

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 052-23

Classification: Not proactively marked

Title of report:

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) premises lease costs 2023-24

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

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

Date of report: 21/03/2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the allocation of a funding contribution towards the costs of Oakwood Place (the location of the Essex SARC), payable to NHS Property Services. It is proposed that the PFCC contributes 50% towards these costs, which are outside the standard SARC service contract costs (see decision 050-23).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the allocation of £24,600 from the 2023-24 Victims' Fund as a contribution to the lease costs of the Essex SARC.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. Oakwood Place is a dedicated Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Brentwood, Essex. The annual cost of leasing the Oakwood Place SARC building from NHS Property Services is £49,200. The costs are split 50:50 between the PFCC and NHS England.
- 3.2. Previously these costs were paid by NHS England and 50% recharged to the PFCC, but to align the Essex process with others in the region, the costs will

now be incurred by the PFCC and an invoice issued to NHS England for recharge of 50%.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. The Essex SARC provides vital around-the-clock support to victims and survivors of sexual assault and sexual violence, including forensic evidence gathering, healthcare advice / support, and onward referral to other health and social care services including Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs).
- 4.2. The building is part of the Brentwood Community Hospital estate and is a stand-alone facility dedicated to supporting victims / survivors of rape and other serious sexual abuse. This decision report seeks approval of the costs of leasing the building from NHS Property Services.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The SARC is a dedicated building separate from the rest of the estate, which provides confidentiality and assurance for victims / survivors visiting. It provides the necessary health and justice services without feeling too clinical or oppressive. The PFCC could look to relocate the SARC, but this is unlikely to be any more affordable and risks significant disruption to existing services.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. No consultation has been undertaken as this is an annual rental charge and must be incurred in order to allow vital PFCC-commissioned support services to be delivered from the SARC.

7. Strategic Links

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

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. Essex Police uses the SARC to gather evidence in cases of rape and other serious sexual offences. There are Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) suites as well as a forensic medical facility based within the SARC.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The PFCC will allocate £24,600 from the 2023-24 Victims' Fund for this decision. This allocation is matched 50:50 by NHS England. The PFCC will raise a purchase order for the full amount of £49,200 to Mountain Healthcare (which pays the invoice to NHS Property services to occupy the building). The PFCC will then invoice NHS England for its contribution of £24,600. These costs are factored into the PFCC's annual victims' budget.

10. Legal implications

10.1. There are no legal implications arising from this decision.

11. Staffing implications

11.1. There are no staffing implications arising for the PFCC.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

12.1 No EDI implications are associated with the leasing of the building.

12.2 EDI matters relating to the forensic medical services delivered in the SARC are covered in decision report 050-23.

13. Risks and Mitigations

13.1 There are no new risks or mitigations regarding this arrangement.

14. Governance Boards

14.1 This proposal has not been discussed at any governance boards.

15. Links to Future Plans

15.1 SARC accreditation is an ongoing workstream which may impact on the continued use of Oakwood Place as the location of the Essex SARC. The contract with Mountain Healthcare for SARC services is being extended for one year (2023-24).

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: 21 April 2023

Chief Finance Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 23 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: 26th April 2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print: