



Cambridgeshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive and Chief Constable

Date 26th November 2015

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROVISION IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the implementation of the Joint Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) Strategic Vision for Developing Restorative Justice (RJ) in Cambridgeshire.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to:

- Note the contents of the paper.
- Approve the 12-month extension of the delivery partnership with Community Interest Company Restorative Solutions until December 2016 and for the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) to sign the associated Decision Notice.
- Approve the proposed direction of travel to ensure the continuation of a restorative justice service in the county as part of an integrated model of victim support services into 2016/17. This includes agreeing a service specification for the ‘Restorative Justice Multi-Agency Virtual Hub’.

3. Background

3.1 Restorative Justice (RJ) is a process which “brings those harmed by crime or conflict, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward”.

3.2 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) took over the responsibility for commissioning support services for victims of crime in 2014/15. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has

provided three years of non-ringed restorative justice funding as part of the Victims' Services grant to enable PCCs to develop the provision of victim-initiated restorative justice.

- 3.3 Cambridgeshire received £52k as part of the Capability and Capacity Fund in 13/14; £90k in 14/15 and £184k in 15/16.
- 3.4 An early scoping report into the provision of RJ in the county showed pockets of good practice but a lack of clear referral pathways and limited provision for adults.
- 3.5 Cambridgeshire OPCC and Constabulary created a joint Strategic Vision for Developing Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire which was approved by this Board in October 2014. This Strategy informed the creation of a set of Commissioning Intentions in October 2014 for a co-funding delivery partner to work with the Constabulary to develop a provision to sit alongside the Victims' Hub as part as an integrated service for victims. Restorative Solutions were the successful bidder for a one year partnership ending in December 2015.
- 3.6 Formal governance of the RJ service is through the Cambridgeshire Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) Victims and Witnesses sub-group.

4. Current service provision – 2015/16 'Restorative Justice Multi-Agency Virtual Hub'

- 4.1 The Constabulary, in partnership with the OPCC and Restorative Solutions, has developed a largely sustainable model for the delivery of restorative justice. The model relies on building partnership capacity (and reciprocal arrangement with agencies) as set out in Memorandum of Understandings and integrating the RJ offer into conversations the Victims' Hub staff have with victims. In 2015/16 only two staff have been funded to deliver RJ from the MoJ grant. A Chief Inspector from within the Criminal Justice Unit has been funded to implement and embed the RJ offer into the Constabulary through RJ awareness sessions to all frontline staff – including Special Constables. An RJ Co-ordinator, who was 75 per cent funded by Restorative Solutions, is co-located in the Victims' Hub and receives all the referrals.
- 4.2 The RJ Co-ordinator can then call on a core of trained facilitators, who are either volunteers or colleagues from partner agencies, to progress a potential intervention. All of these facilitators have been trained by Restorative Solutions as part of the delivery partnership.
- 4.3 The delivery partnership has also provided the Constabulary and OPCC with support from experienced practitioners. However the emphasis remains on building capacity within the county to enable it to become wholly self-sufficient. In particular developing in-house training packages for facilitators.
- 4.4 Feedback from the Ministry of Justice on the Cambridgeshire model has described it as 'simple, yet effective' with twice the number of referrals coming into the service than other models which cost double the amount of money.
- 4.5 In the first six months of operation the RJ Co-ordinator has received 42 referrals (20 from the Victims' Hub, 15 from police officers, five from partner agencies and three self-referrals). Of these referrals three have already gone to full conferences, 20 are still live. Of those three conferences feedback from victims has been positive and none

of the offenders have re-offended within this time period therefore reducing demand for policing services.

4.6 A detailed service specification has been drawn up which is available at Appendix 1.

5. Proposed future provision

5.1 The delivery partnership with Restorative Solutions has proved successful. The Cambridgeshire model has been allowed to develop in consultation with local partners into a truly bespoke service. However its simplicity has meant that not all of the resources available as part of the delivery partnership were required during the first year. Therefore it is proposed that this partnership is extended until December 2016.

5.2 Such an extension will provide resilience when the funding for the Chief Inspector post ends on March 31, 2016. It will also provide resources to support the RJ Co-ordinator in extending the use of RJ with Registered Social Landlords and within the Troubled Families agenda. It will also enable continuation of the part co-funding agreement for the RJ Co-ordinator.

5.3 Links are being made with the county's only Neighbourhood Justice Panel in Cambridge City through nominal funding and a sharing of resources. It is hoped that this partnership will be formalised with a Memorandum of Understanding later this month.

5.4 While it would be disingenuous to say the RJ Model is wholly sustainable without any financial investment; it is clear it is the least cost-intensive option available. The model relies on a single post holder co-ordinating the volunteering commitment of others. Premises to hold conferences have been secured at nil cost leaving only the expenses of the facilitators to be paid. In a relatively short time period the model has already delivered savings with one offender, who was part of the Integrated Offender Management cohort, not re-offending in the four months since the RJ conference. This certainly indicates that the returns on the early investment will clearly outlive the current MoJ funding stream.

5.5 Finally it is anticipated that the requirement for good quality RJ services will only increase in future years; particularly following the Government's proposals to streamline the out of court disposal options to ensure a more meaningful approach for offenders and victims. The proposals, which are currently being trialled in three police forces, will see a move from a system of warnings and reprimands to one which gives the police the power to tackling offending behaviour in a more effective way through a clearer and simpler disposal framework. Options such as a suspended prosecution with appropriate compliance conditions and community resolutions, potentially with an RJ element, are likely to increase the need for RJ expertise. A paper on Out of Court Disposals is expected at a future Board meeting.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Board is recommended to:

- Note the contents of the paper
- Approve the 12-month extension of the delivery partnership with Community Interest Company Restorative Solutions until December 2016 and for the Commissioner to sign the associated Decision Notice.
- Approve the proposed direction of travel to ensure the continuation of a restorative justice service in the county as part of an integrated model of victim support services into 2016/17. This includes agreeing a service specification for the 'Restorative Justice Multi-Agency Virtual Hub'.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Joint Strategic Vision for Developing Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire http://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/restorative-justice/
Contact Officers	Nicky Phillipson, Strategic Advisor, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner T/DCI Dominic Human, RJ Development Manager, Cambridgeshire Constabulary