

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number:** 160-22

**Classification** (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted):

**Title of report:** Community Safety Development Fund 2022-3 launch

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

**Report by:** Danielle Lawrence

**Chief Officer:** Greg Myddelton

**Date of report:** 16/11/2022

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### Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to launch the PFCC's 2022-23 Community Safety Development Fund. The CSDF is an annual small grants fund which supports community-led projects that are strongly aligned with the priorities set out in the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan. Historically the CSDF has proved to be a great asset for supporting community action, engagement, and funding impactful activities by community and third sector organisations.

### Recommendations

1. That the Community Safety Development Fund is launched to accept bids in 2022-3. The PFCC will make up to £333k available for this purpose.
2. That as part of this process, the PFCC allows the re-assessment of some existing grant awards in light of the cost-of-living crisis so as to ensure previously funded groups are able to meet operational and beneficiary needs.

## **Background to the Proposal**

- 3.1. The Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) is a PFCC small grants programme which has operated successfully since 2015. The CSDF grant programme has previously been delivered over 3 cohorts per financial year (£100k per round), with individual bids generally capped at a maximum value of £20k.
- 3.2. During 2019-20 and the COVID-19 pandemic we worked with Essex Community Foundation (ECF) to repurpose the fund to provide support for communities and groups responding to the unique demands of COVID-19.
- 3.3. To support the launch of the new Police & Crime Plan in 2021, the PFCC announced that the 2021-22 CSDF would be repurposed as a Crime Prevention Fund (see decision report 156-21). The PFCC allocated 16 grants via that fund, valued at £213,575.

## **Proposal and Associated Benefits**

- 4.1. The 2022-23 CSDF fund will re-open and launch as soon as possible. The following options will be considered in order to maximise its impact:
  1. Opening the funding for one round only, inviting bids for a period of 3 months (rather than the usual two).
  2. Consider larger value or applications which cover a longer period (ie multi-year). Learning across all areas tells us that longer-term interventions show greater impact for individual beneficiaries and for organisations to find their best methodology. We might invite a partnership application that supports multiple organisations to come together and benefit from a wider joined-up approach.
  3. Consider offering opportunities to existing grant holders to review a need for increased funding and length as a result of cost-of-living impact.
  4. Consider expanding the scope of applications, for instance making it clear that we would consider core funding support rather than time-limited projects.
  5. Challenge ourselves around our perception of crime reduction activities- ie what/where is early intervention, sector capacity support not just delivery.

## **Options Analysis**

- 5.1. The PFCC could choose instead to invest this funding directly in CSPs, or could allocate to other statutory partners, such as emergency services, or could outsource the role of allocating this funding, for instance to CVSs or the Essex Community Foundation. This proposal recommends using a bidding process, open to all groups, which acknowledges the direct and indirect benefits witnessed from previous rounds of CSDF funding, for instance supporting direct delivery work in local communities, gaining an understanding of what assets already exist in our communities, hearing from groups about where challenges exist, and linking community groups with their CSPs. The CSDF also provides the PFCC with opportunities to visit successful bidders

and provides informative and positive content for press releases and internal and external reports.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1. This proposal has been discussed at the PFCC's Management Team meeting, including on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. The PFCC's Senior Management Team supported the proposal when it was presented on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov '22.

### **Strategic Links**

- 7.1. CSDF applications and awards are subject to an evaluation panel of key partners including VCS reps, CSP reps, local authority and Police colleagues. Successful bids are selected based on the strength of their alignment with the PFCCs Police & Crime Plan.

### **Police operational implications**

- 8.1. No direct implications for Essex Police.

### **Financial implications**

- 9.1. The PFCC will make available for allocation the remainder of the 2022-23 CSDF fund; £333,707 which includes the £300k allocated in 2022-23 and a small carry over from 2021-22. A further decision sheet will be submitted once the panel's recommendations are known.

### **Legal implications**

- 10.1. No direct legal implications

### **Staffing implications**

- 11.1. There are no direct staffing implications. The PFCC now has a Commissioning Officer in post to support the launch of this fund and management of the application, evaluation and monitoring processes. The PFCC will want to use some comms/media resource to promote the availability of this funding

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

- 12.1. The PFCC will use its comms and media capabilities as well as sharing this opportunity through community safety networks to promote access to this funding. The criteria of the fund is deliberately open to encourage bids from many different groups. A further decision sheet on how the funding will be allocated will include an EQIA.

### **Risks and Mitigations**

- 13.1. There is a risk that groups do not apply to the fund. We will mitigate this by promoting the fund via our comms team, community safety networks and other partnerships. We are also proposing to leave the fund open for a longer period which should give ample time for the fund to be known and for good quality bids to be developed.
- 13.2. There is a risk of financial mismanagement of these grants. This will be mitigated by undertaking due diligence checks on each of the successful bidders which include reputation, finance and governance checks.

### **Governance Boards**

14.1. This proposal was discussed at the PFCC's Management Team meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, and Senior Management Team on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Links to Future Plans**

15.1. This funding will support the PFCC to deliver against the Police and Crime plan

### **Background Papers and Appendices**

16.1. CSDF 2022-23 criteria



20221111 CSDF  
Criteria 2022-3 v0.1.c

**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 Monitoring Officer .....

Date: 23/11/2022 .....

Chief Finance Officer Sign:  .....

Print: Janet Perry .....

Date: 12 December 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:

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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: .....

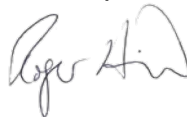
Print: .....

**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:** 16 December 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....  
.....

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**