



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Executive and Chief Constable

Date: 25 February 2015

DEVELOPING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on work to develop the provision of Restorative Justice (RJ) within Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2 To provide the Board with indicative spends from the 2015/16 Ministry of Justice £183k allocation in line with Commissioning Intentions (which were approved by the Board in October 2014).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board endorses the current direction of travel.

3. Background

- 3.1 RJ is processes and activity 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 The move from national to local commissioning of Victims’ Services in 2014 included giving Police and Crime Commissioners the responsibility for funding victim-driven RJ. An initial award of £52k, as part of a ‘Capacity and Capability’ building fund in December 2013, was used for county-wide scoping study of RJ provision which included local community engagement. In 2014/15 the wider Victims’ Services grant also contained £90k to build and develop the provision for victim-led RJ; with a further £184k in 2015/16.
- 3.3 ‘A Strategic Vision for Restorative Justice’ authored by Deputy Chief Constable Alec Wood, was agreed by the Board on 2nd October 2014 and this formed the basis of a set of Draft Commissioning Intentions which were put out for consultation that same month. As a result of a fair and transparent commissioning process the Police and

Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) appointed Community Interest Company Restorative Solutions as a co-funding delivery partner in December 2014 to work alongside Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for a one-year period.

4. Delivery of the Strategic Vision for Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire

- 4.1 The Constabulary and OPCC have committed to work in partnership with other agencies to develop, embed and deliver an extended range of appropriate and sustainable RJ interventions.
- 4.2 The Constabulary has appointed Temporary Detective Chief Inspector Dominic Human to drive forward the Vision; he is currently being supported by the OPCC Strategic Advisor Nicky Phillipson. Recruitment is ongoing for a RJ Co-ordinator which will be funded for a year by Restorative Solutions as part of a wider package of support to the Constabulary.
- 4.3 A conference to launch ‘Developing Restorative Justice in Cambridgeshire’ enabled the Commissioner and DCC Alec Wood to set out the joint Vision to deliver victim-focused RJ principles in the county.
- 4.4 The delivery of the Vision relies on the creation of a virtual Multi-Agency Restorative Justice Hub ‘based’ in the new Victims’ Hub in Peterborough. The Victim Care Co-ordinators will professionalise early conversations with victims to ensure they are aware of their right under the Victims’ Code to request to meet their offender in a RJ conference. Each victim-generated request will be carefully considered on its own merits.
- 4.5 Restorative Justice will be available pre and post sentence and can run alongside existing criminal justice interventions.
- 4.6 The first phase of work has involved initial face-to-face conversations with all providers of restorative justice in the county to explore how all parties can all work together. A practitioner working group has also been created.
- 4.7 Collectively members of the working group have identified trained and experienced resources from within their own organisations able to support the early delivery of victim-initiated RJ. In particular the two Youth Offending Services, the Cambridge-based Neighbourhood Justice Panel and the Community Rehabilitation Company have agreed to work in partnership with the Constabulary and OPCC. Other voluntary sector partners are also getting involved and work is ongoing to link with registered social landlords, prisons and other organisations who express an interest in getting involved.
- 4.8 Several levels of training – funded in part by the delivery partner and in part by the RJ allocation - will be offered to partnership colleagues to enable those staff to be called upon to support the provision of RJ. The agency asked to lead the RJ intervention will be the one best placed to do so. It is hoped that these partnerships will be formalised with Memorandum of Understandings with individual organisations. This will add to the sustainability of RJ in future years.
- 4.9 A team of volunteers will also be recruited and trained to deliver restorative justice interventions. This will require initial investment and smaller ongoing running costs.

5. Regional Collaboration

- 5.1 DCI Human and Nicky Phillipson have been representing the Constabulary and OPCC on a Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BeNCH) Restorative Justice Working Group. This group has been exploring collaborative opportunities for RJ provision and working to ensure a common language across the area. This will ensure effective working with the new Community Rehabilitation Company – commissioned to provide probation services.
- 5.2 Cambridgeshire is also leading early work to look at whether a Framework Agreement can be put in place to allow the four BeNCH areas to jointly commission expert RJ facilitators for complex and serious cases. Such cases have to be handled by experienced and highly trained facilitators to ensure the most possible outcome.

6. Proposed budget

- 6.1 As mentioned in 3.2 The Ministry of Justice have provided funding for the restorative justice agenda to enable areas to fully embed its principles and in return see the maximum positive impact. The evidence behind the principles of restorative justice shows early investment will lead to longer term savings through reduced re-offending and therefore a reduction on demand for policing and other public sector services.
- 6.2 Cambridgeshire partners are keen to utilise this funding to secure future sustainability (such as investing in Train the Trainer style course) which is in line with the Commissioning Intentions. This will ensure this cultural change outlives the length of the funding and savings can be released year on year.
- 6.3 It is proposed that a more detailed breakdown of actual spending will be brought to a future BCB for approval.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Board endorses the current direction of travel.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document	Strategic Vision for the development of Restorative Justice within Cambridgeshire. (See Annex 1)
Contact Officer	Nicky Phillipson, Strategic Advisor, OPCC DCC Alec Wood, Cambridgeshire Constabulary