

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 057-23

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Synergy Contract Extension 2023 - Supplementary

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

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

Date of report: 30th March 2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report supplements decision report 087-22 which approved the extension of the core element of the Synergy contract from April 2023 to the end of March 2024. Due to additional funding being allocated from central government, the value of the extension is now greater than the allocation approved via decision 087-22. This decision report summarises and clarifies the funding streams that make up the full value of the contract extension.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the PFCC endorses the allocation of £2,047,929 funding to Synergy Essex and signs the associated contract extension agreement attached at Appendix 1.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1 As outlined in decision report 087-22, the PFCC commissions the Synergy rape crisis consortium to deliver sexual abuse support services, including Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) services, therapeutic support, advocacy and counselling. This is an all-age, all-gender service that operates across the whole of Essex. This decision report relates to the first of two possible annual extensions to the Synergy contract, from April 2023 to the end of March 2024.

- 3.2 The contract includes the core element, approved under decision 087-22, as well as additional grants received from central government for sexual abuse services. The table below summarises the funding streams and associated decision reports:

**Synergy Funding
Breakdown 2022-3**

Value	PFCC Income Stream	From	To	DR
£ 1,056,331.00	Devolved Rape Support Fund	2020	2024	175-19 & 87-22
	Child Sexual Abuse Uplift			
	Core Victims Grant			
£ 77,320.00	Male Rape Support	2021	2024	158-22 & 45-23
£ 147,709.00	Rape Support Fund Uplift	2022	2024	158-22 & 45-23
£ 134,778.00	SV Fund Uplift	2022	2024	158-22 & 45-23
£ 246,840.00	Synergy additional ISVAs	2020-21	2025	77-21 & 57-23
£ 176,476.00	Additional ISVA/IDVA 2021/2023	2020-21	2025	77-21 & 57-23
£ 108,475.00	MOJ DA/SV Fund	2022	2025	096-22
£ 100,000.00	MOJ DA/SV Fund	2022	2025	095-22
£ 2,047,929.00				

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1 As detailed in decision report 087-22, this service delivers specialist support for all victims and survivors of any form of sexual abuse, whether that occurred recently or in the past, providing direct access to appropriate support in a timely way that recognises and responds to their needs, enabling and empowering them to cope and, as far as possible, recover from their experience.
- 4.2 This summary report attempts clarifies the different funding streams that make up the full value of the contract extension (see table in section 3.2 above). It covers the allocation of £246,840 from the MoJ’s “ISVA – Existing Funding Commitment” grant (aka “ringfenced funding for ISVAs / IDVAs (tranche 1)”) and £176,476 from the MoJ’s “ISVA – new ISVA services” grant (aka “ringfenced funding for ISVAs / IDVAs (tranche 2)”). Both of these funding streams have been allocated by the MoJ for three years (as detailed in decision report 106-22).

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1 The PFCC was successful in obtaining additional funding for specialist sexual abuse services. This extension will ensure continuity of service and consistency in service delivery and referral pathways for local victims and survivors of sexual abuse.

6. Consultation and Engagement

6.1 This proposal was discussed at the PFCC's Senior Management Team on 11th November 2022.

7. Strategic Links

7.1 The extension of this service supports delivery of the PFCC's priorities to improve support for victims of crime and reduce the impact of violence against women and girls and ensures the PFCC remains compliant with the victims' code.

8. Police operational implications

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

8.2 During 2022/23, of the 4,839 sexual violence incidents experienced by Synergy's service users:

- 2,058 (42.5%) were not reported to police
- 1,200 (24.8%) were reported to police, with a criminal justice process complete
- 948 (19.6%) were reported to police, with an active criminal justice case
- 299 (6.2%) were reported to police, with an unknown outcome
- The status was not yet obtained / disclosed for 334 (6.9%)

9. Financial implications

9.1 If approved, the PFCC will sign a contract extension valued at £2,047,929 with Synergy Essex for a 12-month extension period to the end of March 2024.

9.2 This funding is allocated from the PFCC's Victims Fund 2023-4. The PFCC's Victims Fund is an annual grant from Ministry of Justice valued at £4.4m. The costs of the Synergy contract are built-in to the PFCC's annual victims budget.

10. Legal implications

10.1 This will be an extension of the existing Synergy contract.

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 This support service is available to all victims and survivors of sexual abuse in Essex. The PFCC collects demographic information as part of our performance information which can be used to track how well we are offering and delivering support to all communities and groups across Essex.

12.2 During Quarter 4 of 2022/23:

- 32.1% of all service users had mental health issues
- 15.3% of all service users had a long-term illness
- 13.1% of all service users were from minority and other marginalised groups
- 9.4% of all service users had a physical or sensory disability
- 5.5% of all service users had a learning disability

12.3 The age breakdown of service users was as follows:

Age Range	No. of Service Users	% of Service Users
0 - 12	168	4.5%
13 - 17	653	17.5%
18 - 24	720	19.3%
25 - 34	820	21.9%
35 - 44	645	17.3%
45 – 54	426	11.4%
55 - 64	234	6.3%
65 - 74	54	1.4%
75+	15	0.4%
Not yet obtained	2	< 0.1%
Total	3,737	100%

13. Risks and Mitigations

13.1 No risks have been identified.

14. Governance Boards

14.1 This proposal was discussed at the PFCC’s Senior Management Team meeting on 11th November 2022.

15. Links to Future Plans

15.1 This contract supports delivery of the PFCC’s Police and Crime Plan as set out earlier in this report, along with the ambitions in the countywide sexual abuse partnership strategy.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

Background papers:


- 16.1 This decision report supplements decision 087-22 relating to the extension of the core Synergy contract for 2023-24.
- 16.2 The table in section 3.2 of this report also references other relevant decision reports which approved the allocation of different elements that make up the full value of this combined contract.

Appendices:


- 16.3 Appendix 1 – Contract Extension Agreement (ref. 2019-077)

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: 27 April 2023

Chief Financial Officer Sign:  Print: Janet Perry

Date: 2 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:

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.....
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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: