

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 111-23

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** MoJ IDVA and CrSF funding allocation 2023-25

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Countywide

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

**Date of report:** 28 June 2023

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval from the PFCC to allocate £819,094 (£409,547 each year, for two years), from the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Victims' Fund for Critical Support Funding (CrSF) and the recruitment of IDVA resources in 2023-24 and 2024/25.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the PFCC endorses the allocation equally over two years, of £819,094 victims' funding from Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to the organisations listed in section 4.1 below.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1 The PFCC approved the acceptance of this MoJ victims' "general grant" via decision report 106-22. This funding forms part of the £832,863 annual fund that the MoJ describes as "ringfenced funding for proportion of 700 ISVAs / IDVAs". The funding allocations for 2021-23 were covered via decision reports 077-21 and 123-21. This DR proposes the allocation of the final two years of the IDVA and CrSF elements of this funding in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

#### 4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

4.1 This grant funding supports the MoJ's ambition to recruit an additional 700 IDVAs / ISVAs in the UK. Locally, this funding will provide the following:

Organisation	Description	2023-24 funding	2024-25 funding
Changing Pathways	1 IDVA 1 Children's and Young Persons' IDVA	67,221	67,221
Next Chapter	3 IDVAs (covering complex needs and LGBT+) 1 Children's and Young Persons' IDVA	137,240	137,240
Safe Steps	3 x Complex Needs IDVAs	91,993	91,993
Safe Steps	Critical Support Funding	32,000	32,000
Victim Support	2 x Specialist IDVAs	81,093	81,093
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 IDVAs</b>	<b>£409,547</b>	<b>£409,547</b>

#### 5. Options Analysis

5.1 The PFCC has been successful in obtaining additional funding, both competitively (e.g. for specialist domestic abuse and sexual abuse support services) and allocated funding which has supplemented the core MoJ (formula-based) grant. Without this extra funding, the PFCC's ability to commission support services for victims and fulfil their duty to provide support for victims of crime would be compromised.

5.2 Any underspend against this funding must be returned to the MoJ at year-end.

#### 6. Consultation and Engagement

6.1 The PFCC undertook a competitive process with service providers in 2022 when identifying where this IDVA / ISVA funding should be invested.

#### 7. Strategic Links

7.1 This funding allows the PFCC to fulfil their commitments within the Police and Crime Plan and Victims' Commissioning Strategy. It also supports delivery of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) partnership strategy.

#### 8. Police operational implications

8.1 There are no operational implications of this decision for Essex Police.

#### 9. Financial implications

9.1 The PFCC will allocate £409,547 from the 2023-24 Victims Fund and £409,547 from the 2024-25 Victims Fund to the organisations listed in section 4.1 above. This is pass-through funding from the Ministry of Justice.

## **10. Legal implications**

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

## **11. Staffing implications**

11.1 The PFCC will be expected to manage and monitor the effective use of this funding and report back to the MoJ on a six-monthly basis. This will require sufficient dedicated resources. At present the PFCC is recruiting to a vacant Commissioning Officer post.

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

12.1 This grant funding must be used to provide support for victims of crime in line with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, including giving victims the right to access support services.

12.2 Our commissioned DA service providers submit demographic information on those victims engaging with their services as part of their quarterly performance reports and in support of the MoJ's bi-annual monitoring returns. Commissioners can use quarterly performance review meetings to enquire about issues relating to equality, diversity and inclusion.

12.3 Through SETDAB's commissioning discovery project, the local DA partnership is seeking to optimise the accessibility of support services, recognising that more could be done to ensure consistent provision for all. SETDAB is also reviewing its rural DA framework to support victims in rural locations to access specialist DA support.

## **13. Risks and Mitigations**

13.1 The PFCC currently has insufficient dedicated commissioning resources to effectively manage and monitor this grant funding. This is mitigated by an ongoing process to recruit a permanent, full-time Commissioning Officer, with interviews scheduled to take place on 17 July 2023.

13.2 There is a risk that funding will not be spent and will need to be returned to the MoJ. This is mitigated by ensuring that providers understand the limitations and restrictions on the funding. Any likely underspend will be flagged as soon as possible so that the PFCC can look to redeploy the funding to areas that can utilise it.

## **14. Governance Boards**

14.1 The PFCC approved the acceptance of this grant via decision report 106-22. This decision continues allocations agreed via decision reports 077-21 and 123-21. It has not been subject to any further governance processes.

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

15.1 This funding supports delivery of the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan and of the SETDAB partnership strategy.

## 16. Background Papers and Appendices

Decision report 077-21 – MoJ additional victims' funding – Assessment process

Decision report 123-21 - MoJ additional victims' funding – Critical and male support funds

Decision report 106-22 – MoJ DA & SV Grant Acceptance 2022-25

### 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: 14 July 2023

Chief Financial Officer

Sign:



Print: Janet Perry

Date: 26 July 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

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: 28/07/2023**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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