

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 137-24

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Phase 2 of the 2024/25 Essex Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

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Date of report: 16th July 2024

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the allocation of **£634,791** from the 2024/25 Essex Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget to the organisations detailed in section 4.2 below for delivery against the objectives set out in the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme 2024/25.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the total allocation of **£634,791** set out in section 4.2 below to support partner organisations to deliver against the priorities within the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme 2024/25.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. This funding supports delivery against the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme, supported by the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership. The funding will enable local partners across Essex to have a positive impact on reducing violence in our communities and tackling vulnerabilities that can contribute to risk in those same communities. There is a strong focus on criminal exploitation, county lines behaviour and street-based violence.
- 3.2. This funding comes from the joint Violence and Vulnerability budget, a pooled partnership budget including funds from the Home Office, Essex County Council and PFCC, which will deliver on the aims and ambitions of the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership Business Case agreed in June 2022.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. This funding supports organisations to deliver on the areas of work outlined in the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Framework (2018) and agreed by the Violence and Vulnerability leadership group, the Violence and Vulnerability Round Table, to reduce serious violence and safeguard those being exploited and at risk of exploitation through gangs, 'county lines' and from drug-driven violence.
- 4.2. The table below proposes that the PFCC provides the following allocations within 2024/25. This table also includes information on where these activities have been funded previously, from 2022/23 onwards (the year the current VV Business Case was approved). The VV Partnership do not have commitments for funding beyond the end of 2024/25, the exception to this is where there are staff members on permanent contracts, none of the proposals below fit within this category:

Organisation	Brief description	Value	Previous funding to the organisation for the provision (from 2022/23)
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS)	Primary prevention – the Joint Education team (JET), ECFRS and Essex Police, providing inputs to schools. This is highly focused on and is based on the latest research from the YEF around what works in education. There is a strength in the co-ordinated approach that sees a whole Essex approach and young participants receiving a consistent message. Learning has shown that this is the most effective approach to a public health model of early reduction of the risks and vulnerability to violence. To reach 18,400 children and young people in school settings.	£17,500	For this provision, ECFRS has previously received funding as set out below: 2023/24 Phase 4 VV, DR 140/23, £17,500 2022/23 Phase 5 VV, DR 017/23, £17,500

Organisation	Brief description	Value	Previous funding to the organisation for the provision (from 2022/23)
<p>The Red Balloon Foundation; Essex YMCA; Southend YMCA; North Avenue Youth Group; Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, Essex Youth Service (& supported by Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services)</p>	<p>Secondary prevention based on identified areas which are data informed within seven city / district / unitary areas. Second payment in 2024/25 for detached youth work delivery in identified areas, (within Basildon, Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Southend, Tendring, Thurrock). First payment of £89,000 approved in DR 045/24. This proposal approves payment of a further £60,000, the total for 2024/25 would be £149,000. Delivered through local organisations, detached outreach work designed to engage and protect young people within their own environments where they may be putting themselves at risk. The goal is to help steer them towards positive opportunities that can prevent risks and ensure everyone in their community is safe. This youth work takes place within identified localities with increased levels of risk from serious violence. (Decision report 045/24, phase 1 of VV Joint Budget 2024/25 approved the first payment of £89,000 within 2024/25 for this activity). This is the second and last proposed payment for this activity in 2024/25. Across the detached youth work the aim is to reach 3,500 young people.</p>	<p>£60,000</p>	<p>For this provision, these organisations have previously received funding as set out below:</p> <p>2024/25 Phase 1 VV, DR 045/24, £89,000</p> <p>2023/24 Phase 1 VV, DR 048-23, £178,500</p> <p>2022/23 Phase 1 VV, DR 030/22, £175,000</p>
<p>Osborne Academy, Thurrock</p>	<p>Secondary prevention based on identified individuals within primary school settings in Thurrock. Working with identified primary schools, the aim is to increase school engagement, reduce school exclusions and prevent escalating behaviour that could raise vulnerabilities for those at risk. Referrals are made via primary inclusion panel which has the responsibility for managing these children in these areas. Specialist intervention worker has been employed and managed through lead Academy (for this role) within Thurrock. A partnership between Thurrock Council (education</p>	<p>£29,000</p>	<p>For this provision, funding has previously been provided (through Thurrock Council) as set out below:</p> <p>2022/23 Phase 5 VV, DR 017/23, £22,000</p>

Organisation	Brief description	Value	Previous funding to the organisation for the provision (from 2022/23)
	and community safety); local schools and Violence and Vulnerability Partnership. We know that the risk of violence and particularly serious violence increases when a young person is not in school. This project aims to ensure that school placements remain stable. In addition to working with the young people, the project includes an element of training to upskill staff for sustainable results. To reach 35 children.		
Achieve, Thrive, Flourish (ATF) – Castle Point, Rochford and Southend	Secondary prevention based on identified areas within Castle Point, Rochford and Southend. Positive Futures - Intensive programme designed to provide an opportunity to build trust within a relaxed, non-judgemental environment. Uses sport as a ‘hook’ works, bringing young people together with positive influences to build self-efficacy and the opportunity to create their own future in safe spaces. Each session is designed around sport. To reach 200 young people.	£37,000	For this provision, ATF has previously received funding as set out below: 2023/24 Phase 6 VV, DR 196/23, £17,200, Phase 3 VV, DR 116/23, £15,100 2022/23 Phase 2 VV, DR 103/22, £25,000
Southend Council	Secondary prevention based on identified school settings within Southend (alternative education settings). Working with identified schools and cohorts of at-risk young people (in Southend) - to improve engagement in school, including with activities being co-designed by students through face-to-face exploratory ideas and feedback sessions. Work delivered includes mentoring and positive and structured activities and opportunities for pro-social involvement; and connections to ongoing positive pathways and exit routes into other clubs/activities as well as supporting young people to return to ‘mainstream’ education. To reach 75 young people.	£38,000	For this provision, Southend Council has previously received funding as set out below: 2023/24 Phase 2 VV, DR 062/23, £56,000 2022/23 Phase 2 VV, DR 103/22, £56,000
Southend YMCA	Secondary prevention based on identified individuals in Southend (alternative education provision).	£15,000	For this provision, Southend YMCA has previously

Organisation	Brief description	Value	Previous funding to the organisation for the provision (from 2022/23)
	Working with identified individuals, targeted work with young people on reduced timetables, to provide enhanced interventions. This will include targeted sporting-based activities such as combat sports and wilderness programmes. The role this plays is in bringing together young people with strong, positive adult mentors and to engage in reducing risks surrounding their school placements. The aim of this work is to help young people in alternative education back in to mainstream education settings. To reach 85 young people.		received funding as set out below: 2023/24 Phase 2 VV, DR 062/23, £15,000
Essex Youth Justice Service via Essex County Council (ECC)	Secondary prevention based on identified individuals in ECC area. Dedicated team around the family worker, with those at risk of school exclusion, and from this at risk of entering the criminal justice system. This is a joint programme with the Turnaround programme (which has a remit to work with 10 – 17-year-olds identified as at risk of offending, and who have had certain contacts with the police). The Turnaround Programme and the team delivering this are based in Essex Youth Justice Service. This role works with the VVU, Essex Youth Justice Service and Essex Children’s Social Care, with a particular focus on 10 – 13-year-olds. The work focuses on supporting families and allowing for early intervention and support to ensure that young people can stay safe and stay in education. To reach 95 young people.	£53,891	For this role, ECC has previously received funding as set out below: 2023/24 Phase 5 VV, DR 140/23, £40,000
CARE service (child at risk of exploitation) – The Children’s Society (TCS), covering ECC area	Provision for young people at risk or currently being exploited and who are not willing or able to engage with statutory services, up to the age of 24. Support offered can be a mix of community-based interventions, both one-to-one and targeted groups and virtual/online support. The aim is to support the young person to both understand and address	£69,000	For this provision, there is a related DR under consideration, which includes a proposal for match-funds from the PFCC Victims’ fund in 2024/25 (DR 111-2424) of £69,000 towards CARE.

Organisation	Brief description	Value	Previous funding to the organisation for the provision (from 2022/23)
	<p>the risks they are taking, focusing on their needs. To reach 80 young people. There is DR111-24 for £69,000 funding from PFCC Victims fund in 2024/25 and a proposal for this to the final year of grant funding for this intervention.</p>		<p>DR111-24 also sets out the proposal that 2024/25 is the last year of grant funding for CARE from PFCC and VV funds.</p> <p>Previously, the PFCC and VV have allocated funds to CARE as set out below:</p> <p>2022/23 DR 167/22, Victims Fund: £99,000 2022/23 & £69,000 2023/24 VV: £69,000 2022/23 & £69,000 2023/24</p>
<p>Essex County Council (Youth Justice Service and Youth Service)</p>	<p>Tertiary prevention based on identified individuals across Southend, Essex and Thurrock. Seconded staff to the PFCC team, as part of the delivery of the ReRoute programme, across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.</p> <p>Two ReRoute practitioners seconded from Essex Youth Service (one of these seconded from the start of 2024/25) and two targeted youth advisors seconded from Essex Youth Service (one of these seconded from the start of 2024/25). ReRoute works with young people and young adults at the point of arrest, reaching out to those 17–25-year-olds (with a home address in Southend, Essex and Thurrock) who are suspected of having committed one of these offences: possession of a bladed article; possession of class A with intent to supply; possession of class B with intent to supply; grievous bodily harm. ReRoute engages with young adults post-arrest and provides individualised support at this key teachable time.</p>	<p>£158,500</p>	<p>For these practitioner and youth work roles seconded to the ReRoute team within the VVU, ECC has previously received funding as set out below:</p> <p>2023/24 Phase 2 VV, DR062/23, £46,000 (ReRoute practitioner) & £43,000 (ReRoute youth advisor)</p>

Organisation	Brief description	Value	Previous funding to the organisation for the provision (from 2022/23)
Essex PFCC	Tertiary prevention based on identified individuals across Southend, Essex and Thurrock. Fixed-term staff employed as part of the PFCC team, as part of the delivery of the ReRoute programme, across Southend, Essex and Thurrock. Two ReRoute practitioners, (1.6 full time equivalent). These are two practitioners, employed on a fixed term contract. The individuals started in post in July 2024.	£68,400	This is the first amount of funding for these roles.
The Wilderness Foundation (TWF) (across Southend, Essex and Thurrock)	Second payment for Wilderness Foundation to deliver therapeutic workshops through outdoor adventures, nature therapy and intensive mentoring as part of a nine-month project, supporting vulnerable young people aged 15 to 21 years. (Decision report 045/24, phase 1 of VV Joint Budget 2024/25 approved the first payment of £20,000 for this activity within 2024/25). This is the second and last proposed payment for this activity. Across this project – to reach 48 young people (across the total of £25,000).	£5,000	<p>For this provision, TWF has previously received funding as set out below:</p> <p>2024/25 Phase 1 VV, DR 045/24 £20,000</p> <p>2023/24 Phase 5 VV, DR 187/23 £20,000</p> <p>2022/23 Phase 7 VV, DR 026/23 £10,000</p>
Essex Police (EP)	Knife bins: to contribute towards the cost of emptying of knife bins, located across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.	£15,000	<p>For this provision, managed by EP, previous funding has been provided as set out below:</p> <p>2023/24 DR Phase 8, DR 044/24 £10,000</p> <p>2023/24 Phase 2 VV, DR 062/23 £5,000</p> <p>2022/23 Phase 8 DR 059/23 £6,500</p> <p>2022/23 Phase 5 DR 017/23 £5,000</p>

Organisation	Brief description	Value	Previous funding to the organisation for the provision (from 2022/23)
			2022/23 DR 177/22 to approve an allocation of up to £20,000 from PFCC community safety fund and VV funds in 2022/23
QA Research	Evaluation consultancy to support the implementation of the VV evaluation framework, ensuring that evaluation is embedded within all of the work of the VVU and is placed at the centre of planning. This includes support for VVU evaluation and impact officer and training and development for all VVU staff.	£5,500	QA Research previously funded for work in 2023/24, (Phase 7, DR 206/23, £5,500 for design work on VV evaluation framework).
Provider to be identified (though tender process)	Independent evaluation on alternative education provision, and enhanced VV activities and the impact of these on the young people in these settings.	£40,000	Not previously funded
Provider to be identified (though tender process)	Design work for VV reports during 2024/25 (including refreshed serious violence strategic needs assessment; refreshed strategy document at the end of 2024/25; two themed learning reports on areas of the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership's work).	£8,000	Not previously funded
Provider to be identified (though tender process)	Creative content (including short clips / films, content for social media) as part of raising awareness of the work of the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership and increasing brand awareness of VVP. For this to also support wider work to increase resilience amongst communities through campaigns / behaviour change programmes (with higher uptake due to increased awareness of the VVP).	£15,000	Not previously funded
Total:		£634,791	

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC could opt not to allocate this funding, but that would reduce the likelihood of the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership delivering its work programme and of the PFCC delivering the Police and Crime Plan.

- 5.2. The PFCC could also allocate the funds in a different way, though this might not align with the agreed programme as set out in the approved Violence and Vulnerability Business Case, which was informed by the analysis and expertise of the partnership.

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.
- 6.2. The PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 2nd July 2024 discussed this decision report. There was a request that further information is included on where organisations have been funded previously, as well as noting whether the funding is part of any on-going commitments or contracts. The decision report has been amended to reflect these requirements.
- 6.3. The Violence and Vulnerability Round Table, at its meeting on 8th July 2024, agreed to refresh the VV business case during 2024/25. The proposal is that the annual plans for future years will then be developed based on this refresh.

7. Strategic Links

- 7.1. This funding will enable local statutory and not-for-profit 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.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. Essex Police is well engaged with the VV programme at both a strategic and operational level.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The PFCC will allocate one-off grants to the value of **£634,791** from the 2024/25 Essex Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget to the range of organisations outlined in section 4.2 above.
- 9.2. The joint Violence and Vulnerability forecast for both income and expenditure in 2024/25 is £2.78m. The amounts which make up the base budget and the forecast are shown in the following tables:

2024/25 Violence and Vulnerability	Forecast £
Expenditure	*2,781,000
Income	**(2,781,000)
Net Position	0

* Forecast expenditure based on the overall 2024/25 V&V work plan, agreed by the V&V partnership.

**Source of Income	£
Home Office Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funding	1,512,572
Home Office Serious Violence Duty (SVD) funding	297,913
PFCC contribution / grant	870,515
Essex County Council contribution	100,000
Total Forecast Income	2,781,000

The Violence and Vulnerability Partnership has an agreed programme of work totalling £2,781,000 for 2024/2025.

- 9.3. This is the second phase of allocation from this combined Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget in 2024/25 to transfer funding to local delivery partners.

2024/25 Forecast Expenditure (funding)	£2,781,000
Phase 1 of V&V funding 2024/25 DR 045-24	£225,700
Phase 2 of V&V funding 2024/25 DR 137-24 (pending approval)	£634,791
Total allocated (pending approval of DR 137-24 phase 2)	£860,491
2024/25 Forecast Expenditure (funding) remaining	£1,920,509

10. Legal implications

- 10.1 Use of this funding will be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1. Employment of staff or sessional workers will be the responsibility of the relevant delivery organisation. No liability for the continuation of roles will be placed on the PFCC or other funders because of this grant funding.
- 11.2. Monitoring of these projects will be supported by the VVU's dedicated Evaluation and Impact Officer, and support will be provided by the VVU's Project Support Officer.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

- 12.1. We recognise that the activities outlined in section 4.2 support, and are accessible to, people with all protected characteristics but are most likely to be targeted towards young people who are profiled as being most at risk of being impacted by issues relating to county lines and gangs.
- 12.2. Monitoring arrangements for these funds 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.
- 12.3. Many of the organisations listed in the table in 4.2 are subject to the public sector equality duty and will be required to consider the impact of the delivery of their activities on those with protected characteristics.

13. Risks and Mitigations

- 13.1. All services identified in section 4.2 have demonstrated the need and the requirement for this funding. As this is short-term funding, there is a risk that it is not utilised promptly, meaning funding would have to be returned to contributors and opportunities to make progress against the Police and Crime Plan and the Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme may be missed. This is mitigated by timely decision making, utilising formal funding agreements, effective monitoring, and by ensuring organisations are aware of the restrictions on funding and can deliver against the requirements.

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1. This funding covers a range of agencies and is discussed at various partnership boards, including the Violence and Vulnerability (V&V) Round Table and the V&V Operations Board as well as internal PFCC meetings.
- 14.2. The overall approach to the Essex 2024/25 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.
- 14.3. The V&V Operations Board has responsibility for ensuring oversight of delivery of the 2024/25 V&V Work Programme and recommends the projects and areas of activity within this decision report. This featured on the agenda of 12th March 2024. The V&V Operations Board provides appropriate reporting of progress to the V&V Round Table.
- 14.4. The PFCC received an update on this proposal and the wider V&V programme at its Senior Management Team meeting on 2nd July 2024

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

None

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.

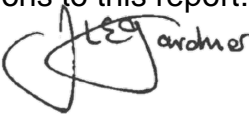
Sign:

Print:

Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Jane Gardner Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 08/08/2024

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: