

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 090-22

**Classification** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** 2022-23 Crime Prevention Fund outcome

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Countywide

**Report by:** Nikki Essex (Community Safety and Criminal Justice Manager)

**Chief Officer:** Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)

**Date of report:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks to gain approval for the allocation of £213,575 in community grants via the 2022-23 Crime Prevention Fund to the organisations listed in section 4 below.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the allocation of £213,575 to local organisations, allowing them to deliver a variety of community projects that will help prevent crime and make communities safer, in accordance with the Police and Crime Plan.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. The Commissioner opened the Crime Prevention Fund for applications from local voluntary and community safety groups to fund projects which prevent crime from happening, reduce overall crime and keep our communities safer.

Crime Prevention is one of the priorities in the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan. 62 applications were received for this fund, totalling £897,480.

3.2. Applications were evaluated by a panel of local stakeholders, which included representatives from Essex Police, the Essex Community Foundation, the PFCC, and a representative for the Community Safety Partnerships. The panel reviewed applications to ensure that:

- Projects met the criteria of the Fund
- Projects did not duplicate, interfere with, or compete with existing activity
- Applications demonstrated how they would be sustained after funding ended

3.3. Out of the 62 applications, the evaluation panel recommend 16 organisations for funding totalling £213,575. The list of successful organisations, the value of their allocation and their geographical reach is broken down in the table below:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>PFCC contribution</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location(s) of project</b>
<i>Gateway Community Media CIC</i>	<i>£12,500</i>	<i>Volunteer-run community radio station seeking to employ a Community Engagement Officer who will engage those that do not traditionally engage, including young people who may not be in education or employment.</i>	<i>Basildon and Thurrock</i>
<i>Uturn4Support</i>	<i>£19,825</i>	<i>20 young people over the course of 36 weeks will receive a total of 18 mentoring and enrichment sessions with trained UTurn staff.</i>	<i>Tendring</i>
<i>New Life Wood</i>	<i>£20,000</i>	<i>Skills and training will be provided to those recently released from prison and in-patient mental health services who may be at risk of offending. The provision of opportunities for volunteering, training and work experience will increase clients' employability and relieve financial hardship through the provision of courses in money management and debt counselling.</i>	<i>Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend, Thurrock</i>
<i>Broomfield Village Hall</i>	<i>£2,966</i>	<i>Youth drop in with games café where support can be provided alongside a safe area for young people to meet up.</i>	<i>Chelmsford</i>
<i>The London Bus Theatre Company</i>	<i>£6,990</i>	<i>To deliver a young people and community led, sustainable, quality short film and life skills drama project from May 2022 – January 2023 for 60 vulnerable young people aged 13-16 from Canvey Island.</i>	<i>Castle Point</i>
<i>Clean Sheet</i>	<i>£19,500</i>	<i>Provision of a remote employment support service to help people find</i>	<i>Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon,</i>

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>PFCC contribution</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location(s) of project</b>
		<i>work, supporting men and women (aged 18+) with all types of convictions</i>	<i>Rochford, Southend, Thurrock and Uttlesford.</i>
<i>The Children's Society</i>	<i>£20,000</i>	<i>This funding will help broaden the reach of the Community Hidden Harm Awareness Team (CHHAT) to enable young people impacted by familial substance misuse and / or mental ill-health to be identified early and engaged in the CHHAT service, as well as increasing awareness of support services for parents / carers struggling with substance misuse or mental ill-health</i>	<i>Essex (excluding Southend and Thurrock)</i>
<i>Rainbow Services</i>	<i>£14,876</i>	<i>The Rainbow Youth Workshop is a woodworking workshop in Harlow which offers young people displaying risky behaviours the chance to take part in positive activities</i>	<i>Harlow</i>
<i>St Vincent De Paul Centre</i>	<i>£10,000</i>	<i>The funding will support an increase in outreach activity which involves nightly visits around Southend to offer immediate assistance of food and emergency support to vulnerable and homeless people</i>	<i>Southend</i>
<i>Bar'n'Bus Trust</i>	<i>£20,000</i>	<i>Deployment of a full-time Youth Worker</i>	<i>Basildon</i>
<i>Sanctus</i>	<i>£18,000</i>	<i>Sanctus is a charity tackling homelessness and other vulnerabilities in Chelmsford and the surrounding areas</i>	<i>Chelmsford and surrounding areas</i>
<i>CVS Uttlesford</i>	<i>£2,500</i>	<i>Creation of a Community Youth Garden and Shelter where young people can safely spend time together in Barnston</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>
<i>Building Lives Project CIC</i>	<i>£10,400</i>	<i>Renovation / development work on "The Base" – a physical space providing positive activity and access for support sessions with mentors and 1:1 sessions.</i>	<i>Chelmsford and surrounding areas</i>
<i>North Avenue Youth Centre</i>	<i>£9,000</i>	<i>Additional sessions to complement an ongoing and well-established youth centre including community detached youth work and holiday provisions.</i>	<i>Chelmsford</i>
<i>Evolve Youth Academy</i>	<i>£18,150</i>	<i>Provision of community projects and positive activities to enable people to feel a part of their community and to gain skills, accreditation or qualifications</i>	<i>Basildon and Thurrock</i>
<i>Lads Need Dads</i>	<i>£8,868</i>	<i>Funding towards Lads Need Dads' Equip programme to be run in Colchester in 2022</i>	<i>Colchester</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£213,575</b>		

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

- 4.1. The purpose of the Crime Prevention Fund is to deliver programmes and services that focus on the prevention of crime and building safer communities. This fund will help to reinforce delivery of the prevention priority within the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan.
- 4.2. Through the Crime Prevention Fund, £200,000 will be distributed to support local voluntary and community safety groups to deliver activity aligned with the Police and Crime Plan.
- 4.3. The Crime Prevention Fund was launched alongside the new Police and Crime Plan and Crime Prevention Strategy, enhancing the engagement activity and promoting the new Police and Crime Plan priorities.

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

- 5.1. The Commissioner has committed to providing funding through the Crime Prevention Fund to support community projects which support crime prevention activity. The PFCC could choose to award funding to alternative projects, however the organisations listed in section 4 were felt to be those that best met the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan and the Crime Prevention Fund criteria when assessed by the evaluation panel.

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

- 6.1. The opportunity to access this funding was communicated externally via the PFCC's website, newsletters and social media. The PFCC also used a variety of partnership forums to raise awareness of the opportunity including the Essex Community Safety Network. The volume of responses demonstrates the effectiveness of this communication and engagement exercise.

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

- 7.1. This funding will enable community organisations to support the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan, particularly *Further Investment in Crime Prevention*.
- 7.2. Whilst crime prevention should remain the core priority for these projects, many organisations also support other priorities in the Police and Crime Plan, including:
  - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
  - Encouraging volunteers and community support
  - Improving support for victims of crime
  - Reducing drug driven violence
- 7.3. This funding also supports the priorities in the Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-25 including knife crime, domestic abuse, and mental health.

## **8. Police operational implications**

8.1. There are no direct operational implications on Essex Police.

## **9. Financial implications**

9.1. The PFCC will allocate up to £213,575 in grants to the organisations identified in section 4. £200,000 of this funding will be allocated from the Crime Prevention Fund with the remaining £13,575 being allocated from the 2022-23 Community Safety Development Fund. These are one-off grants.

## **10. Legal implications**

10.1. These grants are subject to the PFCC's standard grant agreement, which has recently been reviewed and updated to ensure its continued fitness for purpose.

## **11. Staffing implications**

11.1. The PFCC will be required to monitor and track the use of this funding and will want to work with successful bidders to undertake communications and media activities to highlight the impact of these initiatives.

11.2. Employment of staff or sessional workers by successful bidders will be the responsibility of that organisation. Our funding agreement states that this is one-off grant funding and the PFCC has no liability for the ongoing costs of any roles established using this funding.

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

12.1. Please see the attached Equality Impact Assessment.



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Prevention Fund EQ

12.2. The criteria and evaluation process seek to address any potential adverse impacts on those with protected characteristics. Due to the nature of the fund, there may be some deliberate differential impacts on some protected groups, e.g., in the case of projects that address violence against women and girls, this may mean the project delivery and accessibility criteria are tailored towards a certain cohort.

## **13. Risks and Mitigations**

13.1. The use of a panel of local partners ensures there is external support and a diverse range of opinions represented when evaluating the applications.

- 13.2. Following the due diligence process, some risk has been identified regarding the financial results of a number of the organisations over the last two years, largely due to the uncertain impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with financial results skewed by government grants and furlough. To mitigate against these risks and limit any possible loss of PFCC funding, it is proposed that we provide the funding quarterly in advance and, where the risk appears greater, as it does for a small number, we provide the funding monthly in advance.
- 13.3. The due diligence process has also identified a small number of policies for some organisations that are either not dated or not extensive enough. We will request additional information regarding these policies as part of making the awards to the relevant organisations. The award will then be subject to the policies being appropriately reviewed and updated if required.
- 13.4. There is also a risk that the funding allocated is not utilised as intended. We use our funding agreement to mitigate this risk. Effective monitoring of these projects will ensure that any issues are flagged early and can be dealt with appropriately.

#### **14. Governance Boards**

- 14.1. This funding was discussed at the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February and at the Management Team meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

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

- 15.1. This is one-off grant funding and not linked to any specific future plans other than continued delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

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

n/a


**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the PFCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O. Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 1 July 2022

Chief Financial Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 01 July 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)

None

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:

N/A

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: Roger Hirst

**PFCC**

**Date signed: 5 July 2022**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**