

FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

Area of Assessment:	2022-23 Community Safety Development Fund
Date of Assessment:	10 May 2021
Owner:	Greg Myddelton
New or existing policy/function:	Existing – commissioning / grant funding

Stage 1 – Detail of policy, function, project or proposal

Briefly describe the aims, objectives and outcomes of the policy / function

The Community Safety Development Fund is a small grants fund which supports the PFCC's commitment to work with local voluntary and community sector partners to deliver the ambitions of the Police and Crime Plan and keep our communities safe.

The annual grant fund offers funding of up to £20,000 for community projects that help to deliver effective approaches to prevent crime from happening in the first place, to reduce overall crime and to keep our communities safe.

What policies / procedures / functions are relevant to this area?

The CSDF forms part of the PFCC's broader commissioning function.

Stage 2 – Consider the Evidence

Which individuals and organisations are likely to be affected by the policy / function and in what way?

The PFCC received 87 applications to the fund with a total funding request in excess of £1.3m. Having reviewed the applications, the PFCC is proposing to fund 34 groups / organisations with a total allocation of around £381k.

The 34 groups vary in their size, area of business and target cohorts but all were able to evidence the need for their proposed activity.

What relevant quantitative data has been considered?

As part of the standard application form, each applicant is invited to demonstrate the need for their proposed activity. Many will utilise published demographic data, crime data and census information to highlight and indicate the need in their own area. Bidders may point to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) as context and to demonstrate need / vulnerability. Some bidders use survey data which may have been collected locally or as part of a larger project. As an example, the bid from Changing Lives included the following data in support of its application; "According to the latest data from the UK government's *Immigration Statistics, year ending December 2020* report, there were 2,253 refugees and 812 pending asylum cases in the county of Essex as of the end of 2020". This was then supplemented with more local information in the same bid "As part of a recent programme

that we have been running with the Active Essex Foundation, we asked 10 young people (aged 14 – 18 that are on court orders and have been referred by the Youth Service) a range of questions, including: Do you feel safe in Colchester? 3 said YES. 7 said NO. Reasons – “There are not enough activities in the area for my age and so I hang out on the streets getting into trouble”. “If there were more things to do, I wouldn’t be getting myself into trouble so much”.

What relevant qualitative data has been considered?

At a programme level, we have heard from groups that we work with (including voluntary sector providers of victim services) that funding is becoming more difficult to attain and that the level of inflation and cost-of-living crisis is having a significant impact on the ability of groups to meet their expenses and continue delivering their activities.

Project-specific qualitative data

Bidders are required to gain endorsement of their bid from their local CSP. This provides the PFCC with additional assurance that the project is required locally and fits the aims and priorities of the local community.

Bidders may provide case studies in their application. This can help bring to life the activity they are proposing and gives a flavour of the individual outcomes and impact of their project. As an example, the application from Beacon House, a homelessness charity in Colchester, included a case study of ‘George’, an individual who had been abused as a child and had become institutionalised followed spells in prison. Beacon House worked with ‘George’ to get him housed and improve his resilience and confidence to be able to take on volunteer roles. This demonstrates the value and impact that Beacon House’s service can have.

Has the function/policy been subject to consultation? If no, why not? If yes, which individuals and organisations were consulted and what form did consultation take?

Application process

The PFCC sought to increase awareness of the fund this year and utilised a specialist organisation, Social Land, to boost the visibility and reach of our communications. By the end of January, the number of impressions (number of times people see the ad) exceeded 250,000. The feedback on the ad was positive. There was also a total of 8,884 engagements across all the ads, demonstrating that people are interested in the information, not just scrolling past it. The result was an unprecedented level of interest in the fund, with 87 applications received including bids from groups that had not applied to the fund previously. We also saw a broad range of bids focused on different elements of the Police and Crime Plan including road safety, modern day slavery, domestic abuse, serious youth violence and protecting vulnerable people.

Bid development

Our application form includes a requirement for bidders to engage with, and seek endorsement of, their local Community Safety Partnership. This ensures that the applications meet the priorities of the local CSP and do not duplicate or interfere with other commissioned activity.

Evaluation process

When evaluating projects, the PFCC utilises an external panel of independent stakeholders to draw in different views and ensure a broader range of skills, knowledge and experiences feed into the decision-making process.

Were any gaps in information identified? If so, what consideration has been given to commissioning work where required?

The fund was unable to support any of the bids for capital investment including requests for CCTV and building works. The panel felt unable to prioritise the different requests for items like CCTV and felt that this fund was not best placed to invest in those types of projects. The PFCC's Safer Streets Fund and future Home Office Safer Streets Fund rounds are anticipated to be well-placed to accommodate some of those requests.

Stage 3- Assessment of impact

		Yes/No	Comments and evidence where appropriate
Potential for differential/ adverse impact based on analysis of data and information	Race	Y	Some of these projects focus specifically on minority or marginalised groups, for instance Thurrock African Group aims to "Motivate and empower Thurrock youth, primarily Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic youth, to be involved in radio broadcasts and bring in new ideas and topics".
	Disability (Including physical, sensory and mental health)	Y	
	Gender reassignment	Y	
	Age	Y	Mencap Chelmsford will run "A series of workshops to enable people with a learning disability to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to keep safe at home, online and in the community"
	Religion or belief	N	
	Sexual orientation	Y	Trust Links plans to "develop and deliver a series of workshops for adults with mental health issues in Southend, Castle Point and Rochford on 'staying safe'"
	Pregnancy and maternity	N	
	Marriage and civil partnership	N	SoSRC, CARA and the University of Essex plan to undertake activity aimed at reducing sexual abuse and violence against women and girls. This agenda / theme naturally aims to engage and protect females but can also improve awareness of sexual abuse of other genders.
	Sex	Y	

Stage 4 – Deciding the way forward

If potential for differential / adverse impact remains explain why implementation is justifiable in order to meet the wider policy aims.

Supporting the projects identified in stage 3 above is a good indication that the PFCC is reducing barriers that some groups may feel to accessing funding and some individuals may feel to accessing services. These groups may be less likely to engage in traditional funding processes. By supporting their work, the PFCC is enabling the engagement of all cohorts, giving bidders a chance to deliver vital work with their local communities, and also developing an evidence base that can be used to inform future activity and funding requests.

There are no residual areas of concern.

Summarise any changes made to the policy to reduce or remove the potential for differential / adverse impact

No changes in policy required. The boosting of the PFCC's adverts for the fund have achieved the intended result of increasing visibility of this opportunity and drawing in groups that had not previously been aware of this funding.

If the function / policy is to be abandoned, please explain why and how the implications will be managed

The PFCC's CSDF is an annual grant fund. Given the success of this experience we are likely to undertake a similar exercise the next time the fund is launched.

Describe how the function / policy promotes good relations

The CSDF is an excellent tool to boost awareness of the PFCC and their role. The fund energises local community groups, giving them an opportunity to showcase their work and apply for much needed funding to deliver their activities. Promotion of the successful projects is a valuable way to deliver positive communications content and increase awareness of the value of local community-based activity.

By engaging a panel of independent evaluators, we nurture strategic relationships with key stakeholders, and by ensuring endorsements of CSPs we maintain positive relationships with local CSP Chairs, managers and officers.

Stage 5 - Monitoring Arrangements

Describe how the function / policy is (or will be) monitored

The PFCC will need to recruit to the vacant Commissioning officer role in order to monitor the delivery of this grant funding effectively.

The PFCC has indicatively allocated funding from the 2023-24 CSDF to retain some media / comms resource who will be able to visit successful projects and write up case studies of their work for press releases. This is vital in communicating the value of the fund and the positive activities being delivered on the PFCC's behalf.

Have the assessment outcomes been fed back to those consulted?

Yes, bidders have been informed of the outcome of the process (pending due diligence and PFCC endorsement).

The evaluation panel has been informed of the final proposed shortlist of recommended projects.

In due course, the decision report listing the successful projects will be published on the PFCC's website.

Impact assessed by:	Greg Myddelton	Date:	10/5/23
Approved by (owner):	Pippa Brent-Isherwood	Date:	02/06/2023