

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 029-22
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Community Safety Treatment Requirement (CSTR) extension 2022
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Greg Myddelton
Date of report: 15 February 2022
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To approve the allocation of £60,000 to St Andrew's Healthcare as a contribution to extend the current Essex Community Safety Treatment Requirements (CSTR) programme for a further year until end-March 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £60,000 from the 2022-23 Joint Violence and Vulnerability (V&V) budget to St Andrew's Healthcare to continue the Essex CSTR programme in 2022-23.
- 2.2. Approve in principle the decision to move this project from one that relies on annual grants to a multi-year contract from 2023.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. The Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTR) programme aims to reduce reoffending and short-term custodial sentences by addressing the health and social care issues of an individual. Courts are able to order mental health, drug or alcohol treatment as part of a community sentence. Such treatment requirements allow offenders to access treatment in the community which tackles underlying problems related to their behaviour. In terms of reducing reoffending, treatment orders may be more effective than a short prison sentence.
- 3.2. Many offenders experience mental health and substance misuse problems, but the use of treatment requirements as part of a community sentence remains low. Improved partnership working can increase the use of treatment requirements

and offer an alternative to custodial sentences and so reduce the number of vulnerable people in custody.

- 3.3. An independent review of MHTRs in 2021 found that “Overall, the analysis and results presented from across the 6 sites are very positive...based on the analysis of 13 months data, the evidence demonstrates how MHTR interventions are having a significant benefit in terms of mental distress, anxiety and depression.
- 3.4. By utilising these interventions and providing appropriate support for individuals with additional vulnerabilities we can reduce the likelihood of reoffending and improve outcomes for the individuals concerned as well as local health and justice agencies.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. A Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTR) programme focuses on increased use and effectiveness of the three treatment requirements through a locally agreed partnership.
 - Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR)
 - Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR)
 - Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR)
- 4.2. All three treatment requirements were introduced as a sentencing option in the Criminal Justice Act in 2003. However, due to the multiple complexities of health and social needs affecting this cohort, there are few services in the community that are providing appropriate holistic treatment and care to support these orders. In Essex this support is provided by St Andrews Healthcare, with monitoring and oversight provided by a local CSTR Board.
- 4.3. In Essex the local CSTR Board supports the implementation of the CSTR programme, reviewing performance information, receiving feedback, and planning services including pathways and referral mechanisms. This partnership is chaired by Probation and made up of representatives from Public Health, PFCC, Essex Police, NHS England & Essex CCGs.
- 4.4. Working through the partnership Violence and Vulnerability Unit, The Probation Service has identified the use of CSTRs as an important tool in providing those vulnerable to exploitation by criminal gangs with the support they need to improve their life chances and ultimately prevent them from long-term engagement in the criminal justice system.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC could opt not to allocate this funding, but that would have implications on the ability of the partnership to continue the existing programme at its current scale and to deliver the potential benefits and outcomes of a successful CSTR initiative. The partnership recognises the benefits of moving to a long-term arrangement and is seeking to put plans in place for a multi-year contract to be awarded from 1st April 2023, moving away from the current model of recurring annual grants.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. This funding aligns to multiple priorities in the plan, most notably protecting vulnerable people and investment in crime prevention.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. No operational implications on Essex Police.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will approve a one-off allocation of £60,000 from the 2022-23 Joint V&V Fund. This project benefits from match-funding from Essex County Council, The Probation Service, and NHS England. This joint budget is made up of funding from the Home Office, Essex County Council and the PFCC.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. This funding is subject to the PFCC's standard grant agreement conditions.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. No direct implications. Staff will be recruited by St Andrews Healthcare. No liabilities will be placed on the PFCC or Essex Police as a result of this funding.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. The CSTR process is available to individuals going through the criminal justice system who are assessed as meeting the programme's criteria. The PFC cannot influence the courts' sentencing or referral processes but we note that the independent evaluation of CSTRs noted that "The low numbers of people (representing 5% of all assessments, though it is noted ethnicity was not recorded for 22% of assessments) from Black and Ethnic Minority backgrounds who are being assessed and sentenced to MHTR is a significant concern"
- 11.2. Through our CSTR partnership we will monitor these figures locally to ensure we understand the reasons for this, and seek to improve the diversity of individuals engaged. This insight will be used to undertake a full Equality Impact Assessment prior to any agreement on moving this contract onto a multi-year basis.
- 11.3. There is also a wider piece of work currently being undertaken to understand disproportionality in the local criminal justice system. Findings from that work will be used to inform our approach to this project.

12. Risks

- 12.1. No risks anticipated.

13. Governance Boards

- 13.1. The CSTR pilot is overseen by the CSTR Steering group which reports into the Essex Reducing Reoffending Board. Updates on the CSTR process have also been shared with the Local Criminal justice Board.

14. Background documents

Independent evaluation of CSTRs by the Institute of Public Safety, Crime & Justice, 2021



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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: 08.03.2022

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 3.May.2022

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? 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: 4 May 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: