essex Police Chief Officer Group (COG) determined that Chelmsford was the primary bid, Colchester the secondary bid, and Harlow the tertiary.
- 4.3. The Home Office announced the outcome of the Safer Streets 3 Fund on 3 October 2021. The Chelmsford Safer Streets bid was successful and was awarded the full amount requested of £550,000. Figure 1 shows the summary of the application and how the funding will be allocated. The Home Office have advised the PFCC that our secondary bid was of high quality however, due to the limited funds available they were not able to fund it. The Home Office did not consider any of the tertiary bids.

Figure 1 - Chelmsford funding summary

Deliverable	Total cost	Evidence/rationale
CCTV Cameras	£164,753	CCTV will be placed in key locations to improve coverage around the area these include entry and exits of Bunny Walks, an area within Chelmsford, extending towards the university and the city centre. This will ensure improved line of sight and help to prevent criminal behaviour and improve safety. Cameras will also have Darkfighter technology and some will have infra-red lighting to ensure clear imagery that will be usable throughout the year and be durable throughout the changing seasons for example regardless of overgrowth from trees that block out light the CCTV infra-red will still capture clear images. Additional signage will be installed around the area to inform the public CCTV is in operation and act as an additional deterrent and provide reassurance.
Increased lighting	£20,000	A light assessment was conducted around Bunny Walks. This identified that overall, Bunny Walks had sufficient bright LED lighting. However, a 'dark spot' was identified at a key

		<p>point of a pedestrian bridge over the river which is near the entrance to a retail park. This is a well-used path and therefore will benefit from increased lighting.</p>
<p>University student engagement</p>	<p>£20,000</p>	<p>Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange (SHOKE) programme is an initiative that engages students to problem solve issues that impact them. SHOKE is an activity that is run by students and delivered by students through internships. Funding will be used to deliver a bespoke project focused on VAWG subjects that matter to them including how to keep safe in the night-time economy and how to create a consistent and easily understood message on how to create healthy relationships.</p> <p>It is a five-month project. Essex Police and Essex County Council will initially present the problem, student volunteers will have two months to formulate and create ideas. At the end of the two-month period teams will present their projects and four projects will be chosen.</p> <p>This funding will pay for part time internships by the University for the next two months (to include, four teams of up to eight students per team). In this delivery period workshops will be held with key stakeholders/partners across Essex e.g. community groups, specialist council depts. At the end of this two months students will present a full plan for delivery. These will be proposed to Essex County Council and Essex Police for potential implementation. Essex County Council have been engaged and any output/learning will be included within the counties VAWG recommendations currently being developed.</p> <p>This project will ensure that students will be responding to an issue that is impacting them to create significant and sustainable change improving women and girls' safety. We are particularly interested in the success of this project as it is empowering women and girls to find their own solutions.</p>
<p>Additional security fencing</p>	<p>£25,000</p>	<p>Concerns have been identified in residential areas around HMP Chelmsford being adjacent to a local school and a graveyard allowing easy access. This local school has shared multiple incidents of males entering the premises without invitation. Parents (who typically are female) have shared their concerns over safety for</p>

