

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 081-24

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Alpha Vesta Domestic Abuse Awareness Funding 2024-25

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

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

Date of report: 25 April 2024

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval from the PFCC to allocate a grant of £30,000 from the 2024-25 Victims' budget to Alpha Vesta as a contribution towards their work delivering domestic abuse (DA) awareness raising and training courses to businesses and community groups across Essex.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the PFCC approves the allocation of £30,000 to Alpha Vesta as a contribution to their costs in 2024-25.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1 The PFCC has contributed to Alpha Vesta over previous years. The PFCC previously supported funding to Alpha Vesta in 2022 via decision report 105-22.
- 3.2 It is proposed that, once this grant expires in March 2025, future funding for this activity will be incorporated into the new system-wide domestic abuse support contract (see decision report 189-23).

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1 Alpha Vesta provides training and awareness raising to businesses and statutory organisations to help them identify victims and survivors of domestic abuse earlier, and ensure they have access to advice and support within their workplace. The offer from Alpha Vesta ranges from basic awareness packages and policy development right through to full staff training, workplace mentor training and ongoing support. Alpha Vesta also delivers the Community J9 domestic abuse awareness sessions. In the first session of the new financial year, 94 individuals attended the J9 training session. 100% of attendees said that the session met all (78%) or most (22%) of their objectives and 84% of attendees rated the session 5/5.
- 4.2 Alpha Vesta can provide expert advice around appropriate policies and procedures to individual employers to ensure they are well-placed to identify victims and provide them with support / signposting as appropriate.
- 4.3 This funding would be used to retain a full-time member of staff along with funding training, equipment, resources and other associated costs. This would enable Alpha Vesta to continue to deliver its training programme, which would improve awareness of domestic abuse, upskill employers to recognise abuse, and empower victims to seek out advice and support.

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1 The PFCC could opt not to support this decision. This is not recommended as Alpha Vesta's work is central to the effective delivery of the PFCC's ambition to break the cycle of domestic abuse and the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) outcome to ensure that "Communities, professionals and employers are able to recognise domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity and have the confidence to take action".

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1 The PFCC worked with the SETDAB to support Alpha Vesta taking on the delivery of the J9 programme. Alpha Vesta attends the SETDAB Reference Group and is an active member of the domestic abuse partnership.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1 Award of this funding would assist the PFCC to fulfil their commitments within the Police and Crime Plan relating to breaking the cycle of domestic abuse, improving support for victims of crime, and protecting vulnerable people from harm. It would also support delivery of the SETDAB Partnership Strategy 2020-25.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1 There are no direct operational implications for Essex Police. Alpha Vesta will continue to engage and meet regularly with Essex Police's Business Crime

Team which refers employers directly to Alpha Vesta training, as well as working on joint initiatives.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 The PFCC will allocate £30,000 from the 2024-25 Victims' budget. This has been an annual contribution for the previous two years and is accounted for within the 2024-25 Victims' budget.
- 9.2 Following this allocation, there will be approximately £450k remaining in the Victims' budget, although this is assuming our core grant from the Ministry of Justice remains the same as in 2023/24, which has not yet been confirmed by the MoJ.

10. Legal implications

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

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1 The use of this funding to employ staff or sessional workers will be the responsibility of the host organisation. No liabilities, immediate or ongoing, will be placed on the PFCC as a result of this grant funding.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

- 12.1 Alpha Vesta works with a wide range of businesses and organisations to offer tailored support and training depending on the specific needs and circumstances of the recipient organisation. Whilst the core content of the training is consistent, the offer can be made more bespoke to suit the audience, organisation's size, industry, or demography of staff. Alpha Vesta's offer is available to any organisation and recognises that anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse.
- 12.2 Alpha Vesta continues to engage with and support the work of the Essex Chambers of Commerce in this area, to enable the CoC to signpost employers to Alpha Vesta training and consultancy services. The focus of this work is on SMEs.
- 12.3 The PFCC applies conditions to this funding which include requirements that:
- The recipient shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of any law, enactment, order, or regulation relating to discrimination (whether in race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age or otherwise) in employment or otherwise.
 - The recipient shall take all reasonable steps to secure the observance of conditions set out above by all servants, employees or agents of the recipient and all suppliers and sub-contractors engaged on the project.

13. Risks and Mitigations

13.1 No significant risks are associated with this funding.

14. Governance Boards

14.1 Alpha Vesta's work supports delivery of the SETDAB's target outcomes, which are discussed at the SETDAB Strategic Development Group and the SETDAB Board (chaired by the Deputy PFCC).

15. Links to Future Plans

15.1 This project supports delivery against the SETDAB partnership domestic abuse strategy and the Police and Crime Plan, as described in section 7 above.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

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: 26 April 2024



Chief Financial Officer

Sign:

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 6 June 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

PFCC

Date signed: 03/07/2024

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: