

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number:** 087-22

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** Essex synergy contract extension 2023-24

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

**Report by:** Greg Myddelton

**Date of report:** 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Enquiries to:** greg.myddelton@essex.police.uk

### Executive Summary

- 1.1. This decision sheet recommends an extension to the existing contract for provision of sexual violence and abuse support services with the Synergy rape crisis consortium from April 2023 to end-March 2024.

### Recommendations

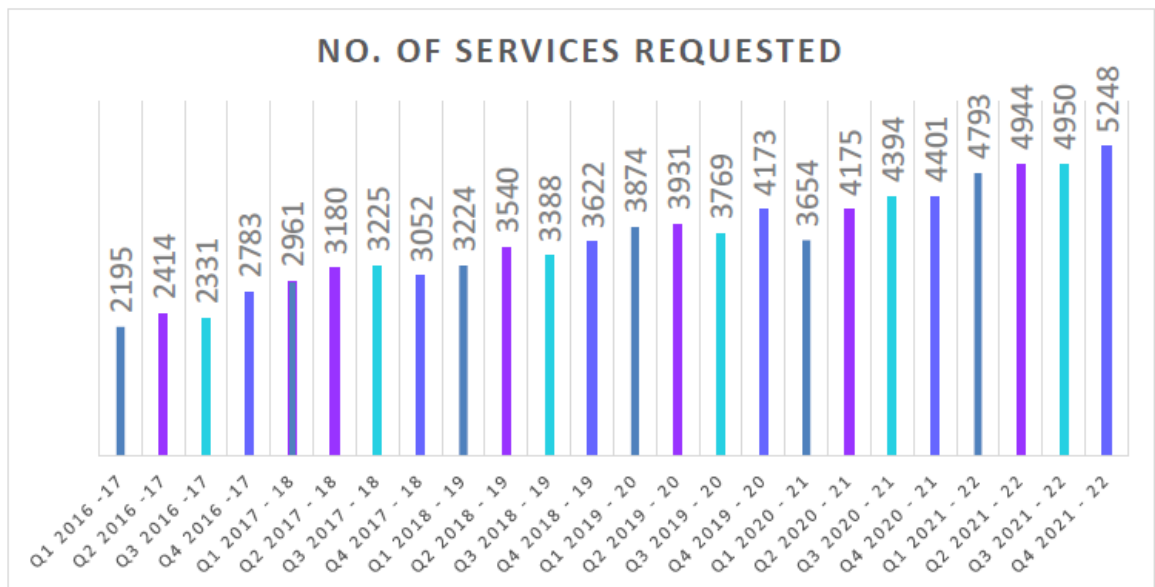
1. Approval to instruct 7F procurement to arrange for the extension of the existing sexual abuse support contract from 2023 to 2024.
2. Approve the allocation of £1.1m for this service to be delivered in 2023-24

### Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. In 2020, following an open and competitive tender exercise, the PFCC commissioned the Synergy rape crisis consortium to deliver sexual abuse support services, including ISVA services, therapeutic support, advocacy and counselling. This is an all-age, all-gender service that operates across the whole of Essex.
- 3.2. The contract term is for 5 years in total, with an initial 3-year period (2020-23) followed by 2 annual extensions of 1 year each. This proposal relates to the first of these possible options to extend (2023-24).

### Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. This service delivers specialist support for all victims and survivors of any form of sexual abuse, whether that occurred recently or in the past, providing direct access to appropriate support in a timely way that recognises and responds to their needs, enabling and empowering them to cope and as far as possible, recover from their experience.
- 4.2. The following improved outcomes for victims are sought by the service;
- Improved mental and physical health, including improved emotional wellbeing
  - Reduced reliance on drugs and alcohol
  - Improved relationships with family, friends and children
  - Improved ability to manage financial difficulties
  - Improved social interactions and social relationships
  - Improved ability to work and study
  - Increased feelings of safety
  - Resumption of or development of opportunities for education, skills and employment
  - Improved outlook for the future
- 4.3. As shown in the graph below, the Synergy partnership has responded to the increasing demand for specialist support services in recent years. Last year (2021-22) saw a quarterly average of 4,984 services requested, compared to 2,431 per quarter in 2017-18.



- 4.4. This decision is recommended following consideration of the agreed enhancements to victim support arrangements provided by Synergy and The Children’s Society for Op Haiti. It will also ensure the continued availability of specialist support services whilst we generate discussion about partner investment in sexual abuse support services via Safeguarding Boards.
- 4.5. In the most recent reporting period (Q4 2021-22) the partnership recorded the following outcomes;

<b>OUTCOMES - Quarter 4</b>		
<b>Wrap around community-based services outcomes.</b> <i>(Cases closed during the reporting period where feedback has been returned)</i>	<b>% Improved</b>	<b>No. of returns</b>
Outcome: More in control of their lives	95.00	374
Outcome: Better health and well-being	95.67	378
Outcome: More able to access further support	89.67	373
Outcome: More able to develop and maintain positive relationships	47.67	378
Outcome: More able to assert their rights	76.67	371
<b>Satisfaction with Service</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No:</b>
Got the information needed.	94.67	378
Got the support needed.	94.67	377
Felt believed and understood.	95.67	378
Felt comfortable with the way in which the support was provided.	95.00	378
The Support was safe, welcoming and private.	75.33	374
The support was sensitive to the needs and situation.	94.33	378

- 4.6. These high rates of satisfaction and positive outcomes have been replicated in previous reporting periods and demonstrate that the current supplier is able to deliver both the capacity and the quality of support required to give victims in Essex the best chance to cope and recover from their experience.
- 4.7. When this contract was most recently tendered (2020) only 1 bid was received. The local or national market has not become significantly more competitive in the last 3 years. This suggests an open and competitive tender process would be unlikely to result in any significant benefit at this time. The PFCC is also undertaking a tender exercise for non-specialist victim support services in 2022-23 and has not yet appointed a commissioning officer meaning there is likely to be capacity and resource implications for the PFCC & 7F Procurement if we were to try to run these two exercises concurrently.
- 4.8. Confirming extension arrangements early will mitigate the risk of any staff leaving the Synergy partnership due to uncertainty about TUPE or the continuation of roles during a tender process. This will ensure retention of skilled staff and reduce the likelihood of any recruitment issues affecting the ability of the supplier to deliver continued support.

### **Options Analysis**

- 5.1. The PFCC has the option to allow the contract to lapse at end-March 2023 and undertake a competitive tender exercise. For the reasons outlined in section 4 it is advantageous to extend this contract for a further year.

## **Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1. D/Supt. Neil Pudney, Head of Investigations, Crime & Public Protection Command & Chair of the Essex Sexual Abuse Strategic Partnership endorses this proposal.

## **Strategic Links**

- 7.1. Our specialist sexual abuse support contract 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.

## **Police operational implications**

- 8.1. Essex Police refer into this service and benefit from improved retention rates of victims and survivors that receive support from our specialist providers.

## **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1 The proposed 1-year extension of this contract will be for £1.1m and will be allocated from the PFCC's 2023-24 victims' fund. This has been factored into the PFCC's victims' budget for 2023-24.

## **10. Legal implications**

- 10.1 This funding is covered by a contract, arranged by 7F procurement. The contract reference is 2019/077

## **11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1 The extension of this contract will release capacity for the PFCC and 7F procurement teams to be able to manage the recommissioning of the (non-specialist) victim referral and support service due to commence in April 2023

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

- 12.1 This support service is available to all victims of sexual abuse in Essex. We collect 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 There is a risk that performance slips between now and the end of the extension period. This will be mitigated by closely monitoring the performance information at quarterly performance reviews.

## **14. Governance Boards**

- 14.1 This proposal was discussed and endorsed at the PFCC's Management Team meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

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

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

## 16. Background Papers and Appendices

### 16.1 Contract award report

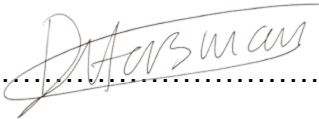


Contract Award  
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**Report Approval**

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.

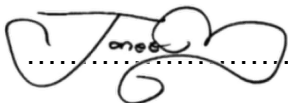
Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: .....  .....

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

Date: 15/08/2022 .....

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: .....  .....

Print: Janet Perry .....

Date: 15 August 2022 .....

**Publication**

Is the report for publication?

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

**Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** 16 August 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**