



# Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

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

**ORIGINATOR: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING**

**DECISION NUMBER: 13 - 2023**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: FOR DECISION**

**SUBMITTED TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

**SUBJECT: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICE – EXTENSION OF SERVICE 2023 - 2025**

## **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, in agreement with the PCC for Norfolk, the Suffolk PCC approves the continuation of the service from April 2023 for a further 2 years.
3. The costs for the service are £114,000 in 2023/24 and £116,00 in 2024/25. This will sustain the employment of 2 FTE RJ Advisors, a part time administrator and other costs such as training and the case management system. The Suffolk PCC contribution would be 50% of the total.
4. Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies manage the service and support the delivery of RJ through the Joint Justice Department.
5. 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 for the continuation of the Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Service from 1 April 2023 for a further 2 years.

**APPROVAL BY: PCC**

The recommendation set out above is agreed.



**Signature:**

**Date: 29 March 2023**

## 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.
- 1.2 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) can 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.
- This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The current funding arrangement is for the Norfolk and Suffolk PCCs to fund the service on an equal basis until 31 March 2023 including an uplift in resource agreed in 2022.
- 1.5 This report sets out the recommendation to continue the service from April 2023 and provide funding to support the service until 31 March 2025.

### 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 service comprises two RJ Advisors (one based in Norfolk, one in Suffolk) and one 0.5 FTE administrator to support the service, employed by the Constabularies. The advisors are trained to Level 3 and able to support sensitive and complex cases. The Joint Justice directorate supports the advisors with a Sergeant (Level 3 trained in RJ) and Inspector oversight of the service. The Constabularies have also committed to providing additional support through a dedicated police officer who assists in the facilitation of RJ cases and raising awareness of the service and its benefits to force colleagues. There are 42 police officers trained to Level 2 RJ (split equally between Norfolk and Suffolk) who are able to take on 'Level 2' cases.
- 2.3 75 cases had been completed by the service to 31 March 2022, involving 102 victims (harmed) and 47 offenders (harmers) and 8 other participants. Feedback from both the victim and offender participating in the RJ process provides valuable insight into the impact that the service provision has on cope and recovery from crime.

Feedback from victims:

*"It has helped me to move forward"*

*"It helped me to stop bottling things up"*

*"Psychologically, I feel better"*

*"I don't feel like a victim anymore"*

Feedback from offenders:

*"It allowed me to make amends"*

*"I was able to see the effects of my actions"*

*"It was a good thing to do, and fair"*

In early 2022, the RJ Service completed the facilitation of a serious and complex case where the offence committed was death by dangerous driving. The initial referral was led by the offender as he expressed that his wish was to apologise to the mother of the victim. Following completion of the process, feedback was provided to the RJ Hub:

Offender feedback: *"I want to try and forget but I know I won't be able to" and "I originally had a heavy weight on my heart but it has now lifted"*.

Victim feedback: *"I'm not holding a grudge. I want him to live his life to the full and want him to move on from this". "He can't take anything back, but now I can go home and live my life and he can live his"*.

- 2.4 Research by WhyMe?, a national charity delivering and promoting Restorative Justice, in 2022 reported that overall, the cost-social benefit ratio of RJ was £14 per £1 invested and the direct return on investment for the Criminal Justice System was £4 per £1 invested, before accounting for the broader benefits of RJ in improving perceptions of justice amongst victims and society. 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>1</sup>.
- 2.5 The proposed funding will allow the RJ service to continue delivery in Suffolk. Performance monitoring by the Offices of the PCCs will continue to be undertaken quarterly and will include a review of resourcing, funding, key performance measures and areas for development.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The total budget for the service in 2022/23, accounting for increased resourcing in year, was £98,050 which was split equally between Norfolk and Suffolk OPCCs (£49,025 per OPCC).
- 3.2 The estimated budget for the service from April 2023 is £114,108 based on 2 FTE Band E Advisors (one based in Norfolk, one in Suffolk) and a Band C Administrator (0.5FTE) to support the service, the RJ case management system, expenses, training and case supervision. The total cost in 2024/25 is estimated to be £115,837. This budget includes incremental progression on salaries but does not factor in any future pay awards.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the cost of the service is split equally between Norfolk and Suffolk OPCCs and therefore the cost for Suffolk will be £57,054 in 2023/24 and £57,919 in 2024/25. This will be met from the PCC's commissioning budget.

### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 4.1 The Norfolk and Suffolk OPCCs, with the Constabularies, have reviewed and duly considered the proposed extension of funding. The recommendation, to commit to a further 2-years of funding, will ensure continuation of service provision to meet the needs of victims as set out in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan and will support compliance with the Code of Practice for

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<sup>1</sup> An Economic Evaluation of Restorative Justice, Frank Grimsey Jones, Lucy Harris 2022

Victims of Crime. Without the extension of funding for the service provision there would no longer be a Restorative Justice service for victims of crime in Suffolk and Norfolk.

**5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the PCC approves funding for the continuation of the Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Service from 1 April 2023 for a further 2 years.

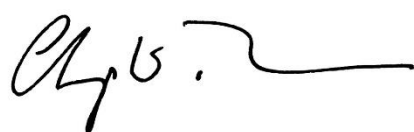
<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>NO</b>
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>NO</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	<b>YES</b>
Have human resource implications been considered?	<b>YES</b>
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	<b>YES</b>
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	<b>YES</b>
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	<b>YES</b>
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	<b>YES</b>

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**

##### **Chief Executive**

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.



**Signature:**

**Date: 29 March 2023**