

**Subject: Restorative Justice Service – Continuation of funding for 2026-28**

**Originator:** Commissioning Officer

**Decision no.** 09/2026

**Reason for submission:** For decision

**Submitted to:** Sarah Taylor – Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

**Summary:**

1. The Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Service was established in 2019, to respond to requirements in the Victims' Code of Practice. This placed a requirement on police forces to offer information about restorative justice (RJ) to victims, and on Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to ensure a service existed to provide RJ to those victims (and offenders) who wished to explore the use of RJ to help cope and recover from the impact of crime.
2. This report recommends that alongside the Suffolk PCC, the Norfolk PCC continues to fund the Norfolk and Suffolk Police Joint Justice Department to operate the RJ Hub for a further two years from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028 at a total cost to both PCCs of £343,662.
3. This funding will include extra provision from the Norfolk PCC to fund an additional 0.6 FTE RJ Advisor post.
4. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 enables the PCC to commission services that:
  - secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction.
  - are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by offences and anti-social behaviour.

In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that services are consistent with the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan, which includes a commitment to ensure Restorative Justice is offered and provided, and to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the PCC approves an extension of the Office of the Police and Commissioner for Norfolk's (OPCCN) share of joint funding to operate a RJ Hub for a further two years from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028 at a total cost of £202,437 which includes £61,212 additional provision for the expanded service provision in Norfolk only.

**Outcome/approval by:** Sarah Taylor – Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk  
The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Taylor".

**Date:** 27/02/2026

## Detail of the submission

### 1. Objective:

- 1.1 The Restorative Justice Service in Norfolk and Suffolk was established in 2019 by Norfolk and Suffolk PCCs to respond to the requirements within the Victims' Code of Practice which placed a requirement on police forces to ensure that a RJ service was provided and that information about RJ was made available to victims. The service is delivered by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies.
- 1.2 The previous funding arrangement (until 31 March 2025) was to fund the service on an equal 50/50 basis. From 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the Norfolk PCC provided additional funding for the expansion of the service for Norfolk only.
- 1.3 This report sets out the recommendation to provide continuation funding for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028 as follows:
  - From both PCC areas – to be split on 50/50 basis
  - Additional funding from the Norfolk PCC for the continued extension of the service in Norfolk
- 1.4 The Suffolk PCC has agreed to fund the core service on a 50/50 basis for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028.
- 1.5 The Norfolk PCC has agreed to fund the existing service on 50/50 basis equivalent to £68,861 plus an additional £29,960 for a 0.6 FTE RJ Advisor post for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, and 50/50 basis £72,364 plus additional £31,252 for the period 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028 to allow for the expanded service in Norfolk only.
- 1.6 PCCs can commission services that:
  - secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction.
  - are intended to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.

This is in accordance with the provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

- 1.7 In applying this provision, the PCC will ensure that the services commissioned are also consistent with the Norfolk Police and Crime Plan 2025-29. Ensuring Restorative Justice is offered and provided, and compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, is outlined within the Police and Crime Plan as one of the services which help victims to cope and recover from the impact of crime.

### 2. Background:

- 2.1 The Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Service has been in operation since 2019. Until April 2025 Norfolk and Suffolk PCCs contributed funding on an equal 50/50 basis towards the service which is delivered by Norfolk and Suffolk

Constabularies. Since April 2025 Norfolk OPCC has contributed additional funding to allow for the expansion of the service in Norfolk.

2.2 This approach to delivery strengthens the culture of RJ in everyday policing and facilitates the utilisation of the RJ Hub to support Police Officers to respond more effectively to delivering the Community Resolution options.

2.3 The staffing of the service comprises

- 2 x 1.0 FTE RJ Advisors (one based in Norfolk, one in Suffolk) and 1 x 0.5 FTE administrator (based in Norfolk) to support the service. The advisors are trained to Level 3 and able to support complex cases. The Joint Justice Directorate supports the advisors with a Sergeant (also Level 3 trained in RJ) and Inspector oversight of the service. There are 32 officers trained to Level 2 RJ who are able to take on lower cases.
- 1 x 0.6 FTE RJ Advisor to support the delivery of RJ in Norfolk only – to expand the service into the Safeguarding and Investigations caseload to meet the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy priorities.

### **3. Areas for consideration:**

3.1 There has been an approximate 400% increase in RJ referrals since 2022. RJ remains the biggest proven diversionary tactic to reduce re-offending.

3.2 A Strategic Review of the Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Service was completed in 2026. A new Action Plan has been agreed with the following priorities:

- Raising awareness around RJ through development and delivery of webinars.
- Establishing effective referral pathways with Victim Support organisations and Safeguarding and Investigations Teams.
- Regular review and refresh of all social media and promotional materials about RJ.
- Developing evaluation of all RJ cases - to include longitudinal assessment of re-offending rates, take-up and victim feedback.
- Ongoing liaison with stakeholder agencies including Constabulary departments and policing teams (including Roads and Armed Policing Teams, Special Constabularies, Constabulary HR teams, Wonder Plus service (for women in or at risk of entering Criminal Justice Service system), and Icení (agency supporting people with substance abuse).
- Increasing the number of RJ Champions in Norfolk and Suffolk.

#### 4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 Not to move forward with continuation of the service would leave Norfolk without a Restorative Justice Service – therefore the PCC would not be compliant with the Victims Code of Practice requirements as set out below.
- 4.2 To reduce the existing provision in Norfolk – this will limit the capacity of the service to deliver in Norfolk and lose the opportunity to promote the use of RJ for Safeguarding and Investigations cases, helping to deliver the objectives within the national Violence against Women and Girls Strategy.

#### 5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

- 5.1 Under the Ministry of Justice ‘Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales – November 2020’, victims’ rights are clearly laid out. One of these is to be provided with information when reporting the crime. This also includes services where you can communicate with the suspect or the offender, known as Restorative Justice. The Norfolk and Suffolk Joint Restorative Justice Service supports this right.
- 5.2 The VAWG Strategy sets out priorities to support victims, prevent crime and target perpetrators so that they take responsibility for their crimes. The expansion of the Norfolk service to promote RJ within the Safeguarding and Investigations caseload helps to deliver these objectives.
- 5.3 This recommendation supports the delivery of the following objectives set out in The Norfolk Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 - to prevent crime, build cohesive communities, and reduce harm.

#### 6. Financial and other resource implications:

- 6.1 The total cost of the service over the 2-year period is £343,662 which will be split between Norfolk and Suffolk OPCCs as follows:

Costs	April 2026 – March 2027	April 2027 – March 2028	TOTAL
Norfolk PCC contribution	£98,821	£103,616	£202,437
Suffolk PCC contribution	£68,861	£72,364	£141,225
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>£167,682</b>	<b>£175,980</b>	<b>£343,662</b>

## 7. Carbon Emissions and Other Environmental Implications:

### Carbon Emissions

7.1 The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

Emission Categories:	Increase in tCO2	Saving in tCO2
Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating	0	0
Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity	0	0

### Environmental Implications

7.2 No material implications

## 8. Other implications and risks:

8.1 Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies will continue to assess the demand and take-up of the service, its impact on re-offending, and victim feedback.

<b>Originator checklist (must be completed)</b>	<b>Please state 'yes' or 'no'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>NO</b>
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>YES</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	<b>YES</b>
Have human resource implications been considered?	<b>YES</b>
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	<b>YES</b>
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	<b>YES</b>
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	<b>YES</b>
Have sustainability and environmental factors been considered? (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction)	<b>YES</b>
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	<b>YES</b>

**Is this report a Confidential Decision?**

**NO**

If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

**Approval to submit to the decision-maker** (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

## Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

**Signature:**



**Date: 26/02/2026**

## Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,  
Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,  
Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves  
And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

**Signature:**



**Date: 02/03/2026**

**Public access to information:** Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.