

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 105-22

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** Alpha Vesta domestic abuse awareness training 2022-24

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

**Report by:** Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)

**Date of report:** 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

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

### Executive Summary

This report proposes the allocation of a total of £60,000 funding (£30,000 in 2022-23 and £30,000 in 2023-24 from the PFCC's Victims' Funds to Alpha Vesta to deliver domestic abuse (DA) awareness raising courses to businesses across Essex for the purpose of identifying victims, providing them with help and support, and signposting them to specialist agencies where appropriate.

### Recommendations

That the PFCC allocates an annual grant of £30,000 for two consecutive years, from the Victims Fund in 2022-23 and in 2023-24, to Alpha Vesta to continue their programme of awareness raising about domestic abuse to businesses and organisations across Essex.

### Background to the Proposal

Alpha Vesta has been delivering a programme of domestic abuse awareness raising courses to organisations and businesses across Essex for a number of years. Its model is specifically aimed at businesses and statutory organisations to help them identify victims and survivors earlier and ensure they have access to advice and support within their workplace. The offer from Alpha Vesta ranges from basic

awareness packages and policy development right through to full staff training, workplace mentor training and ongoing support.

In the last year, Alpha Vesta has run 70 public training sessions, funded by The National Lottery. With PFCC funding, Alpha Vesta has run 12 public domestic abuse policy workshops and delivered 27 awareness raising and training sessions to private employers.

In addition, Alpha Vesta has written and reviewed domestic abuse workplace policies and provided training and awareness sessions for over 15 Essex employers.

In collaboration with the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB), the PFCC has jointly commissioned a commissioning discovery project to explore options for holistic commissioning of support for victims of domestic abuse. This work will be undertaken in 2022-23 to inform future commissioning from April 2024. By providing this funding to Alpha Vesta for 18 months (2022-24) we bridge the gap between now and the conclusion of the discovery project.

### **Proposal and Associated Benefits**

Alpha Vesta offers a targeted approach to employers across the county to raise awareness of abuse as well as delivering direct work with employers. The offer can include capacity to tailor-make awareness raising and training sessions for individual employers. This grant funding will enable Alpha Vesta to continue its direct engagement with employers in terms of training, awareness raising packages, and engagement with the Community Advocate Scheme. It will also fund the continuation of the public domestic abuse policy workshops across Essex. These are ideal for smaller employers who cannot necessarily hold a training session just for them, allowing smaller employers to train together.

Alpha Vesta aims to deliver 12 public DA policy workshops each year; recruit 50 employers into the Community Advocate Scheme; deliver direct work with 30 new employers, and continue to support the Essex statutory sector (local councils and other such organisations) around their own DA workforce culture and resources.

Alpha Vesta can also provide consultancy around the development of appropriate policy and procedures to individual employers to ensure they are well-placed to identify victims and provide them with support / signposting as appropriate.

This funding would be used to retain a full-time member of staff along with training, equipment, resources and other associated costs, and would enable Alpha Vesta to continue to deliver its training programme which would improve awareness of domestic abuse, upskill employers to recognise abuse, and empower victims to seek out advice and support.

### **Options Analysis**

The PFCC has the option not to support this project, but this is not recommended as Alpha Vesta is a well-regarded organisation that has successfully delivered its awareness raising offer to a range of organisations and businesses across Essex

and improves the likelihood that victims will be identified early and directed to appropriate support.

This work aligns neatly with the rest of our DA offer, with Alpha Vesta able to refer and signpost to specialist support services where appropriate. We are also trialling a new approach to engaging businesses in domestic abuse awareness with the Essex Chambers of Commerce, which will also link in with the Alpha Vesta offer.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

This proposal is endorsed by the Deputy PFCC and Chair of the SETDAB, Jane Gardner. The proposal was also discussed with and endorsed by the SETDAB Partnership Manager, Alison Gilmour.

### **Strategic Links**

This work delivers against the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan objectives to invest in crime prevention and to protect vulnerable people and break the cycle of abuse.

### **Police operational implications**

There are no operational policing implications of this decision report.

### **Financial implications**

The PFCC will allocate a grant of £30,000 from the 2022-23 Victims' Fund and a further £30,000 from the 2023-24 Victims' Fund to Alpha Vesta.

### **Legal implications**

This grant will be governed by the PFCC's standard grant agreement.

### **Staffing implications**

The monitoring of this grant will require PFCC resource. It is expected that this will be delivered by the Commissioning Officer.

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

Alpha Vesta delivers awareness raising to businesses and organisations of varying sizes and in many different industries. The offer can be tailored to suit the needs of the organisation, but essentially the content of the training remains the same and focuses on empowering victims to reach out for help and support. The offer is available to any organisation and recognises that anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse.

Alpha Vesta continues to engage with and support the work of the Essex Chambers of Commerce in this area to enable the CoC to signpost employers to Alpha Vesta training and consultancy services, the focus of which is SMEs.

Alpha Vesta will continue to engage and meet regularly with Essex Police's Business Crime Team which refers employers directly to Alpha Vesta training, as well as working on joint initiatives.

These approaches help to ensure a varied cohort and menu of options for small employers right through to large employers using a broad Essex approach as well as a targeted approach through networks in specific areas such as Brentwood, Chelmsford and Southend.

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

No identified risks have been identified associated with this funding.

### **14. Governance Boards**

This proposal is supported by the SETDAB.

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

This proposal will support the PFCC to deliver against the Police and Crime Plan as well as supporting the priorities of the SETDAB.

### **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: 2 September 2022

Chief Finance Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 05 October 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: .....

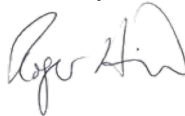
Print: .....

**Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer**

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign:



Print:

Roger Hirst

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** 06 October 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**