

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 153-22

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** Chelmsford Anti-Slavery Partnership (CASP) funding

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Chelmsford City

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

**Date of report:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report proposes a grant allocation of £15,000 from the PFCC's 2022-23 Community Safety Fund to Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to fund a coordinator who will support the establishment and development of the Chelmsford Anti-Slavery Partnership (CASP).

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the PFCC confirms approval of the allocation of £15,000 to Chelmsford CSP to fund a coordinator tasked with establishing and developing the Chelmsford Anti-Slavery Partnership.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1 The proposal builds on the success of the PFCC-supported Anti-Slavery Partnership in Southend. It will galvanise local action and ensure coordination of partner efforts around this important agenda.
- 3.2 Protecting and supporting vulnerable people is a strategic priority for the Safer Chelmsford Partnership. This work supports delivery against the CSP's duty to ensure information around modern slavery is shared.

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

- 4.1 The funding will be used to develop further the multi-agency anti-slavery partnership for Chelmsford which aims to enhance local services and their response to modern slavery. The provision of a dedicated co-ordinator role, currently one day per week, will be enhanced with this funding. The coordinator will be based within the Community Safety Partnership Hub in Chelmsford to maximise the opportunities presented by partnership working.
- 4.2 This role enables the development of a multi-agency partnership to enhance the work already carried out by individual local agencies, as well as developing robust referral pathways for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT). The partnership will seek to bring together statutory organisations, anti-slavery organisations, faith communities and other community groups and will facilitate training for their staff / volunteers.
- 4.3 The CASP partnership will benefit those vulnerable to MSHT within our community, including rough sleepers, low-income households, those from minority communities and those settling in the local area for the first time. The CASP partnership will also benefit the wider public within the community by delivering awareness raising seminars and materials.
- 4.4 A launch event was held in October 2022 with key partners from statutory services, the third sector and emergency services. The event concluded with the first formal partnership meeting of the Chelmsford Anti-Slavery Partnership.
- 4.5 Victims of modern slavery will increasingly be identified as the community becomes aware of how to spot signs of modern slavery and how to report to authorities to help victims.
- 4.6 This proposal builds on the success of the Southend Against Modern Slavery (SAMS) partnership which has mobilised and aligned a local forum that includes Essex Police, voluntary sector partners (Salvation Army, SAVS, Street Pastors, Justice & Care) and the local authority.

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

- 5.1 The PFCC made commitments within the Police and Crime Plan to tackle modern day slavery but has historically not had many opportunities to invest in it locally and meaningfully. This represents an opportunity to invest in a genuine partnership approach to this complex, under-reported and often marginalised issue that can do significant harm to residents and communities in Essex and beyond our borders. In the absence of an alternative countywide partnership, this bottom-up approach, supporting local partnerships (like Southend and Chelmsford) in specific localities represents the best approach to this issue.

## **6. Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1 This proposal is supported, and facilitated, by the Chelmsford CSP. The proposal was also reviewed at Chelmsford City Council's Audit and Risk Committee in September 2022.
- 6.2 The proposal is endorsed by Essex Police's Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking lead who is already working closely with the CASP.
- 6.3 Representatives of the PFCC discussed this project with Nick Eveleigh (Chelmsford City Council's Chief Executive and the local CSP Chair) and Chelmsford's CSP Manager at a recent annual CSP review.

## **7. Strategic Links**

- 7.1 This work delivers against the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan priorities relating to supporting vulnerable people and improving support for victims of crime, specifically the commitment to "support victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, including sexual exploitation, and continue to promote close working with the UK Border Agency, National Crime Agency, and national and regional partners to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice".
- 7.2 There is also a commitment under the priority to reduce business and cyber-crime to "support initiatives to tackle other forms of crime that affect businesses and their staff such as Human Trafficking".
- 7.3 Chelmsford CSP's Strategic Plan 2021-2 notes the CSP's statutory responsibility under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to ensure that information sharing around modern-day slavery is effectively embedded to allow effective disruption activities and enforcement. This work sits within Chelmsford CSP's priority to "Identify and Support Vulnerable People".

## **8. Police operational implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct operational implications although as a statutory member of the Chelmsford CSP, Essex Police will support and benefit from the formation and activity of an effective anti-slavery partnership.

## **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1 The PFCC makes a one-off allocation of £15,000 from the 2022/23 Community Safety Fund to the Chelmsford CSP as a contribution towards the joint funding of the CASP partnership coordinator. This allocation is within the PFCC's budget for 2022/23. The CSF ends 2022/23 with a reserve of £266,170 to carry forward to the 2023/24 financial year.
- 9.2 This project benefits from match funding of at least £12,000 from the Essex Community Foundation as well as in-kind contributions from Chelmsford City

Council of accommodation, room hire and ad hoc admin support to the partnership.

## **10. Legal implications**

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

## **11. Staffing implications**

11.1 This grant will be used to extend the hours of the anti-slavery partnership coordinator. No liability will be placed on the PFCC for continuation or redundancy costs associated with the role at the conclusion of the grant funding period.

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

12.1 Whilst it is recognised that some characteristics can impact an individual's risk of being subject to modern slavery or human trafficking, the work of this partnership will not focus on specific cohorts of people, types of victims or protected characteristics. Instead, it aims to improve awareness, support all victims, and promote greater confidence in local agencies to respond to these abhorrent crimes.

## **13. Risks and Mitigations**

13.1 There is a risk around the sustainability of this partnership once funding expires. As part of the monitoring of this funding we would seek assurances about how the partnership will maintain its activity and influence beyond the grant funding period.

13.2 There is also a risk of other partnerships seeking similar investment from the PFCC to establish comparable partnerships. This would be managed on a case-by-case basis. The PFCC should be endorsing a local approach to dealing with modern slavery and human trafficking, but it is unlikely to be possible for the PFCC to give funding to all areas in the very unlikely event that there is such demand.

## **14. Governance Boards**

14.1 This proposal was reported to Chelmsford City Council's Audit and Risk Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and was reviewed at the PFCC's Management Team meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. It was also discussed at the PFCC's Senior Management Team meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

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

15.1 This proposal will support the PFCC to deliver against the Police and Crime Plan and amplifies the messages promoted via the PFCC's "Exploited into Essex" conference in 2022.

## 16. Background Papers and Appendices

### 16.1 Background to application for funding



PFCC Overview of  
CASP.docx

**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: 6 April 2023

Chief Financial Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 02 June 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.

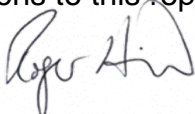
Sign: .....

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:** 09/06/2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**