

PFCC Decision Report

Please ensure all sections below are completed

Report reference number: 119/20
Classification: Not protectively marked/restricted
Title of report: 2020 Restorative Justice Week Online Seminar
Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide
Report by: Nikki Essex
Date of report: 7 th October 2020
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1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To approve the allocation of £150 for costs associated with organising a PFCC RJ week Online seminar which will take place on Friday 20th November.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Approve the allocation of £150 towards the costs of organising an online seminar on RJ in a domestic abuse case to promote restorative justice.

3. Benefits of the proposal

- 3.1. ERMS has experienced challenge and resistance from certain partners in promoting and offering RJ for certain crimes, particularly domestic and sexual abuse. This event will allow an opportunity for victims of these offences to talk about their experience of the process, what they have gained from it and why it is important to offer RJ. This should help to promote the work of ERMS and the benefits of RJ which will generate additional referrals to our service.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1. ERMS has seen a decrease in referrals in 2019-20, with only 7% of our referrals being post-sentence. Only 8/303 referrals were for domestic abuse cases. ERMS received no referrals from witness care, and only a small number from prison and Probation. We know from our own research that only 34% of offenders re-offend within 3 years of taking part in restorative justice, so this is beneficial for offenders. Furthermore, we have maintained above 90% participant satisfaction rate with victims feeling a benefit of taking part in this process.
- 4.2. Due to the challenges and push backs sometimes received, we want to use this seminar as an opportunity to mitigate any concern partners have on certain

cases, such as domestic abuse, by inviting a survivor of domestic abuse to talk about her positive experience of RJ and how it changed her life.

- 4.3. This survivor provided a similar input to the Witness Care Unit at Kent Police, with five police officers also invited, and the feedback received was extremely positive, including from those who were previously cautious about offering RJ. Individuals who attended the session felt this should be rolled out to a wider audience in a formal setting with more guest speakers. This guest speaker led to an increase of referrals from the witness care unit, with 22% of Kent Police RJ referrals being of a domestic nature.

5. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. There are no alternative options considered other than not organising this kind of event at all. We could continue to provide awareness sessions, but these have already been done and do not guarantee an increase in referrals. By having a real victim talk about her experience, and having an open Q&A session, this may have more of an impact than our usual training sessions.

6. Police and Crime Plan

- 6.1. The Police and Crime plan embeds RJ throughout various priorities, including making greater use of RJ to help put right the harm caused for DV crimes. The plan wishes to continue developing and embedding the ERMS, utilising case studies of positive victims, offenders and engagements to highlight the potential of RJ and encourage more professionals to refer into the service. This event plans to do just that.

7. Police operational implications

- 7.1. There are no direct operational implications of running this event.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The PFCC will allocate a one-off payment of £150 from the 2020-21 Victim Budget to pay for guest speaker fees.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. There are no legal implications.

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1. It would be useful for this event to be opened by the PFCC and / or deputy PFCC with the RJ team also attending to assist with Q&A.

11. Equality and Diversity implications

- 11.1. In EP the policy is to offer RJ for all crimes except for domestic cases. This training opportunity will highlight the importance of giving victims of all crime types an equal opportunity to access RJ.

12. Risks

- 12.1. There are no risks identified.

13. Governance Boards

- 13.1. This proposal has not been to any formal governance boards.

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the OPFCC Chief Executive and Treasurer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Deputy M.O.

Sign:



Print: Darren Horsman

Date: 7 October 2020

Chief Finance Officer / Treasurer

Sign:



Print: Elizabeth Helm

Date: 8 October 2020

Publication

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

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If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

Redaction

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet?

YES

2. Of Appendix?

YES

NO

NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

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Date redaction carried out:

Treasurer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only

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

Sign:

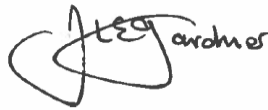
Print:

Chief Executive/Treasurer

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign:



Print: Jane Gardner

Deputy PFCC

Date signed: 12 October 2020

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC