



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING

19th November 2014

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE UPDATE (RJ)

1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide The Police and Crime Panel with an update regarding RJ, the development of Neighbourhood Justice Panels (NJPs) and the commissioning of RJ services by the PCC.

2 Current Position

A report was submitted to the Police and Crime Panel in January 2014 outlining the benefits of Restorative Justice practices. The report was produced by the Centre for Justice Innovation (CJI) who were leading on a pilot to develop Neighbourhood Justice Panels in Swindon. The PCC also outlined the intention to extend the Restorative Justice Panel pilot from Swindon through to the rest of Wiltshire.

3 NJP Performance

In the year September 2013-14 there were:
30 referrals made to NJPs,
26 cases heard,
24 contracts completed.

Overall the numbers of referrals and Panels held have been disappointing compared with predicted numbers, particularly in Wiltshire. CJI training in RJ has been continuing including the overall training of 135 professionals and 53 Volunteers.

Due to lack of referrals the CJI programme was underspent and will now run until December 2014. A study has been carried out to review low numbers of ASB referrals across Wiltshire, and processes are now in place to encourage more referrals from the Police and other partners, this is showing early signs of improvement.

4 The Way Forward

The Commissioner will continue to review the work of the Centre For Justice Innovation in providing NJPs. In addition to the development of NJPs the Commissioner has been considering the most effective way of using the available funding to enhance and extend the RJ capability. Part of the process has involved consultation with partner agencies, many of whom are already using restorative practices including the Police, Courts, CRC, Probation and Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Offending Teams, in order to gather their views on how best to maximise the use of RJ. There are many

examples of where RJ is being used. A table showing the current RJ structure, provision and aims in Wiltshire and Swindon is attached.

In addition to the above, the Commissioner is currently consulting with the community on the use of 'Community Remedies' for low level crime and ASB, as required under the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The aim of this is to engage with the public about the use of different restorative practices for some low level offences, where the victim agrees. The consultation will remain open until 21st November.

5 Conclusion

The Commissioner will adopt a multi-agency partnership approach to delivering restorative justice across Wiltshire and Swindon. The Commissioner will appoint a co-ordinator to:

- Bring statutory, non-statutory and voluntary sector partners together to create a Restorative Justice Board
- Develop the use of Restorative Practices across services operating in Wiltshire and Swindon and in communities.
- Build on existing work where Restorative Practices impact positively on outcomes
- Support and Provide training, advice and guidance to ensure consistency of practice through partners and volunteers.
- Offer a Restorative Interventions service using qualified, experienced volunteer facilitators
- Promoting and support the use of restorative practice across the County

Angus Macpherson
Police and Crime Commissioner
For Wiltshire and Swindon

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN SWINDON AND WILTSHIRE

	Primary	Secondary		Tertiary	
	Community based	Local resolution	Neighbourhood Justice Panels	Post-conviction pre-sentence	Post-conviction post-sentence
Delivery	Schools and local community	Police	CSP		CRC/NPS/YOTS
Current position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited RJ in some schools Community RJ being developed eg Calne 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local resolution used in some cases. Member of police staff appointed to monitor and develop the use of out of court disposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NJP introduced in Swindon as part of national initiative. Cohort of volunteers trained. 26 panels held to date (08/14). PCC funded expansion of scheme to Wiltshire. Police training given. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None being delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YOT RJ process well established. NPS has 3 trained facilitators who have not yet progressed on to delivery. CRC has 1 trained facilitator and a further 2 identified. Training due to take place in Sept/Oct. CRC have admin processes in place for delivery of RJ.
Aims – common to all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective governance structure RJ embedded across the CJS. Sufficient numbers of trained and accredited facilitators to sustain delivery requirements. RJ used in all appropriate cases and in a consistent way. Victims have access to RJ at any stage of the process. Independent Scrutiny Panel to monitor quality of RJ delivery. Effective internal and external marketing of RJ – celebrate success. Robust referral process in place. Reduce re-offending. High victim satisfaction. Evaluation of processes to identify effective practice and benefits. 				
Aims – specific to strand	Communities understand & support RJ	Dealing effectively with low level offences with the consent of the victim Reducing re-offending	Embed NJP process in Wiltshire, increasing referrals		
Action needed to achieve aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build on good practice eg BA13 project. Promote RJ via community networks eg Area Boards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Front line officers receive training and guidance on the use of RJ. Internal monitoring of process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-launch of Wiltshire scheme. Consistent practice established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained facilitators in place Support from HMCTS/Judiciary Effective & timely processes ensure adjournments are kept to a minimum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitators to be released to undertake RJ. Effective targeting of relevant cases