

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 041-23

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** Notification of Co-Commissioned Contract Variation- Essex Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Contract

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:**  
Pan-Essex domestic abuse victims and survivors

**Report by:** Danielle Lawrence (Commissioning Officer)

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

**Date of report:** 02/03/2023

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks the PFCC's endorsement of variations to the domestic abuse (DA) contracts that the PFCC jointly commissions with Essex County Council (ECC). ECC is increasing its contribution in the contracts by £37,607 per annum to Changing Pathways and by £37,000 per annum to The Next Chapter, to account for new duties imposed by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC signs and seals the Deeds of Variation attached for Changing Pathways and The Next Chapter, thereby increasing funding to support victims of domestic abuse.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. In November 2018, through decision report 179-18, the PFCC agreed the allocation of £493,000 per annum for 5 years (£2,465,000 total) from the

PFCC (MOJ Victim's Grant) towards a contract for a single point of access, triage services and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) service delivered by the EViE (Ending Violence in Essex) consortium (comprised of Changing Pathways, Safe Steps and The Next Chapter). Delivery of this co-commissioned DA support service is across Essex, Southend and Thurrock. This award was the result of an OJEU procurement exercise. The contract started on 01/04/2019 for five years with the options to extend for a further two years (1+1). The contract is managed by ECC with joint contract management meetings with the PFCC.

- 3.2. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 imposed new duties on local councils to provide support for children (as well as adults) as victims of DA. The duty towards children was not in place when the original contract was set up, therefore parties have agreed to vary the terms of the contract from 01/04/2022- 31/03/2026 (if the contract is extended) to increase support to those under 16. Essex County Council's funding contribution will increase in line with these new requirements. There is no change to the PFCC's contribution.

#### **4. Proposal and Associated Benefits**

- 4.1. The variations will increase the funding available to EViE to support children who are now newly recognised as victims of domestic abuse. This additional funding will enhance the partnership's support service to victims.

#### **5. Options Analysis**

- 5.1. The PFCC is advised to endorse these contract variations, which respond to changes in the statutory definition of DA. Failing to endorse these variations will prevent our co-commissioner from fulfilling their statutory duty and will miss the opportunity to enhance support for victims of DA in Essex.

#### **6. Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1. This proposal has been discussed between ECC's and the PFCC's commissioning leads.

#### **7. Strategic Links**

- 7.1. This funding is strongly aligned with the violence against women and girls (VAWG) agenda and Police and Crime Plan priorities relating to breaking the cycle of abuse and improving support for victims of crime.

#### **8. Police operational implications**

- 8.1. There are no police operational implications.

## **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1. There are no financial implications to the PFCC. ECC is increasing its contributions to the joint contract by £37,607 per annum to Changing Pathways and by £37,000 per annum to The Next Chapter, as a result of new duties imposed following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

## **10. Legal implications**

- 10.1. The parties have agreed to vary the terms of the contract to reflect new duties imposed on Essex County Council following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

## **11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1. There are no staffing implications on the PFCC.

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

- 12.1. The proposed variations view DA through a renewed EDI lens and recognise the needs of children who have experienced or witnessed DA.

## **13. Risks and Mitigations**

- 13.1. There are no new risks or mitigations regarding this contract or service delivery.

## **14. Governance Boards**

- 14.1. This proposal has been discussed between ECC's and the PFCC's commissioning leads.

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

- 15.1. Future Essex DA commissioning partnerships and strategies are in development, informed by a commissioning discovery project part-funded by the PFCC. This contract / service will be a key feature in future decisions.

## **16. Background Papers and Appendices**

Background paper - DR 179-18



179-18 Essex  
Integrated domestic a

Appendix 1 – Deed of Variation to the Domestic Abuse Commissioning Contract Lot  
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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: 17 March 2023

Chief Financial Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 13 April 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

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**

**Date signed: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**