



To: The Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategy and Transformation: Councillor Lewis Herbert

Report by: Liz Bisset

Relevant scrutiny committee: Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee 20/10/2014

Wards affected: All wards

NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOLUTION PANEL SCHEME Progress Report Not a Key Decision

1. **Executive summary**

This report sets out interim progress made in relation to the development of the Neighbourhood Resolution Panel Scheme (NRPS) following a report to the committee on 17 March 2014.

Considerable further progress has been made to date which is outlined in this report and detailed in Appendix 1. Key points are summarised below:

- To date there have been twenty-one referrals from the police and the City Council anti-social behaviour (ASB) team with some very positive outcomes. A summary of the range of referrals is included in Appendix 1.
- Eighty per cent of those who participated in the scheme, and provided feedback, were satisfied with the outcome and said that they would recommend the scheme to those in similar situations.
- For low-level criminal offences the NRPS can form part of an out-of-court disposal (a community resolution or a conditional caution).
- The scheme fits comfortably within the new Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014 community remedy 'menu', providing victims and complainants with the opportunity to consider and identify outcomes that best suit their particular needs and circumstances.
- The very nature of the scheme promotes partnership working and provides the police and ASB team with a valuable additional mechanism by which to help agree and deliver community resolutions. The parties can decide what works best for them which can increase outcome satisfaction and help prevent escalation, ultimately saving time and the costs associated with repeat interventions by the police and other agencies. A table of approximate costing is included in Appendix 1.

It is recommended that continued emphasis is placed on promoting the benefits of the scheme, embedding policies and procedures and building on partnership working with the police, ASB and housing teams, so that referrals, and positive resolutions for victims/complainants, continue to increase steadily over the next twelve months.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

1. to note the report attached as Appendix One which sets out progress since March 2014 and
2. to endorse progress made and proposals for continued development of the scheme.

3. Background

A detailed account of the progress to date is attached at Appendix One. The NRPS is a 'restorative justice' initiative, working collaboratively with the police and anti-social behaviour (ASB) team, to address crime and non-crime incidents, including anti-social behaviour and disputes between neighbours, in a positive and constructive way.

The NRPS focuses on bringing parties together in a restorative justice (RJ) meeting, known as a 'panel', which is facilitated by volunteers who have completed RJ practitioner training. The parties agree the outcomes which are then recorded in a written agreement. Compliance with the agreement is monitored by the scheme co-ordinator and any non-compliance is referred back to the original referring agency to decide how best to deal with the matter thereafter.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

As noted in Appendix One the volunteer pool needs to be quite extensive and is resource intensive in management terms.

(b) Staffing Implications

See above

(c) Equality and Poverty Opportunities Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment was conducted in 2012. It is currently being reviewed and will be revised accordingly.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

Nil

(e) **Procurement**

None

(f) **Consultation and communication**

The campaign to recruit volunteers has included the Cambridge Volunteer Centre, Cambridge University Students Union, Anglia Ruskin Students Union, Cambridgeshire.net, ShapeYourPlace, Cambridge Student Community Action and the Cambridge Hub, as well as internal sources.

(g) **Community Safety**

As reported

5. **Background papers**

See below.

6. **Appendices**

Appendix One: Neighbourhood Resolution Panel Scheme Progress Report

7. **Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Maria Lambrou
Author's Phone Number: 01223 - 457 836
Author's Email: maria.lambrou@cambridge.gov.uk