

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 136-23

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Brake (Road Safety) Grant 2023-24

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

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

Date of report: 8 August 2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the allocation of an annual grant of £7,055 to the road safety charity, Brake, for the provision of victim information packs and a contribution to the costs of their helpline and central caseworker team.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the allocation of an annual grant of £7,055 from the 2023-24 Community Safety Fund to Brake for the provision of support and information to those involved in serious injuries or road deaths in Essex.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. The road safety charity Brake provides dedicated caseworkers and victim information packs which are provided to those seriously injured and the families of those killed in road collisions.
- 3.2. The PFCC has provided funding to Brake in the past as a contribution to the Charity's work including provision of a national helpline, information packs for victims, campaigning and raising awareness to improve road safety, and

dedicated case workers to help those impacted by road crashes. Most recently, this was approved through decision report 85-22 in June 2022.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. The PFCC would allocate £7,055 to Brake as a contribution towards the charity's work to improve safety on the roads, provide information packs for victims and / or victims' families, and support those impacted by road crashes.
- 4.2. In Essex, Brake's National Road Victim Service (NRVS) information packs are distributed by Essex Police's Family Liaison Officers (FLOs), who then help families to refer into the NRVS. Families then receive a specialist, trauma-informed, case management service that deploys professional NRVS Caseworkers from day one of the crash, supported by a triage and clinical team. NRVS Caseworkers assess needs, develop support plans, provide care directly (including face to face) and open doors to other care needed (e.g. counselling, peer support, and / or mental health treatment). The NRVS delivers wellbeing outcomes, including improved mental health and support with getting back to work and education.
- 4.3. In Essex, between April 2021 and September 2022, 22 families, nearly all suffering bereavement, received NRVS Caseworker-led care, with all bereaved families receiving printed copies of the NRVS bereavement packs.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC has the option not to provide grant funding for Brake's work, but that would risk destabilising the charity, which relies on contributions from a range of national and local partners including P(F)CCs.
- 5.2. The PFCC receives positive endorsement of Brake's work, particularly the impact and quality of their information packs, from Essex Police.
- 5.3. Failing to provide funding would limit the support available to victims of road deaths and serious injuries in Essex. It may also compromise Brake's ability to lobby and raise awareness for safer roads nationally.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. Essex Police continues to endorse the value of Brake's work. Insp. Matt Crow (Roads Policing) provided support for this grant on 8th August 2023.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. Brake supports the PFCC to deliver on commitments within the Police and Crime Plan. Brake is also keen to explore how it can engage with and support the work of the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP).

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. Essex Police makes use of Brake's victim information packs, sharing them with victims and their families. They also refer into the case workers where appropriate.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The PFCC will allocate a one-off grant of £7,055 from the 2023-24 Community Safety Fund to the road safety charity Brake. Following this allocation, and the allocation from DR 137-23, the Community Safety Fund has £1,512 remaining (as at 16.10.23)

10. Legal implications

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

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1. There are no staffing implications arising from this decision report.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

- 12.1. The support provided by Brake is available to all victims (and / or their families) of road death or serious injury. Referrals into Brake are normally made via Essex Police's Family Liaison Officers (FLOs).
- 12.2. Brake makes its resources available in different languages and has multi-lingual case workers as well as access to Language Line for interpretation services, if required.

13. Risks and Mitigations

- 13.1. There are no risks associated with this funding.

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1. This grant proposal has not been reviewed by a governance board, but SERP has been approached to explore the opportunity for Brake to engage in the partnership.

15. Links to Future Plans

- 15.1. This work supports delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and SERP's strategic priorities around its Vision Zero strategy.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

- 16.1. n/a

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: 1 September 2023

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 8 November 2023

Signing delayed while author made amendments to the finance section to include the balance remaining in the CSDF once this funding is allocated

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

Date signed: 21/11/2023

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....
.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: