

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

<b>Report reference number:</b> 165-21
<b>Classification</b> Not protectively marked
<b>Title of report:</b> Violence & Vulnerability Community Safety (VVCS) Grants Programme 2021/22 & 2022/23
<b>Area of county / stakeholders affected:</b> Countywide
<b>Report by:</b> Samantha Grant & Kirsty Smith
<b>Date of report:</b> 30th November 2021
<b>Enquiries to:</b> <a href="mailto:Samantha.grant@essex.police.uk">Samantha.grant@essex.police.uk</a> <a href="mailto:kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk">kirsty.smith@essex.police.uk</a>

### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate **£370,449** in the form of grants from the Violence & Vulnerability Community Safety (VVCS) Grants Programme (2021 – 2023) to the organisations listed in section 4 below.
- 1.2. These grants to community projects will:
  - protect vulnerable people from exploitation by gangs and intervene early to help steer them towards a successful life
  - work with people vulnerable to being groomed to help them avoid or step away from criminal lifestyles
  - contribute to reducing serious violence in various locations across Essex and with multiple vulnerable groups.
  - impact on one or more of the issues identified through the listening projects the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership undertook in 2020/21.
  - be delivered between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- 1.3. As agreed in decision 108/21 ([9th August 2021](#)), £250,000 is available for awards to local not for profit groups from the 'Violence & Vulnerability Community Safety' (VVCS) Grants Programme (2021 – 2023). These funds are made up of £150,000 from V&V Joint Budget, and £100,000 from Community Safety Development Fund.
- 1.4. In addition, based on the number and quality of applications received, it is recommended to increase the available amount for awards to local not for profit groups, from £250,000 to **£370,449**. The extra £120,449 will be provided from the 2021-22 Essex Violence & Vulnerability Joint Budget.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Approve the additional element of **£120,449** from the Essex Violence & Vulnerability Joint Budget to make the total amount allocated through the VVCS Grant Programme **£370,449**.
- 2.2. Approve the allocation of the VVCS grant to local organisations as listed under section 4.6.

## **3. Benefits of the proposal**

- 3.1. Organisations have been recommended for approval that contribute to having a positive impact on reducing the risk of exploitation of young or vulnerable people by gangs and reducing serious violence. The projects will also help tackle the issues identified through the listening projects the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership undertook in 2020/21.

## **4. Background and proposal**

- 4.1. The PFCC and county Violence & Vulnerability Partnership invited applications from not-for-profit local organisations who work with children, young people, young adults and families and who have a proven track record of having a positive impact on issues relating to serious violence, exploitation and that respond to one or more of the issues identified through the Violence and Vulnerability listening projects undertaken in 2020/21 (as noted below under point 4.2).
- 4.2. The issues identified as priorities through the V&V listening projects are summarised below:
  - Targeted youth work aimed at those young people most at risk of exploitation
  - Increased mental health support for young people at risk of serious violence
  - Support for victims of youth violence
  - Indoor/ outdoor safe spaces with affordable and inclusive activities for young people to socialise
  - Opportunities for young people to learn life skills, participate in community based or volunteering work
  - Work with young people and their families to raise awareness of youth violence
  - Projects that promote greater communication and positive engagement between the police, youth groups and schools.
- 4.3. 51 applications were received totalling £884,276
- 4.4. Applications were reviewed by panels of stakeholders, as set out below:
  - Violence and Vulnerability Partnership 'Voice of Communities' group, with a range of voluntary sector organisations.
  - Panels of 'young commissioners' drawn from members of the Young Essex Assembly.
  - Multi-agency panel with representatives from the PFCC, Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit, Southend, Essex and Thurrock Councils, Essex Community Foundation and Active Essex.

- 4.5. The panels reviewed the applications and assessed the activity, including that it did not duplicate or compete with existing activity.
- 4.6. The evaluation panels have recommended 21 organisations for funding totalling **£370,449**

**Table 1 – small organisations awarded funds**

<b>Small organisation</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
AFI UK African families in UK	Youth work in youth settings across Colchester and Tendring, looking at wellbeing, parenting, linking with other provision / positive activities and raising cultural awareness. Offering positive diversionary activities while addressing the issues that are impacting on the young people and providing them with safe spaces to explore and discuss. Linking with community leaders from a range of backgrounds (including Colchester Nepalese Society, Bangladeshi Women Association Essex, the Colchester Chinese Culture Society, and the Colchester Malayalee Community) to engage a wide range of young people and identify youth settings to include in the youth work.	£19,500
ATF (Action Through Football)	Work with young people in an area of Basildon, running sessions within the community, the project includes access to an NHS trained counsellor that provides instant access to support at crisis point; indoor/ outdoor safe spaces (linked to the local primary and secondary schools). Developed in response to a request from Basildon Community Safety Partnership.	£19,100
Building Lives Project	Provide 1:1 coaching and mentoring to children and young people aged between 9-18 years old, at risk of or involved in serious violence.	£20,000
Cara Essex	To increase the counselling and therapeutic support provided to young people (aged 12-19) who have been victims of sexual violence. A specialist young person's practitioner working on a one-to-one basis with up to 15 young people at any one time.	£20,000
Changing Lives, Harlow	To support the development of the Community Hub for young people to feel safe and have access to sports activities.	£20,000
Colchester Utd	Working with schools and youth clubs in Clacton, Jaywick, Shrub End and Greenstead. Creating a new workshop package to schools and youth clubs in the areas focusing on reducing crime and increasing awareness of the exploitation of young people. For the programme to also provide an avenue for young people to gain work experience through volunteering opportunities with the organisation and the football club. Using the brand of the football club to shape career pathways for participants of the workshops,	£13,750

	with the long-term goal of creating new employees of the football club (linked with Kickstart).	
Doddinghurst Road Church, Brentwood	To support the funding of a detached youth worker (funding being sought from other sources to sustain for three years), working to build relationships with disadvantaged young people, aimed at those young people most at risk of exploitation. Including through pre-existing work, for example Brentwood Foodbank. Developing new projects that promote greater communication and positive engagement between the police, youth groups and schools.	£20,000
Inclusion Ventures	Working with young people in their communities, Jaywick and West Clacton. To include supporting individual young people in the steps back into employment or education; working closely with Police Children and Young People Officers in the provision of activities; weekly night cafe for the older young people exposed to drug culture and the violence that arises around it; and respond to young people's suggestions for diversionary activities.	£19,500
Kids Inspire	Healing Connections - early help therapeutic services to children and young people who are at an increased risk of engaging in violence/ crime. With referrals from health, social care, police and education sectors. Support sessions delivered by qualified, accredited therapists.	£20,000
Maldon CVS	The Maldon Power of Gaming project supporting young people to build social connections and confidence through gaming. The project is aimed at 13 – 19 year olds with sessions in a social environment (online and in person) with sessional workers who are there to help the young people feel comfortable. Power of Gaming was a project set up by a local computer business in 2019 though stopped due to Covid, lessons learnt from this earlier work captured and plans in place to build on these.	£19,920
Motivated Minds	Working with the communities of Basildon, to raise awareness of the "HAPPY Hub" as a safe space for young people; dedicated youth club sessions for children and young people; workshops for young people on staying physically safe and positive relationships. Along with building partnerships with police and other professionals to use the space for delivery of talks to young people and parents.	£19,570
Open Door	Developing Social Isolation project aimed at Care Leavers, 16-21 year olds, living in Thurrock. The project provides regular group meetings which involves a structured programme of support including, independent living skills, social activities, guidance and support about keeping safe, healthy & unhealthy relationships, Looking after their mental health and	£20,000

	community volunteering. As well as help with budgeting, and employment and training opportunities. The project aims to help young people build new networks within their own communities as well as new networks amongst group members. Mentoring supports those young people who find group activities more of a challenge.	
Outhouse East	Support and access to specialist counselling for those vulnerable or at risk, with a focus on LGBTQ+ young people, whose experiences are often impacted because of their sexuality or gender. The work includes drop-in services in schools to reach out to young people, as well as raising awareness of support organisations and services.	£12,615
Scouts	For a "Growth and Development Officer" for 15 hours per week for 15 months, to support Essex Scouts in their growth and development of new provision in areas of need, so more young people at risk within communities can access Scouting and its activities. The work includes recruitment and support of local adults, Young Leaders (14-18); reaching out and providing taster sessions for young people and adults in communities in need of provision; offering the 4 Week Challenge to identified communities. Developing high quality, exciting and inspiring activity programmes - where young people can take chances and learn from this in a safe environment.	£20,000
Southend United	Early intervention and early education for children in years 5 and 6 at primary schools in Southend, with a focus on raising awareness and understanding of the dangers of getting involved with drugs and gangs. The project includes improving the awareness and understanding of these issues amongst parents, with a focus on social media. Workshops and events will be delivered in targeted schools. In addition, for a large-scale event at Roots Hall stadium aimed at increasing overall awareness of the project.	£17,570
Teen Talk Harwich	Tendring – working with 16 –25 year olds and 10-11 year olds, (year 6) age ranges. Responding to issues from 'Youth Voices project'. To revisit the groups which took part in the "Youth Voices project" and develop youth led ideas in response to the issues identified. As part of this to continue to develop relationships with young people through schools and through detached youth work, creating awareness of existing services and focus on how young people can get involved. Examples of the issues identified, in the Tendring area, "feel a lack of role models and positive community members that young people can talk to" and "want more community based activities". including "feel a lack of role models and positive	£18,924

	community members that young people can talk to” and “wanted more community based activities”.	
The Children’s Society	To support the development of an early intervention referral pathway and group work programme for young people who are stopped and searched and are found to be in possession of cannabis (and not covered by current provision). With an offer to the young people referred into the service a one to one assessment to understand their life as they experience it as well as identify barriers to engagement: and participation in group sessions. For the sessions to focus on and allow the young people to explore: associated risks and consequences and the health impacts of cannabis use; physically and mentally; harm reduction methods and ways to stop the use of cannabis, including advice on diversionary activities; peer pressure/grooming behaviours – what forms these can come in.	£20,000
The Wilderness Foundation	Providing wilderness therapy, aspects of counselling along with environment-focused activities, centred around a nature-based experience. To provide intervention programmes for those who have experienced youth/gang violence. The approach includes outdoor activities led by an outdoor facilitator offering training and skills in bush craft techniques, camp craft, outdoor volunteering such as tree planting or conservation; visiting specialist support in areas such as money management, employability training; and onsite counsellor to provide additional help to individuals in the group, for example to support those who have experienced trauma.	£20,000
Waltham Abbey Youth 2000	Providing support for young people at King Harold Academy, and sessions at Waltham Abbey Youth 2000 hub, Brooker Road for young people and their families. Working with young people, either through self-referral or from the school, to identify patterns of behaviour and support through counselling. Also providing arts, crafts, and mindfulness sessions as part of a Parent Drop-In facility, giving parents the opportunity to socialise with other parents, have the support from their peers and reduce their stress levels.	£10,000
Canvey Island Yellow Door	Working with young people between the ages of 11 and 25. To provide a youth worker to support young people through one-to-one mentoring and supporting the provision of a range of clubs and activities which will provide young people with safe spaces and offer them informal education on a range of issues, including substance misuse, internet safety, criminal exploitation and healthy relationships	£20,000
		<b>£370,449</b>

- 4.7. 29 applications were unsuccessful. One organisation decided to withdraw their application, Essex YMCA. The 29 organisations which were unsuccessful, and a rationale for the assessment of their applications as unsuitable, are listed in table 2.

**Table 2 – small organisations which applied for the fund and were not successful**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Reason unsuccessful</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>
██████████ ██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£19,995
██████████ ██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£18,880
██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£20,000
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£20,000
██████████ ██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£19,965
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£19,949
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£19,623
██████████ ██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£20,000
██████████ ██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£17,583
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£14,040
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£10,500
██████████	Criteria was for applicants to be Essex organisations. Not an Essex organisation	£20,000
██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£14,046
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£12,336
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£16,290
██████████ ██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£20,000
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£20,000
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£8,704

██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£15,817
██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£1,000
██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£20,000
██████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£8,480
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£20,000
██████████ ██████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£17,884
██████████	Criteria was for applicants to be Essex organisations. Not an Essex organisation	£20,000
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£9,000
██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£20,000
██████████	Match with the issues identified through the V&V listening projects 2020/21 could have been stronger	£20,000
██████████	Other applications met the criteria more closely.	£19,835
██████████ ██████████	Criteria was for applicants to be Essex organisations. Not an Essex organisation	£19,900
██████████	Withdrew from the process	£10,000
		<b>£513,827</b>

## 5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC could choose to award funding to alternative projects however the organisations listed in section 4 were assessed in line with the published criteria and by evaluation panels. The PFCC may opt not to increase the available funding for the grant but we believe the projects listed in section 4 are of a good quality, will deliver positive outcomes, and all meet the criteria of the fund making them worthy of the partnership's support.

## 6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. 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

- 7.1. There are no operational implications.



## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1. The Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF), held by the PFCC office, has a budget of £300,000 allocated for Community Safety projects. £100,000 is being utilised for the VVCS Grants Programme (2021 – 2023).
- 8.2. The Essex Violence & Vulnerability Joint Budget is made up of funding the PFCC has received from the Home Office as part of a successful bid to the VRU Fund (£1,160,000), a contribution from Essex County Council (£500,000) and investment from the PFCC's Community Safety Fund (£200,000). For **£270,449** from this fund to be utilised for the VVCS Grants Programme.
- 8.3. Funding is to be used by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Any underspend must be returned to the PFCC office.

## **9. Legal implications**

- 9.1. To ensure funding is awarded responsibly, and that it will be of good value to taxpayers', due diligence has been conducted on each recommended applicant that includes:
- Finance check ensuring there are no irregularities within accounts that have been submitted and show sound financial health and a positive cash position
  - Social media/news search
  - Review check against Companies' House and the Charity Commission (where applicable)
  - Review of governing documents including review of trustees, board and committee members
  - Robustness and likely effectiveness and efficiency of the application
  - Sustainability of the organisation without this funding
  - The PFCC may seek the views of key partner agencies to qualify any statements or statistics quoted within an application e.g. Police, local authority and strategic commissioned providers.
  - Robust safeguarding procedures in place
  - Robust GDPR processes in place
- 9.2. The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

## **10. Staffing implications**

- 10.1. There are no staffing implications.

## **11. Equality and Diversity implications**

- 11.1. Every applicant described their target audience, evidence of need and how they will make their project accessible within the application. All support services are available and accessible to all. Some are tailored specifically to groups that do not typically engage in traditional services, increasing the likelihood of positive engagement. Each organisation will be required to record who uses the service so we can assess the impact of each project on different elements of the community. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is available on request.

## **12. Risks**

- 12.1. With any grant funding there is a risk to the PFCC that the organisations do not deliver against expected outputs. This risk is low and within appetite as the

successful organisations listed in section 4 have gone through a due diligence and evaluation process.

- 12.2. All services identified in section 4 have demonstrated the need and the requirement for this funding. There is a risk that funding will not be utilised by the end March 2023, though this has been mitigated by a robust assessment process and by making it clear to organisations that unspent funding must be returned.

### **13. Governance Boards**

- 13.1. All applications have been considered, assessed, and recommended for funding via the evaluation panels held in November 2021.
- 13.2. The work supported by the grants awarded to these small organisations will be reported to the Violence and Vulnerability partnership, and delivery will be overseen by the workstream, 'voice of communities'.

**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 - Deputy MO

Date: 7/12/2021

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry

Date: 7 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)

.....  
.....

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:

Redaction of unsuccessful organisations name due to the possible reputational risk it may cause the organisation

Date redaction carried out: 14 December 2021

**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.

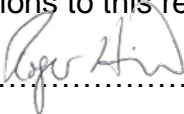
Sign:  .....

Print: Julia Berry .....

**Chief Executive/Treasurer**

**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:

.....  
.....  
.....

Sign: .....

Print: .....

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** .....