

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number:** 096-22

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** IDVA & ISVA additional MoJ grant 2022-25

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

**Report by:** Greg Myddelton

**Date of report:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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### Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report outlines a proposal to accept the allocation of additional IDVA & ISVA funding from Ministry of Justice and outlines how the £780,353 funding will be allocated.

### Recommendations

- 2.1. The PFCC agrees to;
- Accept the Ministry of Justice additional IDVA/ISVA grant, valued at £780,353 over three years from 2022-23 to 2024-25. The PFCC will sign the associated grant agreement to accept this allocation
  - The PFCC will allocate 2.5 ISVAs to the Synergy Partnership and 3.5 IDVAs to the EViE consortium

### Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. MoJ grant conditions stipulate that the purpose of this funding is to “increase advocacy support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV) and across England and Wales, including children.”
- 3.2. On 20th May the PFCC was informed that funding had been secured for an additional 6 IDVA/ISVA posts, and was asked to clarify how the funding would best be allocated according to local need and priority.

## **Proposal and Associated Benefits**

- 4.1. The Ministry of Justice announced in 2021 a commitment to recruit and retain 1,000 IDVAs and ISVAs by 2024-5. To achieve this, MoJ is providing new and additional funding for 2022-23 which will be available over the next 3 years to recruit and retain ISVAs and IDVAs locally, as well as further additional funding for other domestic abuse (DA) and sexual violence (SV) support services. This funding is allocated according to a needs assessment that MoJ asked P(F)CCs to conduct and outline in their funding submissions.
- 4.2. Additional IDVA/ISVA resources will enable the PFCC to get closer to the number of IDVAs recommended by SafeLives in their recent annual audit of IDVA services in Essex. That audit estimated that we would need around 31 IDVAs in Essex. Our current total is 27.5 IDVAs.
- 4.3. The Essex submission to MoJ requested 19.3 additional IDVA/ISVA roles, at a cost of around £651k per annum.
- 4.4. The needs assessment that we undertook as part of our application process noted that “The increase in DA referrals during Covid-19 has remained consistently high. Alongside this there is a significant increase in the complexity of cases, meaning these are open longer placing a burden on the practitioner or case manager. This is caused by a combination of: court delays, increase in risk profiles, mental health needs & prevalence of substance misuse factors. Cases take longer - service providers report holding cases for an average 102 days, compared to 61 days pre-lockdown”
- 4.5. It was also noted that there had been a “20% increase in IDVA referrals (2021-22), with overall rise of 20% in all referrals. 90% increase in referrals for CYP services in March 22 compared to March 21, averaging 449 referrals per month.”
- 4.6. Our local Children and Young People (CYP) services waiting list is currently 4 – 6 weeks with over 100 CYP waiting for 1:1 & group programmes. Referrals into our 24/7 front-door helpline (COMPASS) increased by 20.7% in 2021-22 on top of the 83.6% increase experienced in 2020/2021. All this suggests that there is a need for continued investment in our existing services to meet increasing levels of demand. This will be supported by the ongoing SETDAB commissioning discovery project seeking to better align all partnership activity around DA, including perpetrator work, victim support, and prevention activities.
- 4.7. This decision report recommends allocating 2.5 ISVAs to our Synergy rape crisis partnership (the total amount requested) and to allocate the remaining 3.5 FTE to IDVA roles within each of the 3 DA providers (SafeSteps, Changing Pathways and Next Chapter) within the EViE consortium, on the condition that at least 0.5 FTE must be a child/young person IDVA role. This would provide additional capacity to meet demand and could easily be implemented within our existing support model. By investing in existing services we reduce existing waiting lists and eliminate the likelihood for any

confusion around referral or signposting arrangements. It also makes data collection and outcome monitoring easier and more consistent so we can remain apprised of the impact of this investment.

### **Options Analysis**

- 5.1. The PFCC may choose to invest in other services, but those providers are not as well established in Essex which would create a risk that the funding may not be fully utilised or the flow of referrals into the service is not as simple as our current arrangements.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1. In developing the proposal, the PFCC made the opportunity to bid available via newsletters, social media posts, targeted mailings to members of different Boards, for instance Safer Essex and SETDAB, and also posted the opportunity on the PFCC website. In undertaking the prioritisation exercise, the PFCC consulted the Essex Head of DA Partnerships for advice.

### **Strategic Links**

- 7.1. IDVA/ISVA services support 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. Whilst there is no direct operational impact on Essex Police, the police will benefit from increased capacity within the local IDVA/ISVA service.

### **Financial implications**

- 9.1. The PFCC will accept and allocate £780,353 funding from MoJ directly to the successful bidders. Funding commences in 2022-23 and is agreed for 3 years (to 2024-25).

### **Legal implications**

- 10.1. The PFCC will sign the MoJ grant agreement. Funding allocated from the PFCC will be subject to the PFCC's standard terms and conditions

### **Staffing implications**

- 11.1. No direct staffing implications on Essex Police or the PFCC. Our DA/SV providers would recruit and retain 6 IDVA/ISVAs for the 3 years of MoJ funding

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

- 12.1 As part of our needs assessment, we included information on delivery of services to all victims and survivors, including males, children, and those with protected characteristics. We monitor demographics as part of our DA/SV contracts in order to ensure our service offer reaches into all communities and is accessible to all.

### **13. Risks and Mitigations**

- 13.1 No risks associated with this funding.

**14. Governance Boards**

14.1 This work has been referenced and highlighted through the SETDA Board and its Strategic Development sub-group. The opportunity for funding was also highlighted through the Safer Essex partnership.

**15. Links to Future Plans**

15.1 This funding will enhance the PFCC's commissioned support services for victims of DA & SV.

**16. Background Papers and Appendices**

16.1 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: Darren Horsman - Deputy MO .....

Date: 06/07/2022 .....

Chief Finance Officer Sign:  .....

Print: Janet Perry .....

Date: 5 August 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? YES  NO

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

.....  
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:** 15 August 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....  
.....

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**