



## **Subject: Restorative Justice Service – Continuation of funding for 2025-26**

**Originator: Mette Ohrvik**

**Decision no. 07/2025**

**Reason for submission: For Decision**

**Submitted to: Sarah Taylor – Police and Crime Commission for Norfolk (PCQ)**

### **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 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 Suffolk PCC, the Norfolk PCC continues to fund the Norfolk and Suffolk Police Joint Justice Department to operate the RJ Hub for a further 12 months at a total cost of £91,186.
3. This funding will include extra provision from Norfolk PCC to allow for an expansion of the service within Norfolk only. Norfolk PCC will fund an additional 0.6FTE RJ Advisor post to allow for this expansion.
4. 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 Norfolk;
  - 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 Norfolk 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:**

It is recommended that the PCC approves an extension of the Norfolk OPCC's share of joint funding to operate a RJHub for a further 12 months from April 2025 to March 2026 at a total cost of £91,186, which includes £28,037 additional provision for the expansion of the service provision in Norfolk only.

**Outcome/approval by:** PCC

*The recommendations as outlined above are approved.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saylor." with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Signature:**

**Date:** 24/02/2025

## Detail of the submission

### 1. Objective:

- 1.1 The Restorative Justice (RJ) Service in Norfolk and Suffolk was established in 2019 by Norfolk and Suffolk PCCs and is delivered by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies. The previous funding arrangement was to fund the service on an equal basis until 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 This report sets out the recommendation to provide continuation funding (from both PCC areas – to be split on 50/50 basis), plus additional funding from the Norfolk PCC to expand the service in Norfolk for the period April 2025 to March 2026.
- 1.3 The Suffolk PCC has agreed to continue to fund the existing service on the basis of a 50/50 split – equivalent to £63,500 per PCC for the period April 2025 to March 2026.
- 1.4 The Norfolk PCC has agreed to fund the existing service on 50/50 basis equivalent to £63,500 plus an additional £28,037 for a 0.6 FTE RJ Advisor post to allow for the expansion of the service in Norfolk only.
- 1.5 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) can commission services that:
  - a) secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in Norfolk.
  - 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.
- 1.6 In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan. 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. BACKGROUND

- 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 This approach to delivery strengthens the culture of restorative justice in everyday policing and facilitates the utilisation of the RJ Hub to support Police Officers to respond more effectively to delivering the Community Remedy options.

- 2.3 The current staffing of the service comprises 2 x 1.0 FTE RJ Advisors (one based in Norfolk, one in Suffolk) and 1 x 0.5 FTE administrator (based in Norfolk) 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 32 officers trained to Level 2 RJ who are able to take on lower cases.
- 2.4 The new proposal is for the continuation of the above staffing model plus an additional 0.6 FTE RJ Advisor to allow for service expansion in Norfolk only. This will support the expansion of the RJ service into the Safeguarding and Investigations caseload to meet the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy priorities.

### **3. Areas for consideration:**

- 3.1 There has been an approximate 400% increase in RJ referrals since 2022, with the Norfolk and Suffolk RJ Hub recognised nationally as the busiest RJ service. RJ remains the biggest proven diversionary tactic to reduce re-offending. The recidivism rate for the Norfolk and Suffolk RJ services stands at 10.7% showing that being able to use RJ for low level offences helps to prevent people from committing further offences.

### **4. Other options considered:**

- 4.1 Not to move forward with continuation of the service would leave Norfolk without a Restorative Justice Service – therefore the PCC would not be compliant with the Victims Code of Practice requirements.
- 4.2 To continue with the existing provision – this will limit the capacity of the service to deliver in Norfolk and lose the opportunity to promote the use of RJ for Safeguarding and Investigations cases.

### **5. Strategic aims/objective supported:**

- 5.1 Under the Ministry of Justice 'Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales – November 2020', victims' rights are clearly laid out. One of these is to be provided with information when reporting the crime. This also includes services where you can meet the suspect or the offender and is known as Restorative Justice. The Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Restorative Justice Service supports this right.
- 5.2 The national Violence against Women and Girls Strategy sets out priorities to support victims, prevent crime and target perpetrators so that they take responsibility for their crimes. The expansion of the Norfolk service to promote RJ within the Safeguarding and Investigations caseload will help deliver these objectives.

## 6. Financial and other resource implications:

- 6.1 The total cost of the service is £154,336 which will be split between Norfolk and Suffolk OPCCs as follows.

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Costs</b>             |                 |
| Norfolk PCC contribution | £91,186         |
| Suffolk PCC contribution | £63,150         |
| <b>TOTL FUNDING</b>      | <b>£154,336</b> |

## 7. Carbon Emissions and Other Environmental Implications:

### 7.1 Carbon Emissions

The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

| Emission Categories:              | Increase in tCO <sub>2</sub> | Saving in tCO <sub>2</sub> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating | 0                            | 0                          |
| Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport        | 0                            | 0                          |
| Scope 2 – Electricity             | 0                            | 0                          |

### Environmental Implications

- 7.1 No material implications

## 8. Other implications and risks:

- 8.1 This continuation funding only commits until March 2026.
- 8.2 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies will continue to assess the demand for the service in terms of outcomes for victims and changes in out of court disposals.

| 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?  | YES                        |
| 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 sustainability and environmental factors been considered? (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction) | YES                        |
| In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?   | YES                        |

**Is this report a Confidential Decision?**

**NO**

If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

**Approval to submit to the decision-maker** (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

**Chief Executive**

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC



**Signature:**

**Date:** 07/02/2025

**Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)**

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,  
Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,  
Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves  
And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.



**Signature:**

**Date:** 03/02/2025

**Public access to information:** *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*