		<p>themselves and their children. Residents have also flagged with the Community Safety Partnership their concern of increased males in the area believed to be transporting drugs. This makes them uncomfortable and concerned for their own safety. In order to respond funding will be used to install Palisade security fencing around the perimeter of the graveyard and local school to prevent and deter criminals accessing these areas. If we discourage and make it difficult for individuals to conduct criminal behaviour it should reduce the number of individuals entering the school premises.</p>
Landscaping – volunteer engagement	£15,000	<p>Volunteers currently support the upkeep of Bunny Walks, maintaining the trees and shrubbery. Funding will be used to encourage additional volunteers (which has seen a reduction due to COVID) by ensuring the volunteers have the appropriate equipment to maintain the area. To further increase the activity in the area we will also work with the Probation Service and introduce community payback initiatives within the area. This will help to support the maintenance of the area and could create bespoke planting projects improving the appearance of the area. In addition, it will build relationships and confidence within the community as it shows a proactive criminal justice system working with the Probation Service. Improving the area will help to encourage increase use by the public which improves natural surveillance and preventing opportunities for criminal activity.</p>
Digital engagement	£40,000	<p>In order to improve safety and to meet our project aim to reclaim the area we will create interactive digital engagement throughout Bunny Walks. QR codes will be created and placed throughout the pathway. Using a mobile device, the public can scan the codes which will then provide digital maps and information about the area. It will also provide general safety advice and identify places of safety and key contact numbers for support services. The content can also be targeted to different age groups. Funding will be used to set the initiative up including a promotional campaign to encourage people to use it.</p>
School Engagement – Healthy relationships	£13,247	<p>Across Chelmsford there are 17 schools and colleges. Safer Places is an Essex based domestic abuse charity who will deliver awareness sessions on healthy relationships and consent to all schools across the area.</p>

		Understanding healthy relationships can help a child feel secure and supported, while unhealthy relationships will have a long-lasting negative impact.
Detached youth work	£15,000	Feedback from the community showed that there was a concern of groups over younger people loitering within Bunny Walks making the local community feel unsafe. From the feedback the perception was that criminal drug activity was being conducted. In order to respond to this concern and using existing third sector organisations funding will extend detached youth work taking place elsewhere in Chelmsford City to include the Bunny Walks area. The youth work service will support younger people to understand the impact that they have on a community and support them to make better choices.
Youth Engagement	£10,000	Feedback from the Chelmsford Community Policing Team showed that often young people who are causing issues for local residents come from outside the direct vicinity. In order to address these concerns organisations such as Bar 'n' Bus, a youth work charity, may be able to provide a more easily available youth intervention.
Community Safety days of action	£43,000	It is proposed to deliver a minimum of four days of action within the Bunny Walks area in Chelmsford. The community safety days of action bring together a group of partners that include, Community Safety Team, Housing, Police, Fire, Neighbourhood Watch, third sector organisations who raise awareness of pressing local community safety issues and conduct practical needs assessments to ensure support is given to those in the community that require it. Funding will be put aside to support these days of action in order for them to have a greater impact. Funding will be assigned to the Community Safety Partnership and the funding will be used on items such as Personal Alarms Crime Safety prevention leaflets Knife Arches Drink spiking toppers Spot purchasing direct support for individuals identified e.g. personal materials for vulnerable individuals in need, youth interventions,
Chelmsford City Football engagement	£20,000	Through the football club, we will engage young people within the area to positively change behaviour. The programme will also bring in counsellors and hold group sessions in order to

		provide support to young people to address any issues. There will also be opportunity for other education inputs including healthy relationship awareness and crime prevention messages. This activity aims to improve relationships with Essex Police, provide opportunities for young people and engage with them to positively use the green spaces within Bunny Walks.
Safe Spaces	£25,000	Funding will be used to create 'Safe Spaces' across the city. The spaces will be a place where women and girls can seek refuge and support. The project will engage businesses across Chelmsford to sign up to be a Safe Space. Training will be provided for businesses to provide any immediate support. Funding will also be used to promote and create clear signage to allow organisations to identify themselves as a Safe Space. Having safe spaces across the city that are accessible is hoped to improve feelings of safety in women and girls knowing that if they have any concerns there will be places of support nearby.
London Bus Theatre	£15,000	We recognise the importance of this funding being partly focused on younger people to raise their awareness of keeping themselves safe and also of the impact their actions have on others. London Bus Theatre Company are a theatre company who will use the funding to create a social media video on the impact of harassment towards girls. The video will be produced, scripted, filmed and directed by younger people. From our initial engagement with younger people suggested that a video linking online harassment and how this makes girls feel when on the street would help to reduce this harassment.
Harmful Sexual Behaviours (HSB)	£70,000	HSB is a priority of all three safeguarding boards in Essex. HSB is more often a form of violence against women and girls and is intrinsically connected with historic and continuing inequalities in social structures and culture. Adults in day to day contact with children and young people need to have the knowledge, competence and confidence to take the right actions, at the right time, to identify and minimise risks; and to respond swiftly and appropriately if it appears harm is occurring. Southend Council will lead in using this funding to respond to HSB early and deter future offending and break the cycle of poor, unhealthy relationships and create a more positive outlook for younger people.

Chelmsford SOS bus	£19,000	To make the city centre an attractive, enjoyable, and safe place to visit at night funding will be used to expand the Chelmsford SOS bus to every Friday night. The SOS bus provides support to people who might be vulnerable in the night-time economy. With a large student population in Chelmsford, the SOS bus will ensure that individuals who are typically female get home safely.
Street Pastors	£10,000	Street Pastors play an active part in strengthening community life and working for safer streets. Street Pastors patrol in teams, usually from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. on a Friday and Saturday night, to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets. Funding will expand the work of Street Pastors in Chelmsford. Similar to SOS bus, Street Pastors typically support females within the NTE and help to ensure everyone remains safe.
Project officer (admin costs) /	£25,000	Funding will be used to recruit a project officer who will monitor and coordinate activity including providing regular updates to the Home Office and support, delivery, implementation, and governance of the proposed projects.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. Following analysis by Essex Police of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and information gathered from local communities and partners, three areas were identified as the best match to the Safer Streets 3 Fund criteria for bidding. This approach was shared with both the PFCC's SMT and Essex Police COG. It was agreed that Chelmsford would be our primary bid followed by Colchester as our secondary bid, with Harlow as a tertiary bid. The Home Office have only funded our primary bid, although have acknowledged the high quality of our secondary bid and have stated they were not able to consider any tertiary bids due to the limited funding available. Alternative areas could have been considered and we could have submitted our bids in a different priority order however, given the success of the Chelmsford it appears the prioritisation was appropriate.

6. Police and Crime Plan

6.1. The Safer Streets 3 funding proposals are focused on preventative measures to reduce crime with a particular focus on safety for women and girls. Prevention is a building block of success within the Police and Crime Plan. Improving the wellbeing of people across Essex, making sure that crime and anti-social behaviour do not happen in the first place and that children and vulnerable people are kept safe from harm.

7. Police operational implications

7.1. Essex Police were fully engaged with the development of the application. As stated in section 5.1 COG approved the bids. The activity has been developed in

partnership with Essex Police and they have confirmed that it is anticipated to have a positive impact on operational policing.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. As stated in paragraph 2.1, the Home Office will be allocating £550,000 to the PFCC for Essex which will then be distributed to the following organisations in order to deliver the interventions outlined in section 4.3.

To be distributed to	Value £
Chelmsford City Council	416,000
Anglian Ruskin University	20,000
London Bus Theatre	15,000
Chelmsford SOS bus	19,000
Street Pastors	10,000
Southend Council	70,000
Total	550,000

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. The distribution of the grant to organisations in 8.1 will be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. There are no direct staffing implications to the PFCC for Essex.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. An equality and diversity impact assessment has been completed



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12. Risks

- 12.1. The misuse of funds allocated is a risk that has been identified. Any organisation will be subject to the PFCC's standard grant agreement. Regular monitoring returns will be required from all key partners to ensure funding is being used appropriately in order to deliver the project.
- 12.2. There is an additional risk that if we do not distribute this funding expediently, we will not meet the Home Office funding criteria to spend the resources by 31 March 2022.

13. Governance Boards

- 13.1. The PFCC Senior Management Team (SMT) and Essex Police COG endorsed the submission and are aware of the outcome of the bidding process.
- 13.2. A working group was convened that involved all key partners including Chelmsford City Council colleagues and Essex Police in order to develop the initial bid for the Safer Streets 3 Funding. The working group will continue to support the implementation of the project.

14. Background papers

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: 

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 9/11/2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 10 November 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:

.....
.....

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

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 17 November 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: