PFCC
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) 2026-27

Funding Criteria and Guidelines

Purpose

The Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) supports local communities, voluntary organisations and community safety groups to prevent and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and other community safety issues across Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

Who can apply?

Applicants must propose projects with a clear community safety purpose benefiting Essex, Southend or Thurrock. Eligible applicants include voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, charities, constituted community groups, community interest companies, schools, parish and town councils and businesses. Partnerships must have a lead applicant responsible for the funding. Individuals are not normally funded directly unless applying through a suitable business or accountable structure.

Businesses and private organisations must demonstrate additional community safety benefits, rather than mainly supporting normal commercial activity or private gain.

You must have a suitable bank or business account, be able to manage public funding and provide information for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) due diligence checks before an award is confirmed.

We particularly welcome applicants based in Essex, Southend or Thurrock with strong local knowledge and partnerships. Regional and national organisations must demonstrate local delivery arrangements and added value.

Fund criteria

Explain the local community safety issue and how your project will prevent, reduce or respond to it.

Projects must support at least one CSDF priority theme and one Police and Crime Plan 2024-28 priority. Emerging local issues may qualify if they meet these requirements and demonstrate clear need, intended impact and direct community benefit.

CSDF funding is time-limited: explain how your project or its benefits will continue after the grant ends. Previous recipients may reapply subject to the current criteria and Funding exclusions. Further funding is not guaranteed. Show what earlier funding achieved and how another award would develop the project or add value. Previous CSDF funding does not make activity eligible where it is now covered by the PFCC's core commissioning arrangements.

Applications are considered individually. If unsure about suitability, contact Claire Hanrahan at pfcc.funding@essex.police.uk before applying.

Funding exclusions

The table below sets out the types of activity the fund is unable to support.

Activity we are unable to fund
Activity covered by the PFCC's core commissioning arrangements CSDF cannot fund the continuation, replacement, extension or top-up of service delivery covered by the PFCC's core commissioning arrangements. This includes additional delivery for a particular geographical area or group already within the scope of the commissioned service. Giving the activity a separate project name, identifying

local demand or targeting a narrower group does not, by itself, make it a distinct project. This exclusion applies even if the activity was previously CSDF-funded. Organisations receiving PFCC commissioning funding may apply for genuinely distinct community-safety activity outside the scope of their commissioned service. Applicants must explain how the proposed activity differs from that service and provide a separate breakdown of the activity and costs. All other CSDF criteria and exclusions apply. Proposals must address a gap in provision supported by evidence and neither duplicate existing provision nor replace statutory funding.
Activity that should be delivered or funded through existing statutory responsibilities or mainstream service budgets.
The purchase or installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs).
Standalone research, analytical, mapping or scoping projects that do not include direct delivery.

Priority themes 2026-27

The table below sets out the CSDF priority themes. All proposals remain subject to the Funding exclusions.

Priority theme	Description	Example interventions
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Projects that prevent, reduce or respond to ASB and associated community harm, particularly in identified hotspot locations or areas experiencing persistent issues.	Detached youth outreach Community safety patrols Diversionary activities
Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in public spaces	Preventative initiatives that improve the safety of women and girls within public places, reduce the risk of harassment or violence, and increase confidence to access public spaces safely.	Personal safety campaigns Bystander training Street Safe initiatives
Rural Crime	Projects that address crime affecting rural communities, including theft of equipment and machinery, wildlife crime, agricultural crime and other issues impacting rural residents, businesses and landowners.	Farm Watch schemes Property marking Rural CCTV
Youth Crime Prevention	Early intervention and diversionary activity designed to reduce the risk of children and young people becoming involved in crime, ASB or exploitation.	Detached youth outreach Mentoring programmes Diversionary activities
Community Crime Prevention and Target Hardening	Initiatives that reduce opportunities for crime by improving the security of people and places through practical crime prevention measures and awareness activity.	CCTV and security lighting Target hardening Property marking
Neighbourhood Crime, Road Safety and Community Confidence	Projects that address local crime, disorder, road safety and community safety concerns affecting residents' quality of life, perceptions of safety and confidence within their neighbourhoods.	Community Speed Watch Community wardens Community action days

Note: The example interventions are included as a guide only. This is not a full list of eligible activity.

Police and Crime Plan 2024-28 alignment

Identify which of the Police and Crime Plan 2024–28 priorities listed below your project will support.

Police and Crime Plan priorities
• More local, visible, and accessible policing • Drive down anti-social behaviour and crime • Beat knife crime and drug gangs and protect young people • Tackle violence against women and girls and domestic abuse • Ensure vulnerable people are protected • Improve road safety and reduce road deaths in Essex to zero.

Evidence requirements

Provide evidence proportionate to your project's size and nature. Relevant sources include Essex Police data, council and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) assessments, strategies, delivery plans and annual reports, supplemented by community feedback, local knowledge and partner information.

Contact your local CSP early for help understanding local needs or checking whether your project duplicates existing services.

What should your application explain	Examples of evidence you could include
How the project links to a CSDF priority theme and Police and Crime Plan 2024-28 priority	Named CSDF theme, Police and Crime Plan priority, and a short explanation of how the project supports them
The community safety issue your project will address and evidence that it exists locally	Crime and ASB data, local problem profiles, partner information, community consultation, CSP strategic assessments, referral data or local needs assessments
Why your proposed activity is likely to help	Previous project outcomes, evaluation reports, recognised good practice or partner feedback
What outcomes the project aims to achieve and how you will measure them	Expected changes in safety, confidence, behaviour, demand or engagement, measured through surveys, attendance records, referral numbers, feedback, case studies or before-and-after data
How the people, places or groups benefiting from the project will be reached or supported, and whether any necessary delivery arrangements are agreed	Existing service links, direct outreach plans or evidence that the intended people, places or groups can realistically be reached or supported. Where delivery depends on a school or another partner, provide evidence of agreed access or referral arrangements, such as an existing agreement or a confirming email or letter.
How the amount requested represents value for money	A clear cost breakdown, partner contributions, comparison with similar provision, and an explanation of why the proposed delivery model and costs are proportionate to the expected community safety benefits. Use cost per participant or beneficiary where appropriate. For place-based or group-based projects, explain value for money using relevant measures of coverage, activity and expected outcomes rather than assuming an individual participant count.

Applications

There is one funding round for 2026-27. Apply through Microsoft Forms using the link on the PFCC Community Grants webpage: https://essex.pfcc.police.uk/get-involved/community-grants

Application opening:	30th November 2026
Application closing:	31st January 2027
Outcome notifications:	PFCC aims to notify all applicants within three months of the closing date.

May 2027 is the earliest anticipated start for CSDF-funded activity. Applicants should plan their proposed start date no earlier than this, allowing time for panel decisions, due diligence and completion of the Grant Agreement. A May start is not guaranteed: funding must be confirmed in writing and the Grant Agreement signed before any CSDF-funded activity or eligible spending begins.

Read the criteria and available application questions before you begin. We recommend drafting and saving your answers in a separate document, then copying them into Microsoft Forms when you are ready to submit. Keep your own copy of your answers and supporting documents.

Before submitting your application, you must request endorsement from the relevant local Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Send the completed Appendix A summary as an attachment or include the same information in an email. The CSP may complete the endorsement table or respond by email, answering the endorsement questions and giving their name, role, CSP and the date.

After submitting the application form, email the completed CSP endorsement form or the CSP's email response with your supporting documents, where available. If no response has been received by the deadline despite reasonable attempts to obtain endorsement, submit your application on time, explain this in the application form and provide a copy of your request email and any follow-up emails. Applications with no evidence of an attempt to obtain CSP endorsement will be rejected. 'Not endorsed' means that the CSP does not endorse the proposal; 'Unable to provide a view' means that the CSP has responded but cannot give an endorsement view. Neither is the same as awaiting a response. Submit the CSP's actual response rather than describing either outcome as a non-response.

Before you apply

Application checklist
• Read the criteria and priority themes. • Check the Funding exclusions. Confirm that the proposed activity is not covered by the PFCC's core commissioning arrangements and does not duplicate existing PFCC-funded or commissioned provision. If your organisation receives PFCC commissioning funding, explain how this proposal is genuinely distinct and outside the scope of that service. • Identify at least one CSDF theme and Police and Crime Plan priority. • Explain the local need and provide supporting evidence. • Request CSP endorsement using the Appendix A summary, sent as an attachment or included in an email. • Set out your activity, who will benefit and how you will measure success. • Confirm agreed school access, referral routes or other partner arrangements where delivery depends on them. Where you reach participants through your own service or direct outreach, explain that approach. • Provide a clear cost breakdown, explain value for money and set out a realistic delivery timetable. • Explain how the project or its benefits will continue after CSDF funding ends. • Prepare your safeguarding and safer recruitment policies, and a GDPR/data protection policy. • Prepare the application-stage supporting documents listed below, including the completed CSP endorsement form or CSP email response where available, or request emails where a response is still awaited.

