

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 144-24

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Phase 4 of the 2024/25 Essex Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget - Team around the Family posts

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: 26th July 2024

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the allocation of **£107,783** from the 2024/25 Essex Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget to Essex County Council to host the posts detailed in section 4.2 below, which will deliver 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 **£107,783** set out in section 4.2 below to Essex County Council to host two Team Around the Family workers in 2024-5.

3. Background to the Proposal

- 3.1. This funding enables the hosting of two 'Team Around the Family' workers which will deliver against the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Work Programme, supported by the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership (VV).
- 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. The proposal is to fund Essex County Council (ECC) to host two 'Team Around the Family' support officers (TAFSOs). These roles will focus on building the capacity of early help skills, knowledge and confidence within the wider workforce that supports a holistic, whole-family approach.
- 4.2. The two proposed roles will support the professional network around a child and their family who have been identified as at risk. They work to ensure that a co-ordinated plan is put in place by those that know the child and family best to help prevent their needs escalating.
- 4.3. In these cases, the vulnerabilities identified, for example special educational needs or lower school engagement, can make the risk of exploitation higher. Part of the role of these officers is to attend the Pupil Referral Unit Professional Panel meetings (PRU PPMs) held in each quadrant of ECC. Children and young people at risk of school exclusion are presented to this panel by the school they are on-roll at. The panel then supports the school with a plan for the child, including how to keep the child connected with education.
- 4.4. The Violence & Vulnerability Partnership has funded two of these roles since August 2021. Initially these were place-based early help projects in central Clacton & East Basildon which then moved to Laindon (in Basildon) and Greenstead (in Colchester), based on the evidence of need. For 2022/23 the focus moved from a geographical/place-based focus to a thematic focus, to share the learning of the approach across the County Council area.
- 4.5. During the period 2023/24, 171 young people were supported in Essex as a result of the VV funding for the two Early Help posts, which effectively built on Early Help skills, knowledge and confidence within the wider workforce.
- 4.6. The plan for 2024/25 is for the same number of young people to be supported. It is also anticipated that these roles will help schools and local support services have a better understanding of risks in the community and how to address and seek support. They should also help identify and capture gaps in local provision.

- 4.7. At the current time there are seven of these TAFSO roles in ECC. The proposal within 2024/25 is that two of these are supported through VV funding, as part of the Partnership’s approach to developing early help for children and families, preventing escalating need for services and improving outcomes for young people (especially in relation to school engagement). The remaining 5 will be ECC-funded.
- 4.8. The table below proposes that the PFCC provides the following allocations within 2024/25. This table also includes information on previous funding of these posts from VV. 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.

Organisation	Brief description	Value	Previous funding for these roles (from 2022/23)
Essex County Council	‘Team Around the Family’ Support Officers (x 2)	£107,783	2023/24, Phase 2 VV, DR 062/23, £75,000 & Phase 4 VV, £40,000 (Total for 2023/24 £115,000) 2022/23, Phase 2 VV, DR 103/22, £37,980 & Phase 5 VV, DR 017/23, £54,420 (Total for 2022/23 £92,400) 2021/22, Phase 2 VV, DR 078/21, £46,200 & Phase 5, DR 147/21, £46,200 (Total for 2021/22 £92,400)
		£107,783	

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.

7. Strategic Links

7.1. This funding will enable Essex County Council 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 a one-off grant to the value of **£107,783** from the 2024/25 Essex Violence and Vulnerability Joint Budget to Essex County Council as outlined in section 4.5 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 fourth 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 45-24	£225,700
Phase 2 of V&V funding 2024/25 – DR 137-24 (pending approval)	£634,791
Phase 3 of V&V funding 2024/25 – DR 143-24 (pending approval)	£345,021
Phase 4 of V&V funding 2024/25 – DR 144-24 (pending approval)	£107,783
Total allocated (pending approval of phases 2, 3 and 4)	£1,313,295
2024/25 Forecast Expenditure (funding) remaining	£1,467,705

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 delivery organisation. No liability for the continuation of roles will be placed on the PFCC 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, 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. Essex County Council is also 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. Essex County Council 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 is discussed at various partnership boards, including the Violence and Vulnerability Round Table and the Violence and Vulnerability Operations Board as well as internal PFCC meetings, most recently the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 2nd July 2024.
- 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 Violence and Vulnerability Business Case agreed on 13th June 2022.
- 14.3. The Violence and Vulnerability Operations Board has responsibility for ensuring oversight of delivery of the 2024/25 V&V Work Programme and recommends the project 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.

15. Links to Future Plans

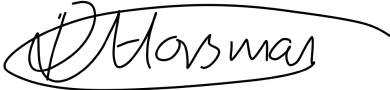
- 15.1. This work supports delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the multi-year Violence and Vulnerability Business Case.


16. Background Papers and Appendices

None

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: 6/8/2024

Chief Financial Officer Sign: 
Print Janet Perry
Date: 05 August 2024

Publication

Is the report for publication? YES X
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 X
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: 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: