

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 121-23

Classification Not protectively marked

Title of report: Essex Probation HGV Training Project

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

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

Date of report: 31 July 2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the allocation of a £10,000 match-funding contribution from the PFCC's Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) to the Probation Service for the delivery of an HGV driver training pilot for people on probation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the allocation of **£10,000** match-funding from the 2023-24 CSDF budget to the Probation Service to help fund an HGV driver training pilot for people on probation.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. The Probation Service (East of England) has successfully delivered a pilot in Cambridgeshire offering to cover the costs of HGV driver training to people on probation with the aim of getting them into employment to prevent reoffending. It is now proposed to roll this pilot out to Essex.
- 3.2. The project benefits from £10k match funding from the Probation Service.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. It is anticipated that this pilot will provide training, medical certificates and a theory and practical test to around 10 people on probation across Essex.
- 4.2. Creating opportunities for entry into education, training and employment (ETE) is a key tool in preventing people on probation relapsing into offending behaviour. Employment gives individuals structure, ambition and resilience and can be the difference between someone reoffending and not. In the Cambridgeshire pilot, one individual has so far passed their training and two others are nearing completion. The individual that passed is now in full time employment and said that this opportunity has 'set him up for life' and given him the opportunity of stable work, accommodation and family.
- 4.3. By investing in HGV training, this pilot also fills a known gap in the local and national economy, by providing key skills and expanding the pool of HGV drivers.
- 4.4. The pilot will offer training in specialist training facilities in North-East Essex (Ardleigh) and South-West Essex (Purfleet) to ensure coverage across the county. The training centres have close links with local employers and will assist successful candidates seeking employment.
- 4.5. The Probation Service is committed to tracking the effectiveness of the intervention by measuring reoffending rates and also capturing qualitative feedback about the impact of the project, mindful that reoffending data can take time to emerge.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC may decide not to invest in this project but that would forgo the opportunity to provide meaningful training to individuals who may otherwise reoffend.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. This proposal was discussed and developed during a regular PFCC and Probation catch-up event on 7th June 2023. The DPFCC attends those forums and was supportive of developing this proposal.
- 6.2. The proposal was also discussed and endorsed at the PFCC's Corporate Management Team meeting on 24th July 2023.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. This funding supports the PFCC's priorities in the Police and Crime Plan, as well as the local Reducing Reoffending Board priority to get people into education, training or employment to reduce the likelihood of the re-offending.

7.2. The project also supports the priority of the Probation Service to support people on probation into employment and explore joint commissioning arrangements with regional partners, including P(F)CCs.

8. Police operational implications

8.1. There are no operational implications for Essex Police.

9. Financial implications

9.1. The PFCC will make a one-off allocation of £10,000 from the 2023-24 CSDF to the Probation Service.

9.2. The PFCC's Community Safety Development Fund currently has ££303,673 remaining in the 2023-4 (and carry forward) CSDF fund.

9.3. This project benefits from £10,000 match-funding from the Probation Service.

10. Legal implications

10.1 This funding will be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

11. Staffing implications

11.1. Monitoring of this project will be undertaken by the Probation Service and reported back at the Reducing Reoffending Board as well as the regular PFCC and Probation local forum meetings.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

12.1 The Probation Service will identify appropriate individuals for this pilot. It is not anticipated that this project will be inaccessible to any individuals other than those with disabilities that legally prevent them from driving.

13. Risks and Mitigations

13.1. No risks have been identified.

14. Governance Boards

14.1. This decision was discussed with the PFCC at a Corporate Management Team meeting on 24th July 2023.

15. Links to Future Plans

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

16. Background Papers and Appendices

16.1. 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

Date signed: 24 August 2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: