

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 072-24

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:**

Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) Funding 2024-5

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

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

**Date of report:** 7 May 2024

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval from the PFCC to allocate grants totalling £157,200 from the 2024-25 Victims' budget and Community Safety Fund (CSF) to the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse (SETDA) partnership as a contribution to the costs of running the SETDA Board which includes staffing, training, delivery of an annual conference, central Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) function, and SETDA Board secretariat functions. This is an annual allocation from the PFCC to the partnership.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the PFCC approves the allocation of £157,200 to SETDAB as a contribution to the costs of the SETDA partnership in 2024-25.

### 3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1 This funding is an annual commitment from the PFCC to the SETDA partnership. In addition to this PFCC contribution, the SETDA partnership receives a funding contribution from Essex County Council and an in-kind contribution from Essex Police.
- 3.2 The PFCC has contributed to this partnership over previous years. The work of the SETDAB team supports the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic

Abuse Strategic Development Group and SETDA Board, both of which are chaired by representatives of the PFCC. The decision report approving last year's funding for the partnership was DR81-23.

- 3.3 It is proposed that the PFCC increases the allocation to the Central Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Fund by £30,000 in 2024-25. This is due to an increase in the volume, complexity, and length of reviews. The funding will also support the costs of the DHR Co-ordinator role which sits within the SETDAB team. This proposal supplements decision report 41-24 which allocated £50,167 from the 2024-25 Community Safety Fund to the Central DHR Fund (which was £10,000 less than the annual contribution that was being made pre-2020).

#### **4. Proposal and Associated Benefits**

- 4.1 This partnership funding is used to employ staff including the Head of DA Partnerships and a team of project staff that undertake activity to support the delivery of the SETDA Strategy and run the various partnership meetings including the DA Board and SETDA Strategic Development Group.
- 4.2 The funding also contributes to the delivery of an annual DA partnership conference which traditionally engages hundreds of partners and practitioners and disseminates good practice and developments from the SETDA partnership.
- 4.3 The costs associated with DHRs have increased significantly, from £38,799 in 2020-21, to £55,937 in 2021-22, £114,474 in 2022-23 and a projected £145,421 in 2024-25. Increasing the PFCC investment and drawing down on previous year underspends will allow the team to absorb this increasing cost.

#### **5. Options Analysis**

- 5.1 The PFCC could opt not to support this decision. This is not recommended as the SETDAB partnership is central to the effective delivery of the PFCC's ambition to break the cycle of domestic abuse. The partnership provides focus and consistency of approach in Essex's multi-agency efforts to tackle domestic abuse.

#### **6. Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.1 The PFCC is well engaged in the SETDA partnership. Funding for the partnership is requested annually from contributing agencies. The PFCC presented on the work of the SETDA partnership to numerous groups in 2023-24 including Safer Essex, Essex Health & Wellbeing Board, Essex Criminal Justice Board, Essex Rural Crime Forum, the Essex Strategic Coordination Group, a Police, Fire and Crime Panel workshop, and the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. This funding proposal was discussed at the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

## **7. Strategic Links**

- 7.1 This funding allows the PFCC to fulfil the 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 also supports delivery of the SETDAB Partnership Strategy 2020-25.

## **8. Police operational implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct operational implications for Essex Police.

## **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1 The PFCC will allocate £127,200 from the 2024-25 Victims' budget. This is an annual contribution and has been factored into the Victims' budget. Following this allocation there will be £484k remaining in the 2024-25 Fund.
- 9.2 The PFCC would also make an allocation of £30,000 from the Community Safety Fund to uplift the centralised DHR Fund. This will leave £22k in the 2024-25 CSF.
- 9.3 SETDAB also receives funding and in-kind contributions from other partners, including Essex County Council and Essex Police.

## **10. Legal implications**

- 10.1 This funding is 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 funding.

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

- 12.1 SETDAB recognises the importance of access and support for all victims and includes this in its partnership strategy and approach to tackling DA. Examples of SETDAB's commitment and focus on this area include the recent commissioning discovery exercise which is being used to inform future commissioning activity. This process identified areas for DA commissioners to improve their focus, including improving access and services for all victims.
- 12.2 SETDAB also promotes inclusive communications campaigns which highlight DA in older victims, LGBT relationships, and victims and perpetrators of different genders. SETDAB also highlighted honour-based abuse and different cultural issues affecting domestic abuse at its partnership conferences in 2022 and 2023.

12.3 In December 2023, SETDAB presented to the Essex Rural Crime Forum on its refreshed partnership framework for victims in rural communities, recognising that DA can impact differently on people depending on their characteristics and circumstances.

### **13. Risks and Mitigations**

13.1 No significant risks are associated with this funding.

### **14. Governance Boards**

14.1 The work of the SETDA partnership supports the SETDA Board and subgroups. The DPFCC chairs the SETDA Board.

14.2 The PFCC discussed funding to the SETDA partnership at their Senior Management Team meetings on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

### **15. Links to Future Plans**

15.1 This project supports delivery against the SETDAB partnership domestic abuse strategy and the Police and Crime Plan.

### **16. Background Papers and Appendices**

16.1 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: 16 May 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   
NO

2. Of Appendix? YES   
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.

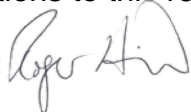
Sign: .....

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:

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

Sign:

Print:

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:**