

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 031-24

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Home Office funding (Violence Reduction Unit, and Serious Violence Duty) (2024/25)

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: 14th March 2024

Enquiries to: samantha.grant@essex.police.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. To seek approval to receive **£1,512,572** from the 2024-25 Home Office Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) fund and **£297,912.58** from the 2024-25 Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Fund, **totalling £1,810,485**. That these funds are to be used to deliver the work programme for the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership for 2024-25, for activity from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the receipt of up to £1,810,485 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 2024-25.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. Essex has been allocated £1,512,572 of Home Office VRU funding for 2024-25, and £297,912.58 of Home Office SVD funding for 2024-25, 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 2024-25 V&V work programme (which has approval from local partners, members of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability / V&V 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. These two groups are jointly referred to as the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership. 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 2024-25, 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 and could impact the ability of the Partnership to attract future national government funding.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. The VV work programme is informed by the Violence and Vulnerability Operations Board and delivers against the activity outlined in the Violence and Vulnerability Business Case approved by the Violence and Vulnerability Round Table in June 2022.
- 6.2. It is also supported by analysis within the Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment produced in January 2024.

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 also be utilised to ensure local partners are able to deliver against the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, which came 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 £1,512,572 from the 2024-25 Home Office Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) fund and £297,912.58 from the 2024-25 Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Fund. The PFCC will allocate these funds, according to the agreed 2024-25 V&V work programme.
- 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 2025. Any underspend must be returned to the Home Office.

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.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1. Monitoring of projects funded from these Home Office funds (VRU and SVD), 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.
- 12.2 Monitoring arrangements for interventions funded through these grants will include the requirement to report on the number of vulnerable children and young adults supported as well as steps taken to ensure offers of support are as accessible as possible.

13. Risks and Mitigations

- 13.1. There is a risk that funding will not be utilised by the end March 2025 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.

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1. 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.
- 14.2. The V&V Operations Board has responsibility for ensuring oversight of delivery of the 2024-25 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

Letter from Home Office to PCCs regarding Violence Reduction Unit funding 2024/25



20231214 - Home
Office Letter to PCC:

E-mail from Home Office to Essex Violence & Vulnerability Unit regarding Serious Violence Duty funding 2024/25



20240213 - Essex
Serious Violence Du

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:

19.3.2024

Chief Finance Officer

Sign:



Print

Janet Perry

Date:

22 March 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)

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

2. Of Appendix?

YES

NO

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: 22/03/2024

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: