

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 082/20
Classification Not protectively marked
Title of report: Restorative Engagement Forum intrafamilial domestic abuse training
Area of County/Stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Nikki Essex (Restorative and Mediation Service Manager) Date of report: 26 th June 2020 Enquiries to: Nikki.essex@essex.police.uk

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the commissioning of Restorative Engagement Forum to deliver an intrafamilial domestic abuse restorative justice training session for the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service (ERMS).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £600 to the Restorative Engagement Forum for the delivery of a one-day training course in handling intrafamilial domestic abuse cases for 15 facilitators.

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1. This full day training will equip restorative justice facilitators within the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service (ERMS) with the skills required to deal with intrafamilial domestic abuse cases effectively and appropriately. Alongside adapting the restorative process to support a series of meetings, this will work on ripple effect exercises, i-messaging and other strategies to build better communication skills.
- 3.2. The training is designed to assist participants to understand how the restorative process can be adapted to support families who are experiencing intra-familial violence, namely child on parent. Restorative Justice is proven to be extremely beneficial for families and many youth offending agencies use it within their work.

- 3.3. Families often do not want to prosecute but need to develop better communication strategies as well as having a safe space to talk about the impact of the harm and put in place firm boundaries. A restorative approach can also be used to support families if a child is returning to the family home.
- 3.4. The training will be bespoke to the needs of our delegates, which will include the ERMS Service Manager, Coordinators and Administrator as well as a small number of volunteer facilitators. This training will mean the service is equipped to handle more intrafamilial domestic abuse cases that may be referred by partners such as the Youth Offending Services, Youth Services and Essex Police.
- 3.5. Our ERMS service has already seen an increase in these sorts of cases following the introduction of a new process with the YOSs and discussions with Essex Police Inspectors on the use of RJ in domestic abuse cases. This training will ensure the service is properly skilled and equipped to continue its development and will also support our staff and volunteers' development.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. ERMS is a Ministry of Justice-funded service that offers victims the opportunity to meet those who committed a crime or incident against them to explain the impact the incident had. It gives offenders the opportunity to consider the impact their actions had on another individual and has been proven to have a positive impact on reoffending rates.
- 4.2. Restorative cases involving intrafamilial domestic abuse require special handling, including risk assessments and initial meetings with those involved.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. The PFCC may wish not to commission this training, but that would severely limit the ability of the ERMS to handle these sorts of cases. The training is being offered to 15 staff members and volunteers, which will include the staff members, advanced facilitators and those who take on complex and sensitive cases. A decision not to proceed with this training may also have a negative impact on staff and volunteers who view this as a development opportunity. Volunteers have already expressed an interest and need for this specific training.
- 5.2. There may be other organisations that can deliver this training but ERMS has used Restorative Engagement Forum previously and knows and values the quality of its training. The proposed approach to procurement is compliant with the PFCC's Financial and Procurement Regulations.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. The Police and Crime Plan makes specific reference to expanding the use of RJ and enabling more victims to have access to RJ, including those experiencing domestic abuse. This training would facilitate delivery of these commitments.

7. Police Operational Implications

- 7.1. This training would enable the ERMS to take on more intrafamilial abuse cases referred by Essex Police, and has the potential to improve victim satisfaction and reduce reoffending.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will allocate a one-off grant of £600 from the 2020-21 Victims' Fund to Restorative Engagement Forum.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. The grant would be subject to the PFCC's standard funding agreement

10. Staffing and other resource implications

- 10.1. There are no staffing implications other than those described above.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. The ERMS is available to all victims or offenders who are referred by statutory and non-statutory partners or via the self-referral form on our website.

12. Risks

- 12.1. There are no identified risks associated with this proposal.

13. Governance Boards

- 13.1 This decision is not subject to discussion at a governance board

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

If redaction is required, Treasurer or Chief Executive are to sign off that redaction has been completed.

Sign:


Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report;

Sign: 

Jane Gardner

Print:

Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 17 August 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because;

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Sign:

Print: