

## **Community Remedy Document (August 2023)**

The Police and Crime Commissioner has revised the Community Remedy scheme which sets out how perpetrators should be dealt with outside of court.

This document provides a list of appropriate actions that can be offered by the police to victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour to select as punishment for the perpetrators when court proceeding would not be suitable.

Publication of the revised document follows a 2-week consultation during which the Commissioner asked members of the public and partners if the existing punishments on the list were still the most effective way of dealing with offenders. Those views were taken into consideration by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

Overall, the message came back that the existing punishments for offenders offered through the Community Remedy scheme still largely fit the bill.

Community remedies are designed to reduce reoffending by encouraging offenders to face up to the consequences of their anti-social or criminal behaviour, to take responsibility for their actions and to appreciate the suffering they may have caused.

Community remedies only take place in circumstances where victims are happy to be involved and in certain types of cases, such as those committed by first-time offenders who have shown genuine remorse or where an out-of-court disposal would be more appropriate than formal court proceedings.

All the actions in the Community Remedy menu are designed to be appropriate and proportionate to the types of offences that are committed. Depending on the crime or incident that has occurred, a police officer will make the final decision if a community remedy is suitable. They will discuss this with the victim and the perpetrator to make sure they both agree with the approach before using the community remedy list with the victim to determine the best action to take.

**These include:**

- Mediation (getting both parties to talk to each other, for example, to solve a neighbour dispute)
- A written or verbal apology
- Repairing damage (for example, cleaning up graffiti or replacing a smashed window)
- Words of advice from a Police Officer or PCSO
- Online early intervention programmes (for example, anger management)
- Referrals for support to outside agency (for example, drug & alcohol misuse)
- Alternative partnership remedy (for example, Fire Setter Intervention Programme).

If the offender fails to comply with the action chosen, they can face court action for their behaviour.

The Community Remedy list was introduced by the Home Office in 2014 as part of a range of measures to tackle anti-social behaviour through the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.