

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 016-24

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:**

Police Property Act Fund and Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) 2023-24

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

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

**Date of report:** 17 January 2024

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### Executive Summary

- 1.1. This decision report seeks approval for the allocation of Police Property Act (PPA) funding and the allocation of PFCC small grants to the projects outlined in section 4 below. It also proposes reopening the PFCC's Community Safety Development Fund and outlines the process of allocating that funding this financial year.

### Recommendations

That:

- 2.1 The PFCC endorses the decision to allocate ECF-managed £14,636 PPA funding to the groups outlined in section 4.2.
- 2.2 The PFCC approves the allocation of £24,600 of CSDF grant funding to the organisations outlined in section 4.3.
- 2.3 The PFCC approves the grant allocation of £17,000 to Essex Police as detailed in section 4.4.

2.4 The PFCC endorses the proposed process for allocating CSDF grant funds in 2023-24 set out in section 4.5.

### Background to the Proposal

3.1. The Essex Community Foundation (ECF) administers the Police Property Act (PPA) Fund on behalf of the PFCC. The Police Property Act Fund is an endowed fund which was established in 2012. The purpose of the fund is to support charitable ventures in Essex (including Southend and Thurrock). Grants may be distributed on an annual basis according to the stated purpose of the fund, which include:

- The prevention of crime,
- The diversion of people from crime,
- The rehabilitation of offenders,
- The support of victims of crime, and
- Any other initiatives that promote the work of policing services in Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea.

3.2. The PFCC's Community Safety Development Fund is a small grants fund that invests in community projects which deliver against the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. Allocations from the 2022-23 CSDF are documented in decision report 082-23.

### Proposal and Associated Benefits

4.1. The PPA Fund received 45 eligible applications in 2023-24, valued at around £227k. The fund has £14,636 available for allocation this year.

4.2. The PFCC is asked to endorse the following five projects to receive PPA funding in 2023-24:

Organisation	Brief Description	Value
Beacon House Ministries	Towards the core costs of an organisation supporting homeless people in Colchester	£3,426
Keep It 100 Youth CIC	To help maintain a safety referral website and help fund operating costs for delivery of anti-knife crime workshops for vulnerable young people in major towns across Essex	£3,210
Seabrooke Rise Community Association	To support detached youth work to address anti-social behaviour, reduce involvement with gangs and help with the personal safety of older residents in the Seabrooke Rise area of Grays, Thurrock	£2,000
Seaquins (Westcliff)	To help run a range of activities, including Jewish Cultural Awareness Training sessions for young people in the Orthodox Jewish Community in Westcliff, aimed at improving overall community cohesion and social integration	£2,000

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Value</b>
The Change Project	Towards the core costs of a charity operating across Essex, working with perpetrators and supporting survivors of domestic abuse	£4,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£14,636</b>

4.3. In addition to the grants above, ECF highlighted a number of applications from projects that are considered worthy of PFCC support. These projects are recommended for funding from the 2023-24 Community Safety Development Fund:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Grant Summary</b>	<b>Grant Value</b>
Cool to be Kind Ltd	Towards the website hosting and ongoing operating costs of an organisation supporting people who are at risk or already homeless in Chelmsford	£5,000
Evolving Community	To provide a series of workshops and deliver training to young people from Chadwell St Mary at risk of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour	£1,000
Kids Inspire	To support a therapeutic intervention service for children and young people across the county aimed at improving their ability to self-regulate behaviour following experience of trauma	£1,650
Methodist Church Southend and Leigh Circuit	To help educate vulnerable children and young people in the Southchurch area of Southend about the dangers of involvement in drugs and gangs	£2,300
Sanctus	Towards the core costs of an organisation supporting individuals who are homeless in Chelmsford	£1,500
Southend United Community and Educational Trust	To run an early intervention and education project for primary school children and their parents in Southend-on-Sea and Rochford on the dangers of becoming involved with drugs, gangs and knife crime	£5,000
The Ben Kinsella Trust	To deliver knife crime prevention workshops to secondary schools and youth groups in Colchester, Basildon and Southend Central	£1,400
Together Free Foundation	To help with the operating costs of a charity working to increase awareness about Modern Slavery across the Borough of Southend	£3,250
Voluntary Action Epping Forest	to continue running a safe, open access youth club for vulnerable young people, including asylum seekers, at Ongar Youth Centre	£3,500
<b>Total:</b>		<b>£24,600</b>

- 4.4. It is recommended that the PFCC also allocates £17,000 to the Essex Police Crime Prevention Garden project from the 2023-24 CSDF. This project has been supported in previous years (most recently via decision report 027-22). The project aims to inform and educate residents about the security of their homes and gardens, including outbuildings, in an engaging and interactive way. Secondary benefits include the promotion of various watch schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and Dog Watch. The PFCC has received positive press coverage<sup>1</sup> and feedback about this project in the past.
- 4.5. It is recommended that the PFCC re-opens the small grants Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) to allow further grant funding to be allocated this financial year. The grant round will open immediately and will welcome bids until the end of February 2024. A small evaluation panel will be convened to review the bids and make recommendations to the PFCC for funding to be allocated from 1<sup>st</sup> April. £261,573 will be available for allocation from the fund in 2023-24.

### **Options Analysis**

- 5.1. The Essex Community Foundation reviewed 51 applications to the PPA Fund, selecting the five projects set out in section 4.2 above as those that best meet the PPA Fund criteria. ECF also identified nine projects that were considered supportable, which it is proposed to fund from the 2023-24 Community Safety Development Fund.
- 5.2. In considering the re-opening of the CSDF, the PFCC is minded to utilise the 2023-24 funding this financial year, rather than allocating the funding elsewhere, or carrying the funding forward into 2024-25.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1. The PFCC's Senior Management Team discussed this proposal on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- 6.2. The Essex Community Foundation reviewed and recommended / supported the projects identified in 4.2 and 4.3 above.
- 6.3. As in previous years, the CSDF grant evaluation process will involve a panel of partner organisations to provide an independent perspective on the bids.

### **Strategic Links**

- 7.1. This funding will support a range of agencies that cover numerous priorities within the Police and Crime Plan, including reducing drug driven violence, protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse, investing in crime prevention, and reducing violence against women and girls.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk/news/20600386.rhs-hyde-hall-garden-show-secure-designs-essex-police/>

## **Police operational implications**

- 8.1. Essex Police relies on these voluntary arrangements, and benefits from the support provided by the organisations listed in section 4 above.

## **Financial implications**

- 9.1. The PFCC is asked to endorse the allocation of £14,636 Police Property Act funding (managed by ECF on behalf of the PFCC) outlined in section 4.1.
- 9.2. The PFCC is asked to approve the allocation of £24,600 to the nine projects identified by Essex Community Foundation listed in section 4.3. This allocation is to be made from the 2023-24 CSDF.
- 9.3. The PFCC is asked to approve the allocation of £17,000 to Essex Police for the delivery of the Crime Prevention Garden project in 2024. This allocation is also to be made from the 2023-24 CSDF.
- 9.4. The remaining 2023-24 CSDF balance of £261,573 will be made available via a bidding round to be conducted in January / February 2024 and allocated by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

## **Legal implications**

- 10.1 PFCC grant funding is subject to a standard grant agreement, which has recently been reviewed and updated.

## **Staffing implications**

- 11.1. No staffing implications have been identified.

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

- 12.1 The PFCC includes EDI considerations in the bid evaluation process. The allocation of 2023-24 CSDF grants in March 2024 will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **Risks and Mitigations**

- 13.1. There is a risk that, with a relatively short window of opportunity, there are insufficient applications to allocate all of the available funding in the final round of the CSDF 2023-24. This is unlikely to materialise as we have already had interest in the fund, and we will further mitigate this risk by utilising our communications / media colleagues to amplify the opportunity across various media and our partner networks.

## **Governance Boards**

- 14.1 This proposal was discussed at the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## **Links to Future Plans**

15.1 These grants demonstrate the PFCC's commitment to local community activity and support the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan, Crime Prevention Strategy, and partnership Domestic Abuse strategy.

## **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: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 22 January 2024

Chief Finance Officer

Sign 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 31 January 2024

**Publication**

Is the report for publication?

YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Of Appendix?	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NO	<input type="checkbox"/>

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.

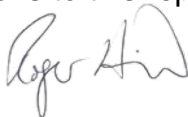
**Sign:** .....

**Print:** .....

**Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer**

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:

**Sign:** 

**Print:** Roger Hirst

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** 14/02/2024

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

**Sign:**

**Print:**

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**