

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 201-23

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report:

Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) funding (2023/24)

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Samantha Grant (Violence and Vulnerability Unit Project Manager)

Chief Officer: Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)

Date of report: 19th December 2023

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. To seek approval to receive **£338,985** from the 2023-24 Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Fund to use to deliver the work programme for the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership for 2023-24, for activity from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the receipt of up to **£338,985** Home Office funding to the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership. This funding will be utilised to deliver the agreed priorities of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership for 2023-24.
- 2.2. That the PFCC signs the Serious Violence Duty Grant Agreement Variation attached as Annex 2.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. Essex has been allocated **£338,985** of Home Office SVD funding for 2023-24, as one of the 20 Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) across England and Wales.
- 3.2. Essex has agreed to utilise this as part of its 2023/24 V&V work programme (which has approval from local partners, members of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Round Table).
- 3.3. The V&V work programme is overseen by the V&V Operations Board on behalf of the V&V Round Table. The V&V Operations Board report progress against the work programme to the V&V Round Table.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. This funding enables local partners across Essex to have a positive impact on issues relating to violence and vulnerability, including drug driven violence, gangs, 'county lines' and exploitation.
- 4.2. This funding supports organisations to deliver on areas of work outlined in the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Framework (2018), the Violence and Vulnerability Business Case (2022) and within the Partnership's work programme for 2023-24, to reduce serious violence and safeguard those being exploited and at risk of exploitation through gangs and 'county lines'.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC has the option to reject this funding but that would limit the deliverables of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership (VVP) and could impact the ability of the VVP to attract future national government funding.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. This proposal has been informed by the Violence and Vulnerability Operations Group and delivers against the activity outlined in the Violence and Vulnerability Business Case approved by the Violence and Vulnerability Round Table in June 2022.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. This funding will enable local organisations to support delivery of the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan, including protecting children and vulnerable people from harm and reducing drug driven violence. It will also deliver against the Violence and Vulnerability Business Case. The funding will be utilised to ensure local partners are able to deliver against the requirements of the new Serious Violence Duty, coming into force in January 2024.

8. Police operational implications

8.1. There are no operational implications. Essex Police is well engaged with this programme at a strategic and operational level.

9. Financial implications

9.1. The PFCC will receive **£338,985** from the 2023-24 Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Fund. The PFCC will allocate these funds, according to the agreed 2023-24 V&V work programme. The allocation of this grant is part of the combined Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget (2023-24) and is detailed in further decision sheets.

9.2. The funding will be subject to the funding requirements set out by the Home Office, these will be reflected in the PFCC's funding agreements with partner organisations in the county which deliver elements of the work.

9.3. Funding is to be used by 31st March 2024. Any underspend must be returned to the Home Office.

9.4. The Violence and Vulnerability Partnership has an agreed programme of work totalling £2,781,000 for 2023/2024.

9.5. The combined Joint Violence and Vulnerability Budget (2023/24) is made up of the following amounts,

**Source of Income	£
Home Office Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funding	1,528,667
Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) funding	338,985
Essex County Council	150,000
PFCC contribution / grant	930,487
Total Forecast Income	**2,948,139

9.6. With agreement for £167,139 to be placed in a fund for future years.

2023/24 Violence and Vulnerability	Forecast
	£
Expenditure	*2,781,000
Income	** (2,948,139)
Net Position	(167,139)

* Forecast Expenditure based on overall 2023/24 V&V work plan, agreed by V&V partnership.

9.7. To date, from the combined Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget in 2023/24, there has been agreement or agreement is pending to transfer funding to local delivery partners, as set out below.

2023/24 Forecast Expenditure (Funding)	£2,781,000
Phase 1 of V&V funding (DR 048-23)	£240,233
Phase 2 of V&V funding (DR 062-23)	£616,880
Phase 3 of V&V funding (DR 116-23)	£287,100
ReRoute expansion (DR117-23)	£132,000
Phase 4 of V&V funding (140-23)	£632,123
Phase 5 of V&V funding (pending approval)	£185,100
Phase 6 of V&V funding (pending approval)	£335,508
Total allocated (pending phases 5 & 6 approval)	£2,428,944
2023/24 Forecast Expenditure (Funding) remaining at the end of quarter 3	£352,056

10. Legal implications

- 10.1. The award of the grant is subject to the Home Office grant agreement, with data monitoring arrangements outlined as a condition of the Home Office grant.
- 10.2. The Serious Violence Duty Grant Agreement was signed by the deputy PFCC in February 2023. This is attached as Annex 1.
- 10.3. The Serious Violence Duty Grant Agreement has been subject to variation, due to changes at the Home Office Serious Violence team and an amendment to reporting. This grant (variation) agreement is attached as Annex 2.
- 10.4. The grant (variation) agreement, for approval by the PFCC, does not include any substantial changes (from the grant agreement approved in February 2023). The changes are due to changes in the Home Office serious violence structure, with the Serious Violence Duty team now part of the serious violence reduction team and some minor changes to the monitoring requirements in terms of format and how the information is submitted. The changes to the monitoring requirements do not place any additional responsibilities on the PFCC as the accountable body for the fund.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1. Monitoring of projects funded from the SVD Fund, as for the whole of the V&V work programme, is supported by the VVU's dedicated Evaluation and Impact Officer, and with support by the VVU's Project Support Officer.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

- 12.1 No direct implications in accepting this grant allocation.

13. Risks and Mitigations

- 13.1. There is a risk that funding will not be utilised by the end March 2024 though this is mitigated by early planning, building on the learning to date and by

ensuring organisations are aware of the restrictions on funding and are able to deliver against these. The VVU also monitors other opportunities for funding and if there is any likely underspend can seek approval from the programme's established governance structures to redeploy funding elsewhere if required during the year.

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1. The overall approach to the Essex 2023/24 Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme has been signed off by the Round Table, as part of the V&V Business Case agreed on 13th June 2022. The work programme for 2023/24 (from the agreed business case) was provided to the Round Table at its meeting on 21st February 2023.
- 14.2. This funding supports the work of the partnership V&V programme, which is discussed at various partnership boards, including the Violence and Vulnerability Round Table, and V&V Operations Board as well as internal PFCC meetings. The approaches and activities within the Essex V&V work programme are developed by the multi-agency Operations Board and subject to Round Table approval.
- 14.3. The V&V Operations Board has responsibility for ensuring oversight of delivery of the 2023/24 V&V Work Programme. The V&V Operations Board provides appropriate reporting of progress to the V&V Round Table.

15. Links to Future Plans

- 15.1. This work supports delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the multi-year Violence and Vulnerability Business Case.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

- 16.1. Annex 1 – Serious Violence Duty Grant Agreement - This was signed by the deputy PFCC, Jane Gardner, in February 2022.

Annex 2 - Serious Violence Duty Grant Agreement variation

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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.

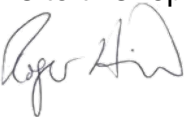
Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

Date signed: 19/01/2024

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....
.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: