

Police and Crime Panel

20th October 2015

Update on Restorative Justice Activities

Report of Head of Governance & Commissioning



Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Police & Crime Panel with an update on Restorative Justice (RJ) activities to date and share our future intentions for the extension of RJ in County Durham and Darlington.

Background

- 2 As part of the Ministry of Justice commitment to Restorative Justice £6.25million was identified to be distributed to Police and Crime Commissioners in 2014/15.
- 3 A further £14million is available in 2015/16 as part of the wider victim services commissioning budget. The funding allocated to the PCC for County Durham and Darlington was £68,000 in 2014/15 and £140,000 in 2015/16.
- 4 The funding is available for PCCs to ensure:
 - RJ is of a good quality and focused on victims' needs;
 - Victims can make informed choices, know how to access services and have RJ delivered by appropriately trained facilitators.

Current Position

- 5 The PCC agreed to provide funding in order to appoint two Restorative Justice (RJ) Coordinators across the Force area.
- 6 In November 2014 the Safe Durham Partnership Board supported the proposal to appoint a Restorative Justice (RJ) Coordinator. Derek Robson was appointed into that role with effect from April 2015. Derek has been seconded from the County Durham Youth Offending Service.
- 7 The activities in County Durham to date include:
 - Mapping of all local RJ provision;
 - Liaison with Criminal Justice partners;
 - Development of the current proposals for extending the RJ provision across the area.
- 8 A similar role was provided via the Darlington Community Safety Partnership and Andrew Hancock was appointed into that role.

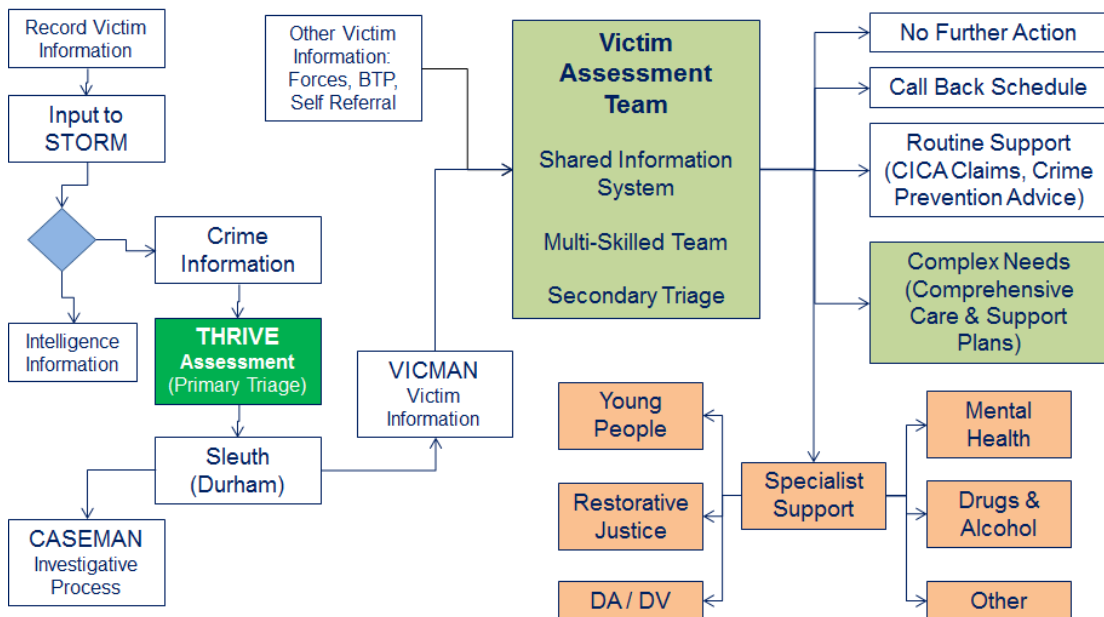
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- 9 The role in Darlington includes:
- Development and coordination of consistent Restorative Justice (RJ) programmes, alongside existing and planned restorative practice, within County Durham and Darlington;
 - Working with partners to increase victim involvement in quality restorative processes, and increase victim satisfaction;
 - Developing and implementing robust Restorative Justice pathways across existing services;
 - Monitoring effectiveness of Restorative Justice pathways and impact on re-offending;
 - Responsibility for recruiting, training and deploying community volunteers to support the RJ pathways
- 10 Both RJ Coordinators have worked closely to enhance the coordination and use of RJ across the Force area.
- 11 The Restorative Justice Group, chaired by the OPCC, has pulled together partners from across County Durham and Darlington to map existing Restorative Justice Work and identify any gaps in provision.
- 12 The Group has representation from all Criminal Justice Agencies including Police, Courts, National Probation Service, YOS and the Community Rehabilitation Company. Restorative Solutions are also represented as funders of the pre-sentence pilot currently being delivered at Durham Crown Court and being progressed into the Magistrates Courts.
- 13 The Group is working alongside the RJ Coordinators to identify the ways in which local community volunteers can assist RJ provision and development, as well as ensuring the PCC can meet his responsibilities towards victims.
- 14 An assessment of current RJ provision by the Coordinators strongly indicates there would be benefit in developing a consistent style of RJ provision across the Force area.
- 15 The RJ Coordinators, supported by the OPCC, have developed a proposal to extend the current Darlington Model across County Durham.
- 16 The proposal is to recruit, train and support a team of local community volunteers and deploy them to three pilot areas within County Durham (Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee and Chester Le Street).
- 17 The RJ Coordinators will be working with the police in these pilot areas to test the effectiveness of the approach in different environments and subsequently develop a high quality, sustainable, RJ delivery model for County Durham and Darlington.
- 18 The intention is to build on the learning from previous activities to embed RJ via the Neighbourhood Justice projects in Woodhouse Close, Bishop Auckland and Peterlee, whilst building capacity across the CJS and extending the range of RJ interventions.
- 19 Marketing is currently underway to recruit up to 80 volunteers for the pilots across County Durham and Darlington. Training will be given as part of the Facilitator Development Programme, which is accredited to Level 3 with the One Award and is now being assessed by the Restorative Justice Council for

validated practice. The training was developed and funded by Neighbourhood Resolutions in Darlington and is being freely shared across County Durham.

- 20 In order to fund the project the PCC will contribute a further £30,000 from Ministry of Justice monies to extend administration and case worker hours to support RJ development in County Durham and also cover the cost of recruitment, training and ongoing expenses for volunteers. This will be achieved by extending the hours of the current provision within Neighbourhood Resolutions.
- 21 The work of the RJ Coordinators is being closely aligned with the development of a Durham and Cleveland service specification for the appointment of an independent service provider of a Victim Assessment & Referral Service from April 2016. The service provider will assist with the promotion of Restorative Approaches to victims in addition to the assessment and coordination process.
- 22 Victims' needs will be assessed based upon vulnerability rather than crime type, and a pilot delivering this model is currently being undertaken in the Darlington area. The team involved in the pilot have made links with the RJ Coordinator to ensure an appropriate referral route as needed. The attachment shows the link between the victim assessment and support.

Durham Pilot – Integrated Support for Victims This is just the start of the journey of cope and recovery for Victims



Objective is to commission a service that helps a person to **cope and recover** from the impact of victimisation but also taking account of any existing mental or physical condition

Recommendations

- 23 The Police & Crime Panel is recommended to:
- Note the contents of the report;
 - Support the proposal to extend the Darlington Model across the Durham area, initially in Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee and Chester Le Street.

Appendix 1: Risks and Implications

Finance

This is included in the main body of the report.

Staffing

n/a

Equality and Diversity

n/a

Accommodation

n/a

Crime and Disorder

n/a

Children's Act 2004

n/a

Stakeholder/Community Engagement

The Durham & Darlington Victim and Witness Planning Group is reviewing and advising this service development.

Environment

n/a

Collaboration and Partnerships

This service will be commissioned in collaboration with the Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership.

Value for Money and Productivity

n/a

Potential Impact on Police and Crime Plan Priorities

This is consistent with objectives in the Police and Crime Plan.

Commissioning

n/a

Other risks

n/a

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