

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 156-21
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: PFCC Crime Prevention Fund
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Kirsty Smith Date of report: 9 th November 2021 Enquiries to: kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk
Reviewed by SMT member: Janet Perry

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to seek approval to launch a Crime Prevention Fund to coincide with the publication of the 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan. The fund of £200,000 will invite applications to help prevent crime and make communities safer. There will be a cost of £10,000 to support the launch.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve the launch of a Crime Prevention Fund of £200,000 inviting applications that will help to prevent crime and make communities safer.
- 2.2. To agree that the launch of the above fund should coincide with the publication of the new 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan.
- 2.3. To approve a one of grant of £10,000 to support communication activity of the above fund and the successful projects.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. The recommended criteria of the Crime Prevention Fund will deliver programmes and services that focus on prevention of crime building safer communities. The launch of this fund will help to reinforce the prevention priority.

- 3.2. £200,000 of funding will be distributed to support local voluntary and community safety groups
- 3.3. The Crime Prevention Fund will be launched alongside the new Police and Crime Plan enhancing the engagement activity and promoting the new Police and Crime Plan priorities.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. £300,000 of funding is allocated each year by the PFCC to a small grants fund to support local voluntary and community safety groups to deliver programmes and services that contribute towards the Police and Crime Plan.
- 4.2. In July 2021 the PFCC made the decision, report reference 108-21, to allocate £100,000 of the 2021-22 small grants fund to the Violence and Vulnerability Community Safety Grants Programme. The additional funding increased the available funds for the Violence and Vulnerability programme, inviting applications from community organisations who work with children and young people at risk of or involved in serious violence, crime, anti-social behaviour, vulnerability, including gangs, 'county lines' and child criminal exploitation.
- 4.3. It is proposed that the PFCC launches a new Crime Prevention Fund with the remaining £200,000 of the small grants fund. It is proposed that the PFCC will invite applications for projects that prevent crime from happening in the first place, to reduce overall crime and keep our communities safer. This can include projects that:
 - recognise and welcome the increased diversity of Essex and support communities to work together and prevent crime by encouraging reporting, identifying problem areas, and targeting prevention activity;
 - work with schools and young people to develop a comprehensive education focused prevention programme delivering relevant messages, including, healthy relationships and recognise signs of child sexual exploitation;
 - provide extra support and early intervention for people with additional needs or who are at increased risk of becoming victims of crime;
 - collaborate with rural communities and partners to understand rural communities and their challenges in order to help prevent crime;
 - work to reduce the fear of women and girls in their communities and support projects that make public spaces free from abuse and harassment.
- 4.4. Projects should:
 - not duplicate or compete with existing activity;
 - demonstrate how they will be sustainable;
 - where possible demonstrate match funding with other funders showing confidence in the project;
 - have approval from their Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 4.5. The information required in the application will be:

- details of the applying organisation: name, registered address company number, charity number and contact details;
- description of the organisation and its purpose;
- description of the proposal including expected aims and how they will help to prevent crime;
- evidence of need;
- geographical location;
- target audience including how the project will be accessible to the target audience;
- sustainability following expiry of the funding;
- financial breakdown and total cost.

4.6. The fund will coincide with the publication of the new 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan. To support the launch of the fund and promote any successful projects £10,000 will be allocated to the PFCC Communication and Engagement Team to distribute to organisations that support activity such as developing publication material, preparation of media releases, interviews, and research for case studies.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

5.1. Alternative small grants fund criteria have been considered and rejected were:

- limit applications for only one or two Police and Crime Plan priorities;
- limit applications to the districts that are underrepresented from previous rounds of small grants funding;
- limit applications to those who are vulnerable with protected characteristics.

5.2. These options were rejected because it would have limited the capacity of the fund to specific groups/areas which would not be equitable.

5.3. The PFCC could choose not to invite applications for projects that contribute to the delivery for any of the twelve priorities within the new Police and Crime Plan, similar to previous small grants funding rounds.

5.4. This option was considered and rejected because the broad fund criteria, could generate a significant number of applications making it difficult to fairly review and assess. In addition this would impact on PFCC resource to be able to manage and respond to a high volume of applications.

5.5. The PFCC could also decide not to change the fund however, this would mean organisations would have to apply for funds against criteria specifically linked to the old Police and Crime Plan. This was rejected as it wouldn't deliver against our current Police and Crime Plan priorities.

6. Police and Crime Plan

6.1. This funding will enable community organisations to support the priorities within the new 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan.

- 6.2. The launch of the fund alongside the publication of the new 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan also aims to enhance engagement and awareness of the new Police and Crime Plan priorities.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. Essex Police will be engaged during the evaluation process, but it is anticipated that funding will have no police operational implications.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will allocate £200,000 from the 2021-22 Small Grants Fund to be distributed to applicants whose proposals are deemed likely to be the most successful in helping to prevent crime and meet the PFCC's funding criteria.
- 8.2. This funding will be distributed within a single funding round. It is expected the £200,000 will be awarded and distributed by 31st March 2022.
- 8.3. In addition, £10,000 will be allocated to support communication activity from the 2021-22 Small Grants Fund. The PFCC's Communication and Engagement Team will allocate funding to required organisations that support delivery of the work.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. There are no legal implications. Funding criteria and outcomes will be transparent and published on the PFCC website.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. Employment of staff or sessional workers employed by an organisation who is successfully awarded funding will be the responsibility of that organisation. As part of our due diligence the grant agreement clearly states this is one-off funding and the PFCC has no liability for the ongoing costs of any roles established with this funding.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. The activities delivered through the grants will support and be accessible to all individuals including those with protected characteristics. However, it should be noted that some applications may target underrepresented groups. Evidence of need and the proposal will be evaluated to ensure projects are equitable in the overall provision within an area.
- 11.2. For the successful applications, monitoring arrangements will include the requirement to report on the number of individuals supported including their protected characteristics to ensure nobody with a protected characteristics is inequitably disadvantaged.

12. Risks

12.1. Due diligence checks and an independent evaluation process mitigate any risks to the PFCC to ensure projects and the delivery organisations can evidence their ability to deliver similar projects, have good financial governance and have policies in place when working with vulnerable individuals.

13. Governance Boards

13.1. This paper has not been raised at any governance boards but has been discussed at the Police and Crime Planning meetings.

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 - Deputy MO

Date: 1.12.2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 1 December 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input 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:

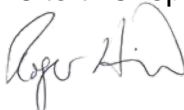
Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 14 December 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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