

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 026-23

Classification Not protectively marked

Title of report:

Phase 7 of the Essex 'Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget' 2022/23

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Samantha Grant (Violence and Vulnerability Unit Project Manager)

Chief Officer: Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)

Date of report: 7th February 2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the allocation of £293,709 from the Essex 'Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget' to the organisations detailed in section 4.1 below for delivery against the objectives set out in the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Business Case (approved in June 2022).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the allocation of £293,709 to support partner organisations to deliver against the priorities within the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme 2022/23.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. This funding supports delivery against the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme, supported by the Violence and Vulnerability partnership. The funding will enable local partners across Essex to have a positive impact

on issues relating to violence and vulnerability, including gangs, 'county lines' and child criminal exploitation.

- 3.2. This funding comes from the joint Violence and Vulnerability budget; a pooled partnership budget funded by the Home Office, PFCC and Essex County Council which will deliver on the aims and ambitions of the Violence and Vulnerability partnership business case.
- 3.3. The Violence and Vulnerability partnership invited applications from not-for-profit local organisations that work with children, young people, young adults and families and who have a proven track record of having a positive impact on issues relating to serious violence and exploitation and that respond to one or more of the issues identified through the Violence and Vulnerability listening projects undertaken in 2021, led by the Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS).
- 3.4. The issues identified as priorities through the V&V listening projects are summarised below:
 - Targeted youth work aimed at those young people most at risk of exploitation
 - Increased mental health support for young people at risk of serious violence
 - Indoor / outdoor safe spaces with affordable and inclusive activities for young people to socialise
 - Work with young people and their families to raise awareness of youth violence
- 3.5. 67 applications were received totalling £992,311. Applications were reviewed by panels of stakeholders, as set out below:
 - Violence and Vulnerability Partnership 'Voice of Communities' group, with a range of voluntary sector organisations.
 - Panels of 'young commissioners' drawn from members of the Young Essex Assembly.
 - Multi-agency panel, including representatives from the Violence and Vulnerability Unit, PFCC, ECVYS, Southend, Essex and Thurrock Councils, Essex Community Foundation and Active Essex.
 - Panel of members of the Violence and Vulnerability Operations Board.

The panels reviewed the applications and assessed the activity, including ensuring that proposals did not duplicate or compete with existing activity. The evaluation panels have recommended 20 organisations for funding totalling £293,709.

- 3.6 47 applications were unsuccessful. The 47 organisations which were unsuccessful, and a rationale for the assessment of their applications as unsuitable, are listed in table 2 (on pages 8-10).

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. This funding supports organisations to deliver on areas of work outlined in the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Framework (2018) and agreed by the Violence and Vulnerability leadership group, the Violence and Vulnerability Round Table, to reduce serious violence and safeguard those being exploited and at risk of exploitation through gangs and ‘county lines’.

The PFCC is recommended to provide the following funding allocations:

Organisation and geographic area	Project description	Value
CARA (Countywide)	To increase the counselling and play therapy provided for children and young people (aged 3-19) who have been victims of sexual violence. Supports a specialist practitioner working on a one-to-one basis with children and young people.	£20,000
The Wilderness Foundation (Countywide)	To deliver therapeutic workshops through outdoor adventures, nature therapy and intensive mentoring as part of a nine-month TurnAround project, supporting vulnerable young people aged 15 to 21 years.	£10,000
My Own Time and Space (MyOTAS) (Basildon)	To deliver Woodland Warriors sessions at Memorial Park, Wickford, supporting children and young people aged 5 to 16 years old. Includes regular themed sessions on self-defence, ‘keeping yourself safe’ when out alone, online safety, and encouraging children to self-advocate and learn how to spot grooming behaviours and act accordingly.	£9,200
Lads need Dads (Basildon)	To deliver training for frontline staff from 10 primary schools in Basildon in awareness regarding the impact of absent fathers on boys.	£20,000
Kool Carers South East (Basildon)	To deliver youth safety sessions for young people attending young carers groups, as well as sessions for parents.	£6,270
Doddinghust Road Community Church (Brentwood)	To fund a detached youth worker, working as part of the church and in the community, to build relationships with ‘hard to reach’ and disadvantaged young people, developing programmes and provision that promote inclusion. To include schools-based outreach work, working alongside other youth workers and charities in the community to provide enhanced and complementary education experiences for young people, and providing information and advice to young people to aid them in making informed choices enabling a positive transition through adolescence into adulthood.	£20,000
Canvey Island Youth Project - Yellow Door	To deliver a drugs education programme delivered in identified schools, colleges and youth groups and during outreach and detached sessions.	£8,000

(Castle Point)		
The OutHouse (formerly Outhouse East) (Colchester)	To deliver support to children and young people through 1:1 counselling and therapeutic work. Young people and those supporting them (including parents, carers and schools) can receive an almost immediate 'listening ear' enabling them to access support, guidance, and signposting.	£13,200
Spark (a branch of Worth Unlimited) (Epping Forest)	To deliver a mentoring programme, a consistent adult presence in their lives, to build resilience in young people, and to build connections across communities.	£5,111
Rainbow Services (Harlow)	To support a woodworking workshop in Harlow for young people offering positive activities, access to gateway qualifications, role models and sustainable pathways for young people displaying high risk behaviours in a learning, practical, positive and community-based environment - preventing young people from disengaging from education and society, joining gangs and committing violent acts.	£20,000
Maldon CVS	To deliver fortnightly sessions at the youth centre and support the project to explore how it can increase reach. In addition, to take the equipment out to other locations across the district, including the towns of Southminster and Burnham on Crouch.	£19,873
Bar N Bus (Basildon, Castle Point & Rochford)	To deliver more mentoring programmes to support young people who are at risk of complete exclusion. This will run throughout Basildon, Castle Point and Rochford through eight local secondary schools. Sessions are delivered by both youth work staff and trained and supervised local volunteers. The programme seeks to increase young people's sense of value through providing someone to listen to them on their terms and about the issues that are important to them.	£19,722
Southend United Community and Educational Trust	Funding for a new youth club provision at the Unitarian Centre in Southend, so that vulnerable and at-risk children and young people have somewhere safe, warm, welcoming and inclusive they can access – a safe place to take part in a range of positive activities.	£20,000
Southend YMCA	To deliver two youth group sessions per week, monthly educational events and quarterly youth independent advisory group meetings which will aim to provide young people aged nine to 16 years with a safe, welcoming social space.	£18,830
Uturn4support (Tendring)	Three detached youth workers, working as part of the at-risk programme, to meet and engage with young people (aged between 10 – 18 years) across Tendring, in places where they spend most of their time or which have been identified as hot-spots for anti-social behaviour and / or potential exploitation and criminality.	£18,420

Riverview Charitable Trust (Thurrock)	To deliver a sport and crime diversionary project delivering after-school weekly sport and mentoring support to 30 young people aged 8 to 18 years.	£11,051
Thurrock Open Door	To support and develop a further social isolation project for care leavers. This group is aimed at 16 to 21 year olds living in Thurrock. The project provides life skills as well as developing involvement in community-based projects and volunteering, and regular group meetings which involve a structured programme of support. This includes independent living skills; social activities; guidance and support about keeping safe; healthy and unhealthy relationships; looking after their mental health, and community volunteering.	£20,000
The Place to Be Me (Ongar, Dunmow and Stansted)	To deliver sessions, each being 3-4 hours per week, in the youth centres across the three locations which address identified issues, including county lines, grooming and knife crime. The sessions are delivered in workshops facilitated by relatable persons with lived experience, as well as those who work in the criminal justice system, including police officers and prison staff.	£17,802
Sanctus (Chelmsford)	To support the day centre located in the centre of Chelmsford, with support sessions with 18 to 25 year olds, working with vulnerable individuals in relation to drugs, gangs and violence as well mental health and accommodation support.	£10,950
Refugee Action Colchester	To fund a case worker, one day a week, to support young adults aged 16 to 25. Working with a range of agencies, including social care (leaving and after care team) to ensure any foster placements are suitably matched and offer ongoing support to those age 16 and under. In addition, to provide a safe place to meet and socialise, and seek guidance and support, and to connect the young adults to other provision within Refugee Action, for example the garden project, where individuals and families attend sessions to grow fruit and vegetables, cook what is produced, and develop communication skills and knowledge through preparing dishes traditional to their own culture.	£5,280
	Total	£293,709

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC could opt not to allocate this funding, but that would reduce the likelihood of the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership delivering on its work programme and of the PFCC delivering on the Police and Crime Plan.
- 5.2. The PFCC could also allocate the funds in a different way, though this would not align with the agreed programme as set out by the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership and informed by the analysis and expertise of the Partnership.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. This proposal has been informed by a range of partner organisations and the listening projects undertaken by the Violence and Vulnerability partnership in 2021. The multi-agency panels which have reviewed the applications are noted under section 3.5. These included voluntary sector partners.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. This funding will enable partner organisations and not for profit local community organisations to support the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan, including by protecting children and vulnerable people from harm and tackling gangs and serious violence.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. Essex Police is well engaged with this programme at a strategic and operational level.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The PFCC will allocate one-off grants to the value of £293,709 from the 2022/23 Essex 'Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget' to the range of organisations outlined in section 4.1 above.
- 9.2. This joint budget is made up of funding the PFCC receives from the Home Office of £2,040,000 Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funding, a contribution from Essex County Council of £500,000, with the balance of £200,000 coming from the PFCC's Community Safety Fund.
- 9.3. This is the seventh tranche of funding from this combined 'Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget' in 2022/23 to transfer funding to local delivery partners.
- 9.4. The previous tranches of funding from the 'Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget' were approved through decision reports as noted in the table below:

2022/23 funding	2,740,000
DR 030/22 (phase 1 of V&V funding)	245,000
DR 103/22 (phase 2 of V&V funding)	435,780
DR 157/22 (phase 3 of V&V funding)	578,707
DR 177/22 (phase 4 of V&V funding)	24,900
DR 017/23 (phase 5 of V&V funding)	352,995
DR 025/23 (phase 6 of V&V funding)	322,548
DR 026/23 (phase 7 of V&V funding)	293,709
Total allocated once DR 026/23 approved	2,253,639
2022/23 funding remaining	486,361

10. Legal implications

10.1 This funding will be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

11. Staffing implications

11.1. Employment of staff or sessional workers will be the responsibility of the relevant delivery organisation. No liability for the continuation of roles will be placed on the PFCC or other funders because of this grant funding.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

12.1. We recognise that the activities outlined in section 4.1 support and are accessible to all protected characteristics but are most likely to be targeted to young people who are profiled as being most likely to be impacted by issues relating to county lines and gangs.

12.2. Monitoring arrangements for these funds include the requirement to report on the number of vulnerable children and young adults supported as well as steps taken to ensure offers of support are as accessible as possible.

12.3. Most of the organisations listed in the table in 4.1 are subject to the public sector equality duty and will be required to consider the impact of the delivery of their activities on those with protected characteristics

13. Risks and Mitigations

13.1. All services identified in section 4.1 have demonstrated the need and the requirement for this funding. As this is short-term funding, there is a risk that it is not utilised this year, meaning funding would have to be returned to contributors and opportunities to make progress against the Police and Crime Plan and Violence and Vulnerability work programme may be missed. This is mitigated by formal funding agreements, and by ensuring organisations are aware of the restrictions on funding and can deliver against these.

14. Governance Boards

14.1. This funding covers a range of agencies and is discussed at various partnership boards, including the Violence and Vulnerability (V&V) Round Table and V&V Operations Board as well as internal PFCC meetings. The overall approach to the Essex 2022/23 Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme has been signed off by the Round Table, as part of the V&V business case agreed at its meeting on 13th June 2022.

14.2. All applications have been considered, assessed, and recommended for funding via the evaluation panels held in November and December 2022. The final list of organisations and projects recommended for funding formed part of the 30th January 2023 V&V Operations Board agenda.

- 14.3. The work supported by the grants awarded to these small organisations will be reported to the Violence and Vulnerability partnership, and delivery will be overseen by the workstream, 'voice of communities'.
- 14.4. The V&V Operations Board has responsibility for ensuring oversight of the overall Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme and appropriate reporting of progress to the Violence and Vulnerability Round Table.

15. Links to Future Plans

- 15.1 This work supports delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the multi-year Violence and Vulnerability business case.


16. Background Papers and Appendices

- 16.1. None

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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: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 24 February 2023

Chief Financial Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 09 March 2023

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 N/A

If ‘YES’, please provide details of required redaction:

Please redact all of table 2 on pages 9-11. This contains information about projects that were unsuccessful and reasons why.

Date redaction carried out: 15th March 2023.....

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: Janet.Perry.....

~~Chief Executive~~ / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 14th March 2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: