

## PFCC Decision Report

**Please ensure all sections below are completed**

**Report reference number:** 158-23

**Classification** (e.g. Not protectively marked/restricted):

**Title of report:** Minerva Fund allocations 2023 (phase 1)

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Essex

**Report by:** Greg Myddelton

**Date of report:** 22.11.23

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### Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to allocate up to £101,044 from the PFCC's Minerva Fund to 10 CSPs across Essex.

### Recommendations

1. The PFCC will allocate up to £101,044 from the (£140k) Minerva Fund, to 10 CSPs, detailed in sec. 4.1, which will receive grants to deliver on activities in support of the Minerva project. Grants will also be made to Commonplace and Licensing SAVI projects.
2. The PFCC will withhold the remaining £38,956 in anticipation of receiving bids from the 4 CSPs that have not submitted bids, and/or for countywide projects that would support the Minerva project.
3. The PFCC agrees to the Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery signing the Commonplace extension agreement (sec. 16.1)

### Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. Minerva is a project that was commissioned by Essex Police using Home Office Science, Technology and Research (STAR) funding and developed by Nottingham Trent University to use open-source data, combined with Police and local authority data, to map vulnerable/hot spot locations, particularly for

crimes or incidents relating to violence against women and girls (VAWG). These maps were shared with CSPs to consider what may be driving vulnerability, and to develop plans for local activity aimed at improving public confidence and safety in these areas.

- 3.2. Applicants to the PFCC's Minerva Fund were recommended to apply for up to £10k per district to ensure funding was available to most areas across the county. More information about the fund, including its criteria, is available in DR170-22. A bid review panel was established featuring representatives from the PFCC, Nottingham Trent University, Essex Police, Emergency Service Collaboration team, and Essex County Council.

### Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. The PFCC will make the following funding allocations in phase 1 of the Minerva Fund;

District	Activity	Value
Basildon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction of a local Women's Safety Charter</li> <li>2. Comms campaign to raise awareness of VAWG</li> </ol>	£10,000
Braintree	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Active bystander sexual violence intervention training</li> <li>2. Promotion of CommonPlace reporting tool</li> <li>3. Safety Perception survey</li> <li>4. VAWG Public awareness campaign</li> </ol>	£10,000
Brentwood & Rochford	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased provision of CCTV</li> <li>2. Best Bar None accreditation project</li> </ol>	£12,208
Castle Point	No bid received	£0
Chelmsford	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CCTV</li> <li>2. Creation of 'safe spaces'</li> </ol>	£10,000
Colchester	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safe Space VAWG Reporting Centre</li> <li>2. Environmental design survey</li> </ol>	£10,000
Epping Forest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Self-defence classes</li> <li>2. VAWG Safe Spaces</li> </ol>	£10,000
Harlow	No individual bid received, but see Licensing Savi below	£0
Maldon	No bid received	£0
Southend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of a 'Safe Space Zone'</li> <li>2. Multi-Agency Outreach Team</li> <li>3. Comms campaign</li> </ol>	£10,000
Tendring	No individual bid received, but see Licensing Savi below	£0
Thurrock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CCTV and environmental improvements</li> <li>2. Self defence classes</li> <li>3. Bystander initiative training</li> <li>4. High Visibility patrols</li> </ol>	£9,286

Uttlesford	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crimestoppers Zone</li> <li>2. 'Stronger Together' production in schools</li> <li>3. Self Defence classes</li> <li>4. Personal safety alarms</li> </ol>	£6,300
Commonplace	6-month extension of existing license and agreement with Commonplace to gather views of residents	£4,000
Licensing Savi	Pilot the Licensing Savi initiative in Chelmsford, Tendring, Harlow and Braintree	£9,250
		<b>£101,044</b>

### Options Analysis

5.1. The PFCC could choose not to invest this funding, but that is likely to reduce or eliminate the ability of CSPs to take any meaningful action in these Minerva zones. The PFCC could decide to invest the funding directly into interventions, but it is felt that by working with CSPs we will access better local knowledge, and be able to learn from, and collaborate with, partners to drive activity that is locally relevant and enhances existing investments.

### Consultation and Engagement

6.1. This proposal was agreed by the Minerva evaluation panel on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> August. The PFCC's Senior Management Team received an update of this proposal, and expressed its support, at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

### Strategic Links

7.1. This Fund will support delivery against the priorities in the PFCCs Police & Crime Plan, and could also positively impact on the partnership Southend, Essex, & Thurrock DA Board and Sexual Abuse Strategic Partnership strategies.

### Police operational implications

8.1. Essex Police is an active partner in CSPs, and is also represented on the Minerva Oversight Group and Minerva evaluation panel.

### Financial implications

9.1. The PFCC will allocate up to £101,044 as detailed in sec 4.1 of this report. Following this allocation, the PFCC's Minerva Fund will have £38,956 remaining. This will be retained by the PFCC for phase 2 of this project where bids from the remaining 4 CSP areas will be invited.

### Legal implications

10.1. Funding will be subject to the PFCC's standard grant agreement.

### Staffing implications

11.1. The PFCC will likely use the Safer Streets Officer to support delivery of these projects, ensuring appropriate oversight of delivery. The PFCC's Strategic

Head of Partnerships and Delivery Chairs the Minerva Oversight Group and would retain an active role in supporting the successful delivery of these projects.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications**

12.1. This funding is specifically and deliberately targeting areas where women and girls are likely to feel more susceptible to harassment, violence or abuse. The evaluation of the projects will be undertaken with consideration of the likelihood of impact on the identified issue and cohort.

### **Risks and Mitigations**

13.1. There is a risk that activity does not impact on the issue. Given the nature of this fund there is a relatively high-risk appetite to try new, innovative and creative approaches to these issues which are less predictable and might not work as anticipated. Even where initiatives do not deliver intended results, it will inform our understanding of what works.

### **Governance Boards**

14.1. This proposal was discussed and supported at the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023.

### **Links to Future Plans**

15.1. This funding will support the PFCC to deliver against the Police and Crime plan as well as partnership DA & sexual abuse strategies.

### **Background Papers and Appendices**

16.1. Commonplace extension agreement



**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: ..... Darren Horsman - Deputy MO .....

Date: ..... 19.1.2024 .....

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: .....  .....

Print: ..... Janet Perry .....

Date: ..... 05 February 2024 .....

**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)

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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:

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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.

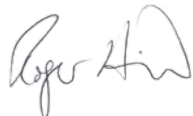
Sign: .....

Print: .....

**Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer**

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed: 05/02/2024**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

.....  
.....  
.....

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**