

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 104-23

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** Southend Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Team (MARAT) 2023-24

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Southend-on-Sea

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

**Date of report:** 13 June 2023

**Enquiries to:** greg.myddelton@essex.police.uk

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval from the PFCC to allocate a grant of £49,103 from the 2023-24 Victims' budget to Southend-on-Sea City Council as a contribution to the costs of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Team (MARAT).

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the PFCC approves the allocation of £49,103 to Southend-on-Sea City Council as a contribution to the costs of the Southend MARAT in 2023-24.
- 2.2 That the PFCC's Monitoring Officer signs the associated Memorandum of Understanding for the Southend MARAT (attached at Appendix 1).

### 3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1 The MARAT Team Manager and Administrator posts are jointly funded by the PFCC, Southend-on-Sea City Council and local health commissioners. Partner agencies such as IDVAs, the probation service, and Essex Police commit additional resources through the provision of staff into the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process.

- 3.2 The funding from the PFCC constitutes a contribution to the costs of the MARAT Team Manager post and the 2 x MARAT Administrator posts. The PFCC has contributed to these posts for the past three years.
- 3.3 The work of the MARAT team is monitored by Southend-on-Sea City Council and is reported to the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Strategic Development Group and Board, both of which are chaired by representatives of the PFCC. There are no reported performance issues, and the team continues to support and safeguard high risk domestic abuse victims of crime. The decision sheets for previous funding for this project are 143-21 (for 2021-22) and 03-23 (for 2022-23).

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

- 4.1 The Southend MARAT is a multi-agency risk assessment arrangement that enables effective data and information sharing between key stakeholders to safeguard victims of domestic abuse.
- 4.2 This funding will continue to contribute to a Southend MARAT Team Manager and two MARAT Administrator posts to ensure the processes and arrangements are as efficient as possible. This includes scheduling and chairing meetings and ensuring cases are heard in a timely manner.

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

- 5.1 The PFCC could opt not to support this decision, but this is not recommended as the MARAT provides vital support to victims, identifies safeguarding issues and concerns, and is an example of effective multi-agency working to tackle domestic abuse.

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

- 6.1 The Southend MARAT reports on a quarterly basis to the SETDAB Board and Strategic Development Group. Commissioners for the Southend MARAT met on 31<sup>st</sup> May to discuss continued funding arrangements and to update the associated Memorandum of Understanding.

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

- 7.1 This funding allows the PFCC to fulfil the commitments within their Police and Crime Plan relating to breaking the cycle of domestic abuse, improving support for victims of crime, and protecting vulnerable people from harm. It also supports delivery of the SETDAB partnership strategy.

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

- 8.1 Essex Police will continue to provide in-kind support to the Southend MARAT in the form of dedicated officers attending the meetings and contributing to the risk assessment and action planning process.

## **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1 The PFCC would allocate £49,103 from the 2023-24 Victims' budget. This is an annual contribution and has been factored into the Victims' budget.
- 9.2 The total cost of the MARAT in 2023-24 is £192,950. The PFCC's contribution is matched by £22,983 funding from health partners and £120,864 from Southend-on-Sea City Council.

## **10. Legal implications**

- 10.1 The PFCC's Monitoring Officer agrees to sign the updated MoU for this service, which is not intended to be legally binding on any of the parties.

## **11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1 Operational management of the MARAT sits within Southend-on-Sea City Council Children's Services which also employs and manages the staff.
- 11.2 Employment of staff or sessional workers will be the responsibility of the relevant delivery organisation. No liability for the continuation of roles will be placed on the PFCC or other funders because of this grant funding.

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

- 12.1 Southend's MARAT receives referrals of high-risk DA victims from partner agencies and is therefore open to all. The MARAT works with support agencies including IDVAs to consider appropriate safety plans, which can be tailored to individual needs. This may include needs based on protected characteristics.

## **13. Risks and Mitigations**

- 13.1 The PFCC provides a funding contribution alongside partner organisations (Southend-on-Sea City Council and the local Integrated Care Partnership). There is a risk that the PFCC or other funders no longer have the funding available to support the MARAT work. To mitigate this risk, all partner organisations sign a memorandum of understanding, and the positive work of the MARAT is promoted via the SETDAB structures.

## **14. Governance Boards**

- 14.1 The countywide partnership Domestic Abuse Strategic Board and its Strategic Development Group receive quarterly updates on the operation of local MARACs and a MARAC Steering Group meets regularly to discuss operational issues.

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

- 15.1 This project supports delivery against the SETDAB partnership domestic abuse strategy and the Police and Crime Plan.

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

- 16.1 Southend MARAT Memorandum of Understanding 2023



Southend MARAT  
MoU may 2023 Heal

**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: 16 June 2023

Chief Financial Officer

Sign

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 20 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

2. Of Appendix?

YES

NO

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: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....  
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Sign:

Print: