

7 July 2010

To all Essex Partnership Forum Members

**Response to the Government reduction of PRG Funding**

As you can appreciate, finding a workable solution that will minimise the impact of the government's 50% reduction of PRG for all partners is difficult. The most equitable solution would simply be to passport the 50% cut to partners to manage locally.

However based on the information we have received on current spend, we believe that it is impossible to do that and not violate the principle that partners should not have to pay back monies already spent.

After careful consideration of all of the information and feedback provided by Thematic and Local Strategic Partnerships, we therefore propose the approach set out below to manage the winding up of PRG funded activity.

The approach:

- the apprenticeship programme should be reduced by 30%, saving £1,278,000
- any PRG received over and above the expected £13.3m be earmarked to be put back in to the apprenticeship programme (the value will be between zero and £1m)
- independent domestic violence advisors to be supported at 70% of their original allocation, saving £142,000
- all other thematic partnership projects, with the exception of £280,000 to promote activity supporting the Olympic games, £100,000 for access to services in rural communities, and approximately £50,000 for projects to address re-offending should be closed down as soon as possible, with a thorough examination of all commitments identified to ascertain unavoidable costs
- the voluntary sector endowment funds will be fully protected, but the Essex Community Foundation will be asked in 2010/11 and 2011/12 to use the endowment fund income to support projects that were previously scheduled to be funded through PRG
- approved allocations of LSP capacity funding (covering six years to 31 March 2013) will be included in the calculations of funding to be paid to LSPs, providing flexibility for redirecting funding to closing down project activity
- the balance of funds available be distributed to LSPs in proportion to their approved allocations of capacity and project funds

In addition, and in accordance with the commitment to localism, we want to promote the principle that local resources are aligned as effectively as possible and propose:

- the Area Based Grant previously provided to district Community Safety Partnerships be allocated to district LSPs or their equivalent in 2010/11, in order to provide LSPs with a larger pool of funds from which to seek to cover savings and assist closing down of remaining projects in an orderly manner

It is particularly important that all partners are given an early opportunity to identify necessary actions to contain costs within their revised allocation, so a prompt decision is in everyone's interests. We appreciate that not all partners will agree with all of these points of principle, but we would hope that it will not be necessary to engage in a further round of consultation on different options.

Partners are asked to comment on the above principles by 14<sup>th</sup> July. Assuming the principles can be agreed, partnerships will be given detailed allocations by 19<sup>th</sup> July. Please confirm your agreement and any comments on the above set of principles to [info@essexpartnership.org](mailto:info@essexpartnership.org) no later than 5pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. For further advice or guidance contact Kevin Nunn (01245 437527) or Gill Butterworth (01245 430455), or speak to your Area Co-ordinator (details below).

Kind regards,



Councillor Pam Challis  
Chair, Essex Partnership Forum Board



Councillor Peter Martin  
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**Area Co-ordinators:**

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