

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 056-23

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Victim Support Contract Extension 2023

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

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

Date of report: 29th March 2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report proposes the extension of the Victim Support contract to deliver referral, assessment and support services for a further period of six months, from April to end of September 2023. This will allow for the re-tender of a longer-term contract from 1st October 2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the PFCC approves the extension of the Victim Support contract for six months at a cost of £281,121.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1 The PFCC has responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime. This includes a requirement to assess the needs of victims and provide practical and emotional support as well as referring victims onto more specialist support where appropriate. In Essex this “assessment and referral” service is currently delivered through a multi-year contract with the charity Victim Support which successfully tendered for the service in 2018 following a competitive procurement exercise.

- 3.2 The current Victim Support contract expires on 31st March 2023. A procurement exercise was undertaken to identify the new service provider

from 1st April but, following a challenge to the process, a decision was made to re-run the tender process, making amendments to the service specification and evaluation methodology. The requested six-month extension gives time for the re-procurement exercise and a mobilisation period prior to the commencement of the new service in October 2023.

- 3.3 The extension has been negotiated with support from colleagues in the 7Force procurement team, and costs the same amount as the current service, pro rata. The contract is funded via an annual victims grant from the Ministry of Justice.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1 Under this proposal, Victim Support (VS) would continue to deliver referral and assessment services as well as non-specialist emotional and practical support for victims of crime in Essex. VS receives an automated daily transfer of cases from Essex Police and makes efforts to contact all victims that have provided consent for their details to be shared. VS is also accessible to self-referring victims of crime who do not wish to report to the police.
- 4.2 The proposed six-month extension would ensure continuity of service with no break or impact on existing victims / clients.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1 Advice was given by 7F Procurement colleagues to extend this contract to allow the re-running of the tender process following an incomplete competitive exercise. The PFCC could opt not to extend the contract but that would leave a considerable gap in service and result in Essex Police and the PFCC denying victims their rights under the Victims' Code.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1 This proposal has been developed with the advice and support of the 7-Force Procurement team.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1 The extension of this service would support delivery of the PFCC's priority to improve support for victims of crime and ensure the PFCC remains compliant with the victims' code.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1 Essex Police will continue to provide Victim Support with an automated daily transfer of cases for the period of the extension.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 The PFCC would allocate £281,121 to Victim Support for a six-month extension to the existing contract. As a core service, the PFCC has already factored the costs of this service into its annual victims' budget.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1 This will be an extension of the existing Victim Support contract. The detail of the extension will be drawn up by 7F Procurement.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1 The PFCC will continue to monitor this contract in line with existing arrangements.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

- 12.1 The PFCC undertook an EQIA at the commencement of this tender process, which is embedded below.



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referral and support

13. Risks and Mitigations

- 13.1 There is a risk that six months will be insufficient to undertake the re-procurement exercise and allow for mobilisation. This is mitigated by work already being undertaken to prepare for the re-tender and by soft engagement with VS to extend the contract further in the event of another unsuccessful tender process.

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1 This proposal was referenced at the Victim and Witness Action Group on 2nd February and 16th March 2023.

15. Links to Future Plans

- 15.1 This extension will allow for the development of longer-term arrangements to deliver against the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan commitments to victims.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

- 16.1 Decision report 098-22, relating to the tender exercise for this contract (embedded below).



098-22 Victims
Support Contract Re

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: 13 April 2023

Chief Finance Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 31 May 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.

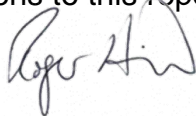
Sign:

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:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: