

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 170-22

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

Title of report: Minerva Fund 2022-3

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Essex

Report by: Greg Myddelton

Date of report: 24/11/2022

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Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to launch a new £140k Fund in support of the creation of the Minerva project. The Minerva Fund will support the roll-out of local hot-spot maps to each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Essex, highlighting areas of vulnerability, particularly for violence against women and girls. The funding will be used by CSPs to deploy initiatives in these identified areas.

Recommendations

1. The PFCC will allocate up to £140,000 from the 2022-3 Community Safety Fund to create a fund for local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to bid to in support of the Minerva project.

Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. Minerva is a project that was commissioned by Essex Police using Home Office Science, Technology and Research (STAR) funding and developed by Nottingham Trent University to use open-source data, combined with Police and local authority data, to map vulnerable/hot spot locations, particularly for crimes or incidents relating to violence against women and girls (VAWG). These maps are being shared with CSPs to consider what may be driving

vulnerability, and to allow local activity aimed at improving public confidence and safety in these areas.

- 3.2. Bids will be capped at £10k per district to ensure funding is available to most areas across the county. CSPs will be invited to consider joining together to achieve greater value for money via economies of scale.
- 3.3. Bids will be evaluated by the Minerva Oversight Group, made up of partners from Essex Police, local authorities, SETDAB, VCS, ECFRS, and PFCC.

Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. The Minerva fund is a new fund which the PFCC will use to support hyper-local activity aimed at reducing the vulnerability in identified “Minerva zones”.
- 4.2. This fund will be available to CSPs to bid to and could be used for physical security features such as environmental improvements or enhancements of existing activity, particularly adhering to “designing out crime” principles. Alternatively, funding might be used to engage local people to understand more about the perception of a local area with a view to making them less susceptible to these sorts of incidents. It is envisioned that this funding will seed-fund local initiatives aimed at improving the safety of local public spaces across Essex. The Fund criteria is included in sec. 16 of this report.
- 4.3. This funding will allow CSP areas to understand better what is driving vulnerability in their locality with a view to taking action to reduce it. It also has the potential to create a community of practice amongst CSP partners to learn from one another about what is most effective in responding to VAWG issues.

Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC could choose not to invest this funding, but that is likely to reduce or eliminate the ability of CSPs to take any meaningful action in these Minerva zones. The PFCC could decide to invest the funding directly into interventions, but it is felt that by working with CSPs we will access better local knowledge and be able to learn from and collaborate with partners to drive activity that is locally relevant and enhances existing investments.

Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. This proposal was discussed at the Minerva Oversight Group meeting on 1st November 2022. The PFCC’s Senior Management Team supported the proposal when it was presented on 11th Nov 2022.

Strategic Links

- 7.1. This Fund will support delivery against the priorities in the PFCCs Police & Crime Plan, and could also positively impact on the partnership Southend, Essex, & Thurrock DA Board and Sexual Abuse Strategic Partnership strategies.

Police operational implications

8.1. Essex Police is an active partner in CSPs, and is also represented on the Minerva Oversight Group which will be the body responsible for evaluating applications.

Financial implications

9.1. The PFCC will allocate up to £140,000 from the 2022-23 Community Safety Fund to be allocated to CSPs from the Minerva Fund 2022-23.

Legal implications

10.1. Funding will be subject to the PFCC's standard grant agreement

Staffing implications

11.1. There are no direct staffing implications. The PFCC's Commissioning Officer will support the launch of this fund and management of the application, evaluation and monitoring processes. The PFCC's Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery sits on the Minerva Oversight Group.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

12.1. This funding is specifically and deliberately targeting areas where women and girls are likely to feel more susceptible to harassment, violence or abuse. The evaluation of the projects will be undertaken with consideration of the likelihood of impact on the identified issue and cohort.

Risks and Mitigations

13.1. There is a risk that activity does not impact on the issue. Given the nature of this fund there is a relatively high risk appetite to try new, innovative and creative approaches to these issues which are less predictable and might not work as anticipated. Even where initiatives do not deliver intended results, it will inform our understanding of what works.

Governance Boards

14.1. This proposal was discussed at the Minerva Oversight Group on 1st November 2022 and PFCC's Senior Management Team on 11th November. The Essex Emergency Service Collaboration Governance Board and Safer Essex have also been kept apprised of developments in relation to the Minerva project.

Links to Future Plans

15.1. This funding will support the PFCC to deliver against the Police and Crime plan as well as partnership DA & sexual abuse strategies.

Background Papers and Appendices

16.1. Minerva Fund criteria & application form



20221124 Minerva
2022-23 Fund criteri

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: 2/12/2022

Chief Finance Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 19 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: 21st December 2022

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: