

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 104-22

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: DA perpetrator model 2022-4

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

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Date of report: 18th July 2022

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report outlines a proposal for the PFCC's approach to funding domestic abuse perpetrator work for 2022-24, including an allocation of funding to The Change Project to continue with the Change Hub project for a further 2 years 2022-24.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The PFCC agrees to;
- a) Approve the decision to grant-fund DA perpetrator work 2022-24, forgoing the opportunity to contract this service.
 - b) Allocate £180,000 p.a. for 2 years from the PFCC's Community Safety Fund to The Change Project

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. The PFCC has funded The Change Hub since 2021. The Change Hub is delivered by The Change Project, a RESPECT-accredited organisation working exclusively to change the behaviour of domestic abuse perpetrators. The service receives referrals from Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Statutory and Voluntary Services and seeks to engage individuals into behaviour change programmes.

- 3.2. This is a key service for the PFCC as it represents the primary activity to address the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic abuse and supports the Police & Crime Plan objective to “jointly invest in behavioural change programmes for perpetrators to break the cycle of domestic abuse”
- 3.3. The PFCC originally planned to move to a contractual arrangement for this service from 2022 (as indicated in decision sheet 002-21). It is now proposed to delay this until 2024 in order to coincide with the conclusion of the ongoing Southend, Essex, Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) commissioning discovery project, and due to the impact of COVID-19 and the loss of the PFCC’s commissioning officer who was leading the project to move this service to a contractual model. The Home Office has also recently announced an extension to their DA perpetrator grant which aligns neatly with this activity and further supports the proposal to continue the grant funding arrangement for this service.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. Over recent years, SETDA partners have worked to develop, embed and refine a whole-family approach to appropriate and sustainable perpetrator behaviour change programmes. This is aligned to a specific outcome within the SETDAB Strategy.
- 4.2. The Change Hub follows-on from Project Columbus and the DRIVE pilot project. The DRIVE project was a three-year pilot that aimed to deliver a new approach to holding perpetrators of domestic abuse to account and helping to keep domestic abuse victims and children safe.
- 4.3. The Drive Project in Essex was piloted in Colchester and Tendring and concluded in March 2019. The Columbus project subsequently ran for a further year until March 2020 extending coverage to the whole of Essex and Southend (excluding Thurrock). At the conclusion of Project Columbus, a further review took place and the model was refined to become The Change Hub.
- 4.4. The Change Hub is open to standard, medium and high-risk referrals, and will support perpetrators in accredited behaviour change programmes to reduce the risk of
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Harassment and stalking
 - All jealous and controlling behaviour
- 4.5. The Change Hub also works directly with Victims. Victims are involved with the process (where appropriate and safe to do so) and The Change Hub provide additional support for them to cope and move on from the abuse they have experiences. This supports the victim and their families to feel safer.
- 4.6. The Southend, Essex & Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board partnership (SETDAB) has initiated a commissioning discovery project which aims to review all current domestic abuse provision (prevention, victim services,

perpetrator interventions, public awareness) and consider the opportunities for greater integration or improvement. The intention of extending our current DA perpetrator services is to align the contract with the victim services contracts (which expire in March 2024) and allow the commissioning discovery work to be completed.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1 The PFCC originally sought to move to a contractual arrangement for DA perpetrator services from April 2022. This plan has been impacted by COVID-19, resource challenges, and the decision to undertake a broader commissioning discovery exercise in 2022-23.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. This proposal was discussed and agreed at the SETDA Board on 30th November 2021.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. This work delivers against the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan objective to break the cycle of domestic abuse as well as the 2020-25 SETDAB strategy outcome; *Supporting and disrupting perpetrators to change their behaviour and break the cycle of domestic abuse.*

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. No operational implications

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The PFCC will allocate £180,000 per annum over 2 years (2022-23 to 2023-24). The PFCC receives £100k p.a. match-funding from Essex County Council for the delivery of this activity. The PFCC will allocate the remaining £80k p.a. from the 2022-23 & 2023-24 Community Safety Fund. This expenditure has been planned into the CSF budget.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1. The grant will be governed by the PFCC's standard grant agreement.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1. The monitoring of this grant will require PFCC resource. It is expected that this will be delivered by the Commissioning Officer (once in post) and in the meantime will be managed by the Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery and the Strategic Head of Performance and Resources.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

- 12.1 As part of our Key Performance Indicators for this service we collect demographic data to understand who is being engaged by this service. We use this information to understand the reach of the service and to ensure it is proportionate to the communities of Essex. Previous reports have indicated a predominance of white males aged 18-44 in the service suggesting more could be done to make the delivery reflective of our wider communities. Over the course of the next 2 years, we will work with SETDAB and the service

provider to strive to broaden the reach of this service and improve access for other cohorts.

13. Risks and Mitigations

- 13.1 There is a risk that this funding is not fully allocated, or not used as defined in the grant agreement. This will be mitigated by close monitoring by the Commissioning function within the PFCC's office and by quarterly performance reviews

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1 This service forms part of the PFCC's internal commissioning report. This was most recently presented and discussed at the PFCC's Management Team meeting on 11th July 2022. The decision to proceed with this model was discussed and agreed at the SETDA Board on 30th November 2021.

15. Links to Future Plans

- 15.1 This proposal will support the PFCC to deliver against the Police & Crime Plan and the SETDAB strategy 2020-25.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

- 16.1 n/a

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:

Roger Hirst

PFCC/~~Deputy PFCC~~

Date signed: 25 November 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: