



Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest

ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING

DECISION NUMBER: 19 - 2022

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION

SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICE – ADDITIONAL FUNDING 2022/23

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 PCCs to ensure a service existed to provide RJ to those victims (and offenders) who wished to explore the use of RJ to help cope and recover from the impact of crime.
2. This report recommends that alongside the Norfolk PCC, the Suffolk PCC provides additional funding of £11,525 in 2022/23 to expand the resource available to support referrals and caseload.
3. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 enables the Police and Crime Commissioner to commission services that:
 - a) secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
 - b) are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by offences and anti-social behaviour.

In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that services are consistent with the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan, which includes a commitment to ensure Restorative Justice is offered and provided, and to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the PCC approves funding of £11,525 to support additional resource in the Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Service in 2022/23.

APPROVAL BY: PCC

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



Signature:

Date: 23 June 2022

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Restorative Justice Service in Norfolk and Suffolk was established in 2019 by Norfolk and [Suffolk PCCs](#) and is delivered by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies. The current funding arrangement is to fund the service on an equal basis until 31 March 2023. [Decision paper 9-2021 provides further details.](#)
- 1.2 This report sets out the recommendation to provide further funding to the service to employ additional resources in the service thus providing greater capacity and resilience to deliver Restorative Justice in Norfolk and Suffolk.
- 1.3 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) can commission services that:
- secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Suffolk;
 - are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.
- This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 1.4 In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the Suffolk Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025. Ensuring Restorative Justice is offered and provided, and compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, is outlined within the Police and Crime Plan as one of the services which help victims to cope and recover from the impact of crime.

2. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICE

- 2.1 The Restorative Justice Service has been in operation in its current format since 2019. Norfolk and Suffolk PCCs contribute funding on an equal basis towards the service which is delivered by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies.
- 2.2 The current staffing of the service comprises two 0.5 FTE RJ Advisors (one based in Norfolk, one in Suffolk) and one 0.5 FTE administrator (based in Suffolk) to support the service. The advisors are trained to Level 3 and able to support complex cases. The Joint Justice directorate supports the advisors with a Sergeant (also Level 3 trained in RJ) and Inspector oversight of the service. There are 40 officers trained to Level 2 RJ (split equally between Norfolk and Suffolk) who are able to take on 'Level 2' cases. Additionally two police officers were co-opted in December 2021 to provide additional support.
- 2.3 The level of referrals is inconsistent and was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, 75 cases had been completed by the service to 31 March 2022, involving 102 victims (harmers) and 47 offenders (harmers) and 8 other participants.
- 2.4 A number of issues arose in 2021/22 including:
- A lack of resilience in the service to cover absences due to sickness or leave.
 - The uptake of caseload by Level 2 trained police officers has not been as high as expected.
 - Demand for restorative justice is forecast to increase due to the incoming requirement on conditional cautions for out of court disposals.

- 2.5 Regular monitoring of the service and the above issues concluded that the service was at risk without additional resource. To mitigate issues in the short term a waiting list was introduced to manage demand; training for police officers (to level 2) was suspended in order to focus on RJ delivery; and proactive awareness raising was also put on hold.
- 2.6 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies have proposed an increase in resource to provide greater resilience to the service, address the waiting list and ensure the likely increase in referrals can be dealt with. From the options presented it was agreed to increase the RJ Advisors by 0.5 FTE in each county and retain the 0.5 FTE administrator post.
- 2.7 The cost of the above proposal for 12 months is £45,000 using Band E top scale for salary, National Insurance and Pension plus expenses. However given that recruitment will take place during the year and there are cost savings due to current vacancies, the actual increase in funding required is estimated to be £23,000 in 2022/23.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The current budget set aside for the service across Norfolk and Suffolk is £75K per annum (£37.5k per PCC). This covers staffing costs for two 0.5 FTE RJ Advisors (one based in Norfolk, one in Suffolk) and one 0.5 FTE administrator to support the service and the RJ case management system and expenses, continued professional development and case supervision. The budget the service worked to in 2021/22 was £68,300, slightly less than the funding available.
- 3.2 The service has had some underspend on the budget in 2020/21 and 2021/22 (£9.8k and £3.9k for the whole service meaning £6.9k underspend for Suffolk over 2 years) mainly due to underspend on case supervision, expenses and RJ Council and training. The underspend has been transferred to the PCC's Crime and Disorder Reduction reserve.
- 3.3 The total budget for the service in 2022/23 accounting for the recommended additional resource is £98,050. This cost will be split equally between Norfolk and Suffolk OPCCs (£49,025 per OPCC). The additional cost of the service for Suffolk is therefore £11,525 in 2022/23.
- 3.4 In Suffolk, it is proposed that the cost will be met from the Crime and Disorder Reduction element of the PCC's commissioning budget, using the PCC Crime and Disorder Reduction reserve if necessary.
- 3.5 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies will continue to employ the RJ posts, and provide line-management for the service.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 4.1 This recommendation only commits funding until 31 March 2023 to align with the current service funding decision. The future of the service from April 2023 is being actively considered by the OPCCs with the Constabularies. The recommended increase in resourcing and subsequent cost, outlined in this paper, will be factored in to the considerations.
- 4.2 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies will continue to assess the demand for the service in relation to changes in out of court disposals and their intention to offer RJ as an option.

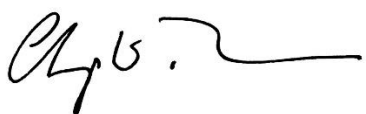
5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The PCC approves funding of £11,525 to support additional resource in the Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Service in 2022/23.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	NO
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	NO
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 the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	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?	YES
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	YES

In relation to the above, please ensure that all relevant issues have been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission.

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER

<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: 23 June 2022</p>
