

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 031-22
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: Home Office Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) (February 2022)
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Samantha Grant
Date of report: 11 th February 2022
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To seek approval to receive **£2,042,762** from the 2022-23 Home Office Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Fund to use to deliver the work programme for the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership for 2022-23, for activity from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve that the PFCC office receive the allocation of up to **£2,042,762** on behalf of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership. With funding to be utilised to deliver the agreed priorities of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership for 2022-23.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. This funding will enable local partners across Essex to have a positive impact on issues relating to violence and vulnerability, including drug driven violence, gangs, 'county lines' and exploitation.
- 3.2. This funding will support organisations to deliver on areas of work outlined in the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Framework (2018) and within the Partnership's work programme for 2022-23, to reduce serious violence and safeguard those being exploited and at risk of exploitation through gangs and 'county lines'.
- 3.3. The Partnership V&V work programme for 2022-23 is in development and will be subject to review and approval by the PFCC and key strategic partners.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. Essex has been allocated **£2,042,762** of VRU funding for 2022-23 by the Home Office, as one of the 20 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across England and Wales.
- 4.2. This allocation is subject to a partnership V&V work programme being submitted during April by the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership to the Home Office, and this plan subsequently being approved by the Home Office.
- 4.3. The V&V work programme requires the approval from local partners (members of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Round Table) before its submission to the Home Office for review.
- 4.4. The V&V work programme is to be overseen by the V&V Operations Board on behalf of the V&V Round Table. The V&V Operations Board are to report progress against the work programme to the V&V Round Table.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC has the option to reject this funding but that would limit the deliverables of the VRU and could impact the ability of the VRU to attract future national government funding.

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, most notably reducing drug-driven violence.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. There are no operational implications. Essex Police is well engaged with this programme at a strategic and operational level.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will receive **£2,042,762** from the 2022-23 Home Office Violence Reduction Unit Fund. The PFCC will allocate the VRU funds, according to the agreed 2022-23 V&V work programme. The allocation of this grant will be detailed in further decision sheets.
- 8.2. The funding will be subject to the funding requirements set out by the Home Office, these will be reflected in the PFCC's funding agreements with partner organisations in the county which deliver elements of the work.
- 8.3. Funding is to be used by 31st March 2023. Any underspend must be returned to the Home Office.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. The award of the grant is subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement with the addition of data monitoring arrangements which is outlined as a condition of the Home Office grant.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. Within the developing V&V work programme for 2022-2023 there are some additional posts to be recruited by and hosted in the PFCC's office. Pending approval of these, recruitment would be undertaken, in accordance with PFCC guidelines.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. No direct implications in accepting this grant allocation.

12. Risks

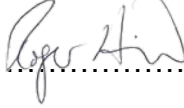
- 12.1. There is a risk that funding will not be utilised by the end March 2023 though this is being mitigated by early planning, building on the learning to date and by ensuring organisations are aware of the restrictions on funding and are able to deliver against these. The VVU also monitors other opportunities for funding if there is any likely underspend and can seek approval from the programme's established governance structures to redeploy funding elsewhere if required during the year.

13. Governance Boards

- 13.1. This funding will support the work of the partnership V&V programme, which is discussed at various partnership boards, including the Violence and Vulnerability Round Table, and V&V Operations Board as well as internal PFCC meetings. The approaches and activities within the Essex V&V work programme are developed by the multi-agency Operations Board and subject to Round Table approval.

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: