

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

<b>Report reference number:</b> 089-22
<b>Classification:</b> Not protectively marked
<b>Title of report:</b> Essex SARC paediatric cover
<b>Area of county / stakeholders affected:</b> Countywide
<b>Report by:</b> Greg Myddelton
<b>Date of report:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This decision sheet seeks approval for the provision of an additional £43,089 as a 25% contribution to the costs of paediatric cover in the Essex SARC from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approval to instruct 7F procurement to arrange for the contract with Mountain Healthcare to be varied to reflect the additional provision of paediatric services for three days per week, at an additional cost of £172,356.
- 2.2. Approve the allocation of £43,089 in 2022/23 for the PFCC's 25% contribution to the additional costs of paediatric cover provided by Mountain Healthcare to the Essex SARC.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. The Essex SARC has previously benefitted from a unique service where paediatric support for young victims and survivors of sexual abuse attending the SARC was provided by a consortium of local Clinical Commissioning Groups. Those local health partners have given notice that these services will be withdrawn from 30th June 2022. As a result, the commissioners of the SARC (NHS England, Essex Police & PFCC) are required to provide the additional funding to cover the costs of the service going forward.

- 3.2. Current funding arrangements for the Essex SARC are that NHS England contribute 50% towards the costs with the remaining 50% split equally between the PFCC and Essex Police.
- 3.3. NHS England and 7F procurement colleagues (supported by the PFCC & Essex Police) have negotiated with the current SARC Healthcare provider to replace the local paediatric services and move from a 5-day (Mon-Fri) to a 3-day (Mon, Weds, Fri) service model - which would reduce the cost but still provide adequate provision for those requiring the service.
- 3.4. This new 3-day service delivery model will begin on 1st July and initially will be in place until 31 March 2023. The costs of this new provision will be £172,356 to provide a paediatric service in the SARC.

#### **4. Proposal and Associated Benefits**

- 4.1. On average 40-60 children will access the SARC paediatric service a year.
- 4.2. The SARC enables Police to recover forensic evidence in the case of sexual abuse and provides specialist support to victims and survivors; referring them to support agencies as required.

#### **5. Options Analysis**

- 5.1. This proposal is the product of a negotiation with the incumbent provider, Mountain Healthcare. Replicating the 5-day service would be significantly more expensive and the 3-day service provides adequate cover for a lower cost. It is considered anything less than 3 days would give inadequate cover. In the longer term we have the opportunity to re-engage health colleagues to explore opportunities to reconsider their position and look at a shared provision.

#### **6. Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1. This proposal has been developed by 7F Procurement, NHS England, Essex PFCC and D/Supt. Neil Pudney, Head of Investigations, Crime & Public Protection Command & Chair of the Essex Sexual Abuse Strategic Partnership.

#### **7. Strategic Links**

- 7.1. Our sexual abuse referral centre is a critical element of our Police & Crime Plan priority to improve support for victims of crime, protect vulnerable people and break the cycle of abuse, and reduce violence against women and girls.

#### **8. Police operational implications**

- 8.1. Essex Police refer into the SARC and benefit from the opportunity to capture forensic evidence to support criminal justice investigations.

#### **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1. The proposal has no identified recurring funding within the PFCC, and we suggest that initially we use £43,089 allocation from the PFCC's 2022-23 victims' fund. This is in addition to the £195k allocated as part of the core

costs of the SARC. This is an in-year budgetary pressure which we have not planned for. Whilst the cost can be met this year from our 2021-22 victims' brought forward underspend, we will need to consider how to fund this beyond April 2023, if we are unable to agree alternative funding arrangements.

- 9.2 The total cost of this proposal is £172,356. The costs are split with NHS England contributing 50% of the costs and Essex Police and PFCC covering 25% each.

## **10. Legal implications**

- 10.1 This funding would be covered by a contract variation, arranged by 7F procurement.

## **11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1 The Essex SARC service is monitored via quarterly PFCC performance reviews with the provider, Mountain Healthcare.

## **12. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion implications**

- 12.1 This SARC service is available to all victims of sexual abuse in Essex. The KPIs of the contract including collection of demographic information as part of our performance information which can be used to track how well we are offering and delivering support to all communities and groups across Essex.

## **13. Risks and Mitigations**

- 13.1 If we do not provide funding there is a risk that after 1<sup>st</sup> July child victims of sexual abuse in Essex will only be able to access specialist paediatric cover 1 day a week or travel out of the county to access appropriate support.

## **14. Governance Boards**

- 14.1 This proposal has not been discussed at any governance boards.

## **15. Links to Future Plans**

- 15.1 This service supports the Essex Sexual Abuse strategy 2020-23.

## **16. Background Papers and Appendices**

- 16.1 Notification of notice from CCGs





If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out: .....

**Chief Finance Officer / 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 / Chief Finance Officer**

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Jane Gardner

**~~PFCC~~/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** 6 July 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**