



To: Executive Councillor for Community Development and Health: Councillor Tim Bick

Report by: Liz Bisset

Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 15/3/2012

Wards affected: All Wards

PROPOSED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SCHEME FOR CAMBRIDGE Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

“Restorative justice” (RJ) is an approach to criminal justice that provides a person who has suffered harm with an opportunity to tell the wrongdoer about the damaging effects of their actions. Some forms of RJ also give the wronged person a say in what the perpetrator can do to make amends. This report outlines a proposed RJ scheme for Cambridge based on the ‘neighbourhood resolution panel’ model. This model is one that promotes a high level of community involvement and has been shown in studies to produce high levels of satisfaction for victims, and agencies making referrals and has reduced re-offending in perpetrators.

The outline scheme proposed here has been developed in partnership with, and has the full support of, the police and other criminal justice system agencies.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

1. to note the report attached as Appendix 1 which explains the scheme in detail, says what the scheme is intended to achieve, and provides a plan for the implementation of the scheme; and
2. endorse the scheme as outlined in the appendix.

3. Background

Please see Appendix 1.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

This project will require a budget of £32,000 over two years.

(b) Staffing Implications (if not covered in Consultations Section)

The project will employ a worker probably at Scale 5 for 18.5 hours a week over the two year period, i.e. £16,000 per annum including on-costs.

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

An equalities impact assessment has been carried out and has found that, with appropriate mitigation, there are no differential impacts on any of the protected categories of people. A copy of the assessment is attached as Appendix 2.

(d) Environmental Implications

A climate change impact assessment has been carried out on this project and it has been rated as having a **NIL** impact.

(e) Consultation

Initial “in-principle” consultation has been carried out with the police, the youth offending service and with partners in the Cambridge community safety partnership. It will be an essential first task of the post-holder referred to in 4(b) to carry out further, detailed consultation with all the parties likely to be affected, including those services within the Council that may have an interest in the development of, and possible participation in, the proposed restorative justice scheme. This will be completed before the formal launch of the scheme in the new financial year and changes made to the proposal as necessary. The final proposed scheme will be returned to this committee for scrutiny.

(f) Community Safety

As described in Appendix 1, it is anticipated that this project will have a positive impact on community safety.

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

1. Testing Neighbourhood Resolution Panels, Ministry of Justice, July 2011 (<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/policy/moj/neighbourhood-resolution-panels-spec.pdf>)
2. Shapland, J., Robinson, G. and Sorsby, A. (2011) *Restorative justice in practice*. London: Routledge
3. Equality impact assessment (Appendix 2)

6. Appendices

Appendix 1: Restorative Justice: A proposal for Cambridge

Appendix 2: Equality impact assessment

7. Inspection of papers

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

Author's Name: James McWilliams

Author's Phone Number: 01223 - 457838

Author's Email: James.McWilliams@cambridge.gov.uk