

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 152-24

**Classification:** Not protectively marked

**Title of report:** Suicide prevention Coordinator 2024-25

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Mid-Essex

**Report by:** Greg Myddelton

**Date of report:** 5 August 2024

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### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. To approve the allocation of £15,918 to Maldon Community Voluntary Service (CVS) towards the costs of employing a part-time Suicide Prevention Group Coordinator.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £15,918 from the PFCC's 2024-5 Community Safety Development Fund to Maldon CVS for the Suicide Prevention Coordinator post and to expand the work of the group beyond Maldon to cover the Mid-Essex area.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. The Maldon District Suicide prevention group has been working over the past two years to bring together organisations that provide support to people at risk of suicidal thoughts. This work has particularly gained pace over the past twelve months following funding for a part time Coordinator and for activities that support the work such as training, social events and promotions. That funding expired in summer 2024 meaning the group is seeking ongoing investment to continue the local support and to begin to share learning across a wider geographic area. Maldon CVS, on behalf of the partnership is looking to continue the employment of the part-time Coordinator and seeking to evolve the Maldon District group into a Mid Essex group looking to create engagement opportunities across the wider area.
- 3.2. The coordinator has particularly focused on rural and farming communities, which would continue to be the main area of focus; expanding to rural Braintree and Chelmsford. The group has also recently begun some work with the

Traveller community in Boreham that would be continued and expanded through this work.

- 3.3. The coordinator would build social connections, increase awareness, remove stigma, and boost confidence and local networks. Another key element of the approach is creating strong links between the organisations that provide support for people in mental health crisis. The group undertakes regular networking events and steering group meetings to develop the relationships and create a 'no wrong door' approach to accessing support, with simple processes to gain information and support.

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

- 4.1. The aims of the coordinator are to reduce the risk of suicide in rural communities through increased resilience and community connections and to reduce the risk of suicide in the farming community through building peer support relationships. This will be achieved by delivering quarterly farming social events to bring together communities and provide information on relevant topics including but not limited to self-care and mental health, rural crime and environmental considerations. There would also be regular training opportunities around resilience, relaxation, mental health first aid and suicide prevention to be held throughout the year.

#### **5. Options analysis**

- 5.1. The PFCC could opt not to allocate this funding, but that would have implications on the ability of the partnership to retain the coordinator and reduce the availability of this resource in the rural community. The PFCC has encouraged the group to explore match-funding opportunities to limit the exposure of the PFCC as sole funder for this work.
- 5.2. The PFCC could put this bid through the 2024-5 Community Safety Development Fund, but this would risk losing the current post-holder whose contract is due to expire before the current CSDF round closes (Sep '24) and funding is allocated (Nov '24).

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

- 6.1. This was considered at the Commissioner's SMT meeting on 5 August 2024 where the proposal was supported.

#### **7. Strategic Plans**

- 7.1. This funding aligns to the priorities in the Police & Crime Plan to protect rural and isolated areas and protect vulnerable people.

#### **8. Police operational implications**

- 8.1. No direct implications

#### **9. Financial implications**

- 9.1. The PFCC will approve a one-off allocation of £15,918 from the 2024-25 PFCC Community Safety Development Fund to Maldon CVS.
- 9.2. The table at figure 1 shows the available funds in the CSDF reserve and budget for 2024/25 and the balance available following the approval of this decision report.

**Figure 1**

	£	Decision Report
CSDF reserve from previous years' carry forwards	309,716	
CSDF projects approved from carry forward	(261,573)	DR 043-24
ASP and MAAF approved from carry forward	(36,000)	DR 086-24
<b>Balance of CSDF carry forward reserve after DR 086-24 approved</b>	<b>12,143</b>	
2024/25 CSDF budget	300,000	
Previous allocation of 2024/25 CSDF budget	(6,000)	
Allocation of 2024/25 CSDF budget from DR 142-24	(4,500)	DR 142-24
Maldon CVS suicide prevention	(15,918)	DR 152-24
<b>Balance of 2024/25 CSDF budget and CSDF carry forward reserve after approval of DR 152-24</b>	<b>285,725</b>	

**10. Legal implications**

- 10.1. This funding will be allocated to Maldon CVS which hosts the co-ordinator role. The monies will be subject to the PFCC's usual grant agreement process.

**11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1. Maldon CVS employs, and therefore carries the responsibility and associated liabilities, of the employee. No liabilities placed on the PFCC as a result of this funding.

**12. Equality and Diversity implications**

- 12.1. This project has a limited geographic range and is focusing on a particular cohort in recognition of the increased risk faced by that group. The learning will be applicable to a wider cohort, and no-one will be turned away from support based on their characteristics.

**13. Risks and Mitigations**

- 13.1. No risks anticipated.

**14. Governance Boards**

- 14.1. The work of the Coordinator is reported via Maldon CVS, and the Coordinator will be invited to the Countywide Suicide Prevention Group chaired by the Deputy Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. This will provide support for the Coordinator and allow their work to be shared across a wider network.

**15. Links to Future Plans**

- 15.1. The work of the Coordinator supports the delivery of the PFCC's Police & Crime Plan


**16. Background documents**

None

**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: Darren Horsman - Deputy MO.....

Date: 6.9.2024.....

Chief Financial Officer

Sign: .....

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 30 August 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:

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:** 11/09/2024 .....

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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

**Sign:** .....

**Print:** .....

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed:** .....