

## **Restorative Justice Funding for 2026-2028**

**Subject:** Continuation of funding for Restorative Justice 2026-2028

**Originator:** Head of Governance and Commissioning

**Decision Number:** 13 – 2026

**Reason for Submission:** For decision

**Submitted to:** Police and Crime Commissioner

### **Summary**

1. The Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice service was established in 2019 to respond to requirements in the Victims' Code of Practice. This placed a requirement on police forces to offer information about restorative justice (RJ) to victims, and a complementary requirement on Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to ensure a service existed to provide RJ to those who wished to explore the use of RJ to help victims cope with the impact of crime.
2. The service is co-commissioned by Norfolk and Suffolk PCCs and managed by the Norfolk and Suffolk constabularies.
3. The commitment to restorative justice supports the delivery of theme 2 in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029: commissioning services which support victims of crime and investing in initiatives which reduce crime, disorder, offending and prevent victimisation. Provision of restorative justice also ensures compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

4. This report recommends that the PCC continues to fund the RJ service for a further two years with a total contribution of £141,225.

## **Recommendation**

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves an extension of the funding to continue the provision of RJ for a further two years from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028 at a total cost of £141,225.

## **Approval by PCC**

The recommendation as outlined above is approved.

**Signed:** Tim Passmore

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 5 May 2026

## **Detail of Submission**

### **1. Objective**

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommendation to provide continuation funding for the Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice service for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 RJ is a victim focused service which facilitates the reparation of harm caused by crime through safe communication between the victim and the offender.

- 2.2 All victims of crime should be informed about RJ to comply with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (known as the Victims' Code) so they can make an informed decision about what is best for them to recover from their experience of crime.
- 2.3 The process only proceeds if both parties wish to participate and it has been deemed safe to do so.
- 2.4 RJ has been found to reduce reoffending by 14% when compared to criminal justice processes where RJ is not used and has a participant satisfaction rate of 85%<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.5 More recent research conducted by WhyMe? (a national charity dedicated to delivering and promoting restorative justice) found that the overall cost–social benefit ratio of RJ was £14 for every £1 invested and the direct return on investment for the criminal justice system was £4 per £1 invested. The authors of the research conclude that: *“The results of this research show that restorative justice can reduce reoffending, save money and help victims to recover”*<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.6 The RJ service in Norfolk and Suffolk was established in 2019 by Norfolk and Suffolk PCCs.
- 2.7 The service is delivered by a dedicated team in Norfolk and Suffolk constabularies. This approach is intended to strengthen the culture of restorative justice in policing, embed best practice and supports the delivery of out of court resolutions.
- 2.8 The aims of the service are that:
- All victims are offered and have access to RJ to support them to cope and build resilience to move forward with their daily life.
  - People who have caused harm have access to RJ to prevent further offending.
  - All RJ interventions are delivered in a safe way.
- 2.9 The service currently comprises two RJ advisors and one part time (0.5 full time equivalent (FTE)) administrator. In 2025/26 the Norfolk PCC funded an additional

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<sup>1</sup> [MoJ evaluation of restorative justice | Restorative Justice Council](#)

<sup>2</sup> An Economic Evaluation of Restorative Justice, Frank Grimsey Jones, Lucy Harris 2022

0.6 FTE RJ advisor to operate in Norfolk and will continue with this arrangement until 31 March 2028.

- 2.10 The constabularies provide officer resource to support the service through co-facilitation of cases, raising awareness and direct support to lower-level cases.
- 2.11 Performance data for 2025/2026 shows 289 cases were referred to RJ in Suffolk including 26 level two and level three referrals (serious and complex cases). There were 83 conditional cautions and 180 community resolutions that used restorative approaches.
- 2.12 The number of more complex cases referred to and supported by the trained advisors has remained stable at about 15 referrals per quarter across Norfolk and Suffolk. These cases include crime types such as murder and attempted murder, serious sexual offences and violent crime.
- 2.13 The RJ service also supported seven hate crime cases in Suffolk in 2025/26. In the case of hate crime, RJ can foster understanding and better relations between the victim and offender for example where a hate crime is directed at disability, religion, race or sexuality.
- 2.14 Outcomes are collected from victims and offenders where cases have been closed. Offenders were most likely to experience improvement in their sense of wellbeing and 60% of victims who responded reported they were better able to cope with aspects of every-day life. The remaining 40% experiencing no change. One hundred percent of victims and 95% of offenders providing feedback in 2025/2026 said their experience of RJ was good or excellent.
- 2.15 The RJ advisors have also supported the development of out of court resolutions including developing the Victim Awareness Course, which is used as a diversionary measure for both conditional cautions and community resolutions, and other crime specific courses to help reduce reoffending.

### **3. Areas for Consideration**

- 3.1 Given the requirement for the service and current satisfactory performance, it is recommended that funding is allocated by the PCC to continue the service in its current format for a further two years.
- 3.2 A review of the Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice service was completed in 2026 resulting in an action plan to address four objectives: access; partnerships; evaluation and sustainability. Progress will be reviewed quarterly alongside a review of resourcing, financial monitoring and key performance measures.
- 3.3 Within the action plan the OPCCs and constabularies have committed to reviewing referral routes and referral processes, to ensure RJ remains accessible to all and removes any barriers to accessing RJ for victims.
- 3.4 Monitoring information collated every six months, provides data on the protected characteristics of those victims who engage with the service. The quality of this data needs to be improved to inform further development of the service as outlined in section 3.3 above.
- 3.5 The Norfolk PCC has agreed funding for the continued extension of the service in Norfolk.

### **4. Other options considered**

- 4.1 The recommendation of funding for 2026-2028 will continue to meet the needs of victims as set out in the Police and Crime Plan and will support compliance with the Victims' Code. Without the extension of this funding there would no longer be a RJ service for victims of crime in Suffolk.
- 4.2 Analysis of demand data shows a small number of pending cases which are subject to workforce capacity becoming available. The option to reduce existing provision in Suffolk would limit the capacity of the service to deliver RJ in a timely manner.
- 4.3 The PCC could choose to increase RJ advisor capacity (as the Norfolk PCC has done through increased funding) however the current case load does not provide

a compelling reason to do so. It is recommended that demand and capacity is kept under review alongside availability of any additional funding.

## **5. Strategic aims / objective supported**

- 5.1 RJ is outlined within the Police and Crime Plan 2025-29 (theme 2 objective 1) as one of the services which help victims to cope and recover from the impact of crime and is one way in which the PCC's commissioning can support a reduction in reoffending.
- 5.2 The recommendation to commit to funding for two years aligns with the Police and Crime Plan intention to provide longer-term funding to enable the sustainability of services.

## **6. Financial and other recourse implications**

- 6.1 Funding for the core service for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028 is split on an equal basis with the Norfolk PCC.
- 6.2 It is recommended that the PCC allocates £141,225 from his commissioning budget to cover:
  - £68,861 for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. This is a 9% increase on the cost of the service to Suffolk in 2025/26.
  - £72,364 for the period 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028 (5% increase on the 2026-27 cost).
- 6.3 These costs are based on 1FTE (Band E) advisor in Suffolk and a contribution to the Band C Administrator (0.5 FTE) and include estimated pay awards, the cost of the shared RJ case management system, training and travel expenses.
- 6.4 Based on 2025/26 data, the estimated match funding resource from police officers supporting the RJ function is £136,500 across Norfolk and Suffolk. This comprises Inspector oversight, Sargeant resource and 0.5 FTE of a Constable also dedicated to the team.

## 7. Environmental Implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications to consider.

## 8. Other implications and risks

- 8.1 During the recommended two-year funding period we expect future policing governance arrangements and the future of victims commissioning to be determined. The implications of any changes on the RJ service will need to be considered. The PCC's risk register contains an entry for commissioned services which is regularly reviewed.
- 8.2 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken prior to this decision being recommended. This provided reassurance that work is being undertaken to promote equality of access to the RJ service and the service is also having a positive impact by addressing conflict between people including actions targeted at people with protected characteristics. The assessment also highlighted that more work is required to improve the recording of demographic data.

### Originator Checklist (must be completed).

Please state 'yes' or 'no'

Checklist Item	Yes / No
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered, including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with Police and Crime Plan objectives?	Yes

Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
Have environmental factors been considered?	Yes
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks section of the submission?	Yes
Is this report a Confidential Decision?	No

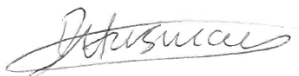
If yes, please state reasons below:

## Approval to submit to the decision-maker

### Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

**Signed:** Darren Horsman



**Signature:**

**Date:** 5 May 2026

### Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
- Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,

Or

c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves

And

d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

**Signed:** Colette Batson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colette Batson" followed by a period.

**Signature:**

**Date:** 5 May 2026

**Public access to information:** Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.