Application-stage supporting documents
Within three working days of submitting your application form, email the following supporting documents: • Safeguarding and safer recruitment policies. • A GDPR/data protection policy, or another suitable policy covering data protection. • Where your project relies on a school or another partner to provide access to participants or referrals, provide evidence that these arrangements are agreed, such as an existing agreement or a confirming email or letter. If you reach participants through your own service or direct outreach and do not rely on another organisation, you do not need a referral-partner letter. • Completed CSP endorsement form or the CSP's email response where available. If a response is still awaited by the deadline despite reasonable attempts to obtain endorsement, provide a copy of your request email and any follow-up emails, as explained above. Email these application-stage documents to pfcc.funding@essex.police.uk with 'CSDF- (Your organisation name)' as the subject. Your application is complete only when all required application-stage documents are received. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Documents requested from provisionally successful applicants for post-panel due diligence are separate from this application-stage checklist.

Questions about the fund should be directed to Claire Hanrahan at pfcc.funding@essex.police.uk.

Decision-making

CSDF is a competitive fund with a limited budget. Meeting the eligibility criteria or obtaining CSP endorsement does not guarantee funding.

An independent panel of local representatives makes funding decisions on eligible applications. It assesses evidence, local need, links with other services, value for money and alignment with CSDF themes and the Police and Crime Plan, applying the Funding exclusions. It also considers the spread of funding across Essex, Southend and Thurrock, themes and Plan priorities. The PFCC then completes due diligence checks based on the panel's recommendations.

Post-panel due diligence - provisionally successful applicants

If your application is provisionally successful following the panel decision, the PFCC will request current bank statements, governing or constitution documents and financial information for due diligence checks. Provide these when requested so that the information is current at the time of the checks; they are not part of the application-stage supporting-document list above.

A provisional decision is not a confirmed award. Due diligence must be completed before the PFCC confirms an award in writing. Eligible spending must not begin before the Grant Agreement is signed.

Funding

£300,000 is available through the 2026-27 Community Safety Development Fund.

You may apply for more than one distinct project in Essex, Southend or Thurrock, each assessed separately, up to £20,000 per project. The limit is per project, not per organisation.

You do not need match funding. Contributions from your organisation or partners may strengthen your application by showing wider support.

Funding will be paid once a signed Grant Agreement and invoice have been received, in line with the payment schedule in the Grant Agreement.

You will normally have 12 months from signing the Grant Agreement to deliver your project. We can agree a different timescale where needed, including setup time for new projects. Any change must be agreed with the PFCC. Delivery and eligible spending must stay within the agreed period. We cannot fund retrospective costs or spending before the agreement is signed.

If awarded funding, you must return, or not claim, any grant funding that remains unspent by the date specified in the Grant Agreement.

Communications and publicity

Do not announce your CSDF award or publicise CSDF-funded activity until the PFCC has completed due diligence, confirmed your success in writing and the Grant Agreement is signed. Successful applicants will receive communications guidance later.

Monitoring and evaluation

If awarded funding, you must submit a final project report using the PFCC template, covering delivery, participants, outcomes and grant spending against the activity agreed in your application. The report should provide sufficient information to demonstrate what activity was delivered, who or what benefited, the outcomes achieved, how the grant was spent, and any relevant learning or issues arising from delivery. Grant spending should be covered in this report, rather than in a separate final financial return.

If awarded funding, you must provide progress updates during the project if requested by the PFCC. The PFCC may request progress information where needed during delivery; updates are not required on a routine reporting schedule.

Data Protection

You must comply with relevant data protection legislation and have suitable arrangements in place. After submitting the application form, email a GDPR/data protection policy, or another suitable organisational policy covering data protection, with the application-stage supporting documents.

Application information, including your proposal, costs and expected benefits, is shared with the independent evaluation panel and used to assess applications and administer grants. Payment details are shared only with Essex Police Business Centre to process payments.

We publish grant decisions on the PFCC website, including the organisation's name, a short project description and award amount, in line with transparency requirements and the PFCC Ethics and Integrity Framework.

The PFCC privacy notice explains how we use, retain and protect personal information and your data protection rights. If an external provider supports project publicity, we may share relevant applicant and project information in line with our privacy arrangements, requesting consent where required.

Safeguarding

You must have suitable safeguarding arrangements and provide safeguarding and safer recruitment policies with your application-stage supporting documents, emailed after submitting the application form. If your project involves children, young people or vulnerable adults, your policies and procedures must be appropriate for the activity.

Appendices

- **Appendix A - Community Safety Partnership endorsement request template**

  A downloadable Word version of the CSP endorsement form is available on the PFCC Community Grants webpage: https://essex.pfcc.police.uk/get-involved/community-grants.

- Appendix B - Community Safety Partnership contacts

Appendix A - Community Safety Partnership endorsement request template

Before applying, request local CSP endorsement by sending this summary as an attachment or in an email. Keep to the word limits; only send your full application if requested. The CSP can complete the table or answer the endorsement questions by email. After submitting your application, send the endorsement response to the PFCC. If no response arrives by the deadline despite reasonable attempts, explain this in your application and send your request and follow-up emails instead. Applications without evidence of seeking endorsement will be rejected.

CSDF endorsement request summary	
Organisation name	(Organisation name)
Contact name and email	(Name, role and email)
Project name	(Project name)
Project type	(New project / continuation of existing project)
Delivery timescale and duration	(Start/end dates)
Location / area	(District, town, ward, hotspot or area)
Main CSDF priority theme	Choose an item.
Police and Crime Plan priority	(Police and Crime Plan priority)
Amount requested	(CSDF amount requested)
Cohort size	(No. of people, places or groups supported)
Age range	(Age range, if applicable)
Brief project summary	(Maximum 100 words: what you will deliver, how much activity is proposed, who will benefit and the intended community safety benefit)
Local need	(Maximum 75 words: the local issue or gap and the evidence supporting it)
Referral pathway / access route	(Max 50 words: referral or access route, if applicable)

For CSP use only - Instructions for CSPs
Review the summary and give a light-touch view on local need, priorities and duplication using the table or email. Briefly explain any duplication, or non-endorsement. **Return your response directly to the applicant**. Endorsement reflects local knowledge, not a full assessment of eligibility, delivery quality or value for money, and does not guarantee funding. For advice before responding, contact Claire Hanrahan.

For CSP use only	
Based on local knowledge, does the proposal respond to an identified community safety need or priority?	Yes / No / Unsure
Are you aware of duplication with existing local provision?	Yes / No / Unsure
What is the CSP's endorsement position?	Endorsed / Not endorsed / Unable to provide a view
Comments	One or two lines to explain your responses, particularly any duplication. **Example:** "CSP endorses in principle, however, the applicant should provide evidence that referral pathways are agreed with relevant partners"
Completed by	(Name, role, CSP and date)

Appendix B - Community Safety Partnership contacts

CSP Contacts		
Basildon	Lisa Hopcroft	lisa.hopcroft@basildon.gov.uk
Braintree	Tracey Parry	tracey.parry@braintree.gov.uk
Brentwood	Sean Steer / Jonathan Woodhams	sean.steer@brentwood.gov.uk jonathan.woodhams@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk
Castle Point	David Miles	dmiles@castlepoint.gov.uk
Chelmsford	Spencer Clarke	spencer.clarke@chelmsford.gov.uk
Colchester	Lisa Hobson Samantha Goodman	Lisa.Hobson@colchester.gov.uk Samantha.Goodman@colchester.gov.uk
Epping Forest	Caroline Wiggins	cwiggins@eppingforestdc.gov.uk
Harlow	Chris Maynard	christopher.maynard@harlow.gov.uk
Maldon	Spencer Clarke	spencer.clarke@Maldon.gov.uk
Rochford	Sean Steer / Jonathan Woodhams	sean.steer@brentwood.gov.uk jonathan.woodhams@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk
Southend-on-Sea	Simon Ford / Gemma Robinson	simonFord@southend.gov.uk GemmaRobinson@southend.gov.uk
Tendring	Leanne Thornton / Jenny Brouard	lthornton@tendringdc.gov.uk jbrouard@tendringdc.gov.uk
Thurrock	Phil Carver / Gemma Louth	PCarver@thurrock.gov.uk GXLouth@thurrock.gov.uk
Uttlesford	Carla Claydon / Angi Greneski	cclaydon@uttlesford.gov.uk / agreneski@uttlesford.gov.uk