

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 167-21
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: CARE project extension 2022-23
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide (excluding Southend and Thurrock)
Report by: Greg Myddelton
Date of report: 2 nd December 2021
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To approve the allocation of £50,000 from the PFCC's Community Safety Fund to The Children's Society to extend the delivery of the CARE project in Essex for one year to March 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £50,000 to part-fund The Children's Society (TCS) to continue to deliver the Children At Risk of Exploitation (CARE) project in Essex in 2022-3.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. CARE has been delivered in Essex for 6 years. It has successfully worked with over 800 children and young people and adults up to 25 years who have been at high risk of, or historically been, subjected to some form of criminal or sexual exploitation. By extending this provision for a further year we will enable TCS to continue to support at-risk young people and undertake an evaluation of the impact of the project.
- 3.2. Reviews of CARE have highlighted the positive impact the project has for individuals engaged, and referrers. One referrer noted; *"I have found CARE makes the difference in some cases where the young person is difficult to engage. By working collaboratively we have been able to make significant changes to young people's and families lives."* One participant noted that *"Without CARE I would of continued to run*

away, my worker has helped me understand exploitation and has always been there for me.”

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. Children at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) has been delivered in Essex since 2016 and is a programme offering support to children and young people up to 25 years who have been or are at risk of being criminally exploited.
- 4.2. CARE is the only programme of its kind in Essex and uses a trauma/gender informed approach. Practitioners are trained in both trauma-informed practice and AMBIT, an Anna Freud, evidence-based approach, which applies mentalization-based principles and practices within multi-agency contexts
- 4.3. Practitioners provide direct 1:1 support and group work for children and young people up to the age of 24 who have or are at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation. The programme also offers specialist training and consultation for police officers, social workers, teachers and health professionals, including an e-Learning package.
- 4.4. This decision will enable a broader piece of work to be carried out in 2022 with partners to determine what the longer-term intentions to provide support for children at risk of exploitation should be.
- 4.5. The project benefits from £176,000 match funding from Essex County Council and The Children’s Society. In addition, Barnardo’s currently fund and deliver a parenting element of the programme. Barnardo’s are currently exploring funding the 2022-23 parenting element of CARE in totality from their own Trusts’ fund. This represents a further £185,000 investment in the project.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC could opt not to allocate this funding, but initial work with police, social care, and other partners has clearly indicated that the loss of CARE as a provision in Essex would leave a significant gap in support for those children and young people who are at risk of, or have been exploited, and thereby signals poor long-term outcomes for them as well as increase in demand of specialist services.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. This funding will support multiple areas within the Police and Crime Plan, most notably reducing drug-driven violence, protecting vulnerable people, and supporting victims of crime. This project is also a positive example of collaboration between agencies; using match-funding to deliver mutual benefits to over-lapping cohorts.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. No direct operational implications on Essex Police other than this being an effective referral route for Police colleagues.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will allocate £50,000 from the Community Safety Fund as a contribution to the Children’s Society to deliver the CARE project. The Children’s Society is contributing £60,000, Essex County Council £116,000. The project

also benefits from £185,000 funding from Barnardo's to deliver a parenting element to the project.

9. Legal implications

9.1. The agreement is subject to our standard funding agreement.

10. Staffing implications

10.1. No staffing implications

11. Equality and Diversity implications

11.1. The CARE service is a specialist, targeted intervention which engages with individuals following agency referral. The service seeks to work with those that have not engaged with traditional support services so is designed to be as accessible as possible. The service is limited by age to young people under 25, and is available to all genders.

12. Risks

12.1. No risks associated with this decision.

13. Governance Boards

13.1. This proposal has not been subject to any formal PFCC governance boards, but the CARE project does provide reports to the Essex Safeguarding Board Child Exploitation sub-group.

14. Background papers

Previous decision sheet on CARE 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: 

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

Date: 7.12.2021.....

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign: 

Print: Julia Berry.....

Date: 13 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 NO 2. Of Appendix? N/a

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:

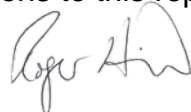
Print:

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 December 2021

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: