

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 086-24
Classification: Not protectively marked
Title of report: Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) 2024/25 Process and Initial Allocations
Area of county/ stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)
Date of report: 7 th May 2024
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this decision report is to approve the process for opening the Community Safety Development Fund, evaluating applications, and allocating grants in 2024/25.
- 1.2. It is also to approve some initial allocations from the 2024/25 Fund.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the PFCC approves the proposed process for the operation of the 2024/25 Community Safety Development Fund, as set out in this decision report.
- 2.2. That the PFCC approves the allocation of the grants outlined in section 4.4 below.

3. Background to the proposal

- 3.1. The PFCC's Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) is an annual small grants programme which seeks to support community and voluntary organisations with funding of up to £20,000 for activities that contribute positively to the delivery of the objectives within the Police and Crime Plan.
- 3.2. The process for launching and allocating the 2023/24 CSDF was approved via decision reports 016-24 and 043-24.

- 3.3. For 2023/24, the PFCC provided CSDF funding to 18 groups, with grants totalling £261,573, allocated at the beginning of 2024/25. For the 2024/25 CSDF, the PFCC will allocate a further £300,000, to support local grant-making.

4. Proposal and Associated Benefits

- 4.1. The PFCC will re-open the Community Safety Development Fund on 1st June 2024, with the first round of bids closing on 1st September 2024. The second round of funding will open around 1st December 2024 and close to new bids on 1st February 2025. It is hoped that the second round of bids will be able to focus on the priorities of the new Police and Crime Plan, subject to it being agreed and signed off by that date.
- 4.2. The PFCC will allocate £300,000 to the Community Safety Development Fund in 2024/25, plus £36,000 from the CSDF reserve. Grants will be open to bids from local voluntary and community groups in line with the criteria set out in section 16.1 of this report.
- 4.3. The PFCC will continue to use a panel of independent stakeholders to support the evaluation of bids.
- 4.4. It is proposed that the PFCC will utilise £36,000 of the £48,143 balance remaining in the CSDF reserve to the following groups:

Organisation	Project Brief	Value (£)
Multi-Agency Against Fraud initiative	MAAF is a collaboration between police, victim support organisations, and trading standards to raise awareness of fraud, support victims, and investigate perpetrators	£6,000
Chelmsford Anti-Slavery Partnership	Local multi-agency partnership in Chelmsford raising awareness of modern-day slavery and human trafficking, supporting joint operations, and improving the coordination of local resources to tackle these issues.	£10,000
Colchester Anti-Slavery Partnership	As above. Anti-slavery partnership based in Colchester.	£10,000
Southend Against Modern Day Slavery	As above. Anti-slavery partnership based in Southend.	£10,000
Total		£36,000

5. Options Analysis

- 5.1. The PFCC could opt to pause allocation of the CSDF until the publication of the new Police and Crime Plan. This would delay the allocation of much needed funding to community groups and is mitigated by the plan to utilise the second round of CSDF funding to focus on the priorities in the new Plan.
- 5.2. The PFCC could opt not to allocate some of the CSDF reserve to the four groups identified in section 4.4. Those projects are recognised as supportable, and worthy of funding. Officers are recommending each of the anti-slavery

partnerships receive £10,000 funding against the requested £20,000 per partnership that was applied for. This is to maintain sufficient capacity within the CSDF to support other initiatives.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. The proposal to fund the Anti-Slavery Partnerships via this route was discussed during the evaluation phase of the PFCC's 2023/24 CSDF bids. It was recommended that these projects be considered outside the evaluation process for that grant round given the scale of funding requested against the overall value of the CSDF.
- 6.2. The PFCC's Senior Management Team considered this paper at its meeting on 7th May 2024.

7. Strategic Plans

- 7.1. This funding will enable the PFCC and partner organisations to deliver on the Police and Crime Plan priorities to protect vulnerable people and break the cycle of domestic abuse, reduce violence against women and girls, support victims of crime and further invest in crime prevention.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. There is no operational impact of this proposal on Essex Police.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The PFCC will allocate one-off grants equal to £36,000 from the CSDF reserve which relates to previous years' underspends, to the groups referenced in section 4.4 of this report.
- 9.2. At the end of 2023/24 there were reserves of £309,716 relating to the CSDF. An allocation of £261,573 was made from this reserve at the start of 2024/25. A further £36,000 is being proposed to be allocated from the CSDF reserve to the MAAF and anti-slavery partnerships through this Decision Report, which will leave £12,143 in the CSDF reserve.
- 9.3. The budget there will therefore be a small unallocated amount of £12,143 remaining in the CSDF reserve. This is explained in the table below.

	£	Notes
CSDF reserve from previous years' carry forwards	309,716	
CSDF projects approved from carry forward	(261,573)	DR 43-24
2024/25 allocation to ASP and MAAF	(36,000)	See section 4.4 above
Balance in CSDF reserve	12,143	
2024/25 CSDF budget	300,000	
Allocation of 2024/25 CSDF budget	(300,000)	
Balance in CSDF Reserve	12,143	

- 9.4. The PFCC will loosely and indicatively allocate around 50% of the 2024/25 CSDF to each of the two rounds.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1. This funding is subject to the terms of the PFCC's standard grant agreement.
- 10.2. The PFCC undertakes due diligence on each grant recipient prior to allocating funding. This includes a financial, governance, and safeguarding review.

11. Staffing implications

- 11.1. The operation of the CSDF is a resource-intensive exercise which requires input from the PFCC's finance, communications and commissioning functions. Dedication of resources will be required from each area for the CSDF process to be undertaken successfully. The overall process will be managed by the PFCC's Commissioning Lead.

12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications

- 12.1. The PFCC undertakes an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) as part of the allocation process for CSDF grants. The previous EqIA can be found accompanying decision report 043-24. A similar exercise will be undertaken before 2024/25 grants are allocated.

13. Risks and Mitigations

- 13.1. There is a risk that the CSDF is over-subscribed. The PFCC's evaluation process will prioritise projects according to the published criteria of the fund.
- 13.2. There is a risk that the Police and Crime Plan will not be completed in time for round 2 of the CSDF. In this event, a decision on the appropriate course of action will be taken nearer to the time. Options include delaying the second round of the CSDF or running the round using the priorities set out in the 2021-24 plan.

14. Governance Boards

- 14.1. This proposal was discussed and agreed in principle at the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 7th May 2024.

15. Links to Future Plans

- 15.1. This funding will support the PFCC to deliver against the priorities in the 2021-24 Police and Crime Plan as well as the new 2024-28 Plan.

16. Background Papers and Appendices

- 16.1. 2024/25 CSDF criteria
[20240503 DRTBC-24 CSDF 2024-5 process and allocations.docx](#)

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.



Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign:

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 17 May 2024

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:



Print: Janet Perry

Date: 14 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:

Treasurer / 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:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 25/06/2024

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....
.....

Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: