

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 114-23

Classification Not protectively marked

Title of report: Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) Communication Support

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Darren Horsman (Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement)

Date of report: 29 June 2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the allocation of £7,500 from the Community Safety Development Fund to publicise the grant recipients, the alignment to the police and crime plan and encourage wider participation in future rounds.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC allocates £7,500 from the 2023-24 Community Safety Development Fund for external communication support.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. The PFCC's Community Safety Development Fund is an annual small grants programme which seeks to support community and voluntary organisations with funding of up to £20,000 for activities that contribute positively to the delivery of the objectives within the Police and Crime Plan.
- 3.2. The 2022-23 CSDF fund process was approved via decision report 160-22 and allocation of the fund was approved via decision report 082-23.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. The PFCC received 87 bids totalling in excess of £1.3m. These applications were subject to an initial sift by the PFCC's Commissioning Officer and were then considered and reviewed by an independent panel of evaluators including representatives from Essex Police, Community Safety Partnerships, the Essex Community Foundation, and the Probation Service. The panel sought to ensure a fair and proportionate representation both thematically and across the different geographies of Essex.
- 4.2. As the grants are delivered and the projects agreed via decision report 082-23 start to make a difference in their communities, we want to be able to share with the public the positive difference they are making, how this aligns to the police and crime plan but also encourage wider participation for groups in the future. This was first proposed in decision report 082-23 with this report seeking a formal decision.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC could decide not publicise these funding agreements however this would miss the opportunity to share with the public the projects that are being supported and encourage wider participation. Similar work on publicising the fund has significantly grown the public understanding of the fund and the number of applications it receives. The huge number of applicants received last year was a direct result of broad awareness raising communications undertaken to support the fund and allowed for a stronger field of potential funding opportunities.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. The proposal has been shared with members of the PFCC's Management Team and wider Senior Management Team during the CSDF application process who have been supportive.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. This funding highlights to the public the work of partner organisations to support delivery of the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan and encourage wider participation in future rounds.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. There are no operational policing implications.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The PFCC will use £7,500 from the 2023-24 CSDF fund. Once this has been accounted for there will be £303,673 remaining in the 2023-4 (and carry forward) CSDF fund.

10. Legal implications

10.1 This will go through normal PFCC procurement process.

11. Staffing implications

11.1. Identifying and working with the external communication support is part of the Communications and Engagement Strategy so will already be accounted for within the PFCC's staffing arrangements.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

12.1 An EQIA was undertaken on the distribution of the fund and this decision will help ensure the public are fully informed of the allocation and a wide group of possible applicants are aware of the opportunity in the future.

13. Risks and Mitigations

13.1. There is minimal risk with this decision as it is an approach that has been tried before and proven to be successful. The communication support will be overseen by the Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement and agreed sign off processes followed.

14. Governance Boards

14.1. The decision to secure communication support for the CSDF decision has been discussed with the PFCC's Management Team and was clearly set out in the 082-23 decision which asked for approval for the allocation of the CSDF.

15. Links to Future Plans

15.1. This work supports delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

None

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: *DHorsman*

Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 14 August 2023

Chief Finance Officer Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 23 August 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:

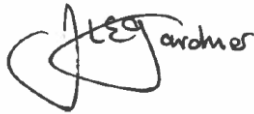
Print:

Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign:



Print:

Jane Gardner

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 06 September 2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

Date signed: