



Reference No: 84 - 2015

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST:

To agree the use of the Victim Support delivered Victim Awareness Course (VAC) as part of Community Remedy

Title:

Community Remedy – Victim Awareness Course (VAC)

Executive Summary:

Community Remedy was introduced in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It is a tool to give victims a say in the out of court punishment of perpetrators for low level crime and anti-social behaviour.

Following feedback from a public consultation by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in March 2014, a list of options were identified and agreed in order for victims to indicate their preference as to how the perpetrator should be dealt with. One of the options on the list includes targeted interventions. Targeted interventions can be used to assist the perpetrator to address any issues they may have to overcome or to understand the impact of their crime and/or anti-social behaviour. The Victim Awareness Course (VAC) has been identified as one of these interventions.

The Victim Awareness Course (VAC) delivered over three hours by Victim Support is an educational and rehabilitative option for an offender who has committed low level crime and/or anti-social behaviour. The course was developed with victims at the heart and is intended to educate offenders as to the impact of their actions and to help them to understand the effect that such offending has on victims, their loved-ones, themselves and the wider community.

The course is self-financing as offenders have to pay £55 to attend as part of their Community Remedy conditions. A number of 10 individuals must attend each course in order for Victim Support to break-even. If, after a number of months courses are not fully subscribed the Police and Crime Commissioner may have to subsidise for each place not taken. This will be closely monitored on a month by month basis.

The Victim Awareness Course is currently being academically evaluated however, early findings are encouraging;

- 88% of attendees stated that the course had helped them to think about the behaviour which led them to having to attend the VAC.
- 78% stated that they would 'definitely' behave differently in future as a result of having attended the course; a further 15% indicated that they may possibly behave differently and the remainder stated that they were not sure.
- 80% of VAC attendees either agreed or strongly agreed that the course helped them to look at the victim's perspective on the crime/incident.
- 90% stated that the course had helped them to think about how the victim might feel as a result of their offending behaviour.
- 92% of VAC attendees indicated that the course had helped them understand the impact of crime in general on victims.

Early indications from victims of crime suggest that they appreciate the approach and the rationale of the Victim Awareness Course which seeks to present a fair balance between punishment and rehabilitation.

Decision:

To agree the Victim Awareness Course (VAC) delivered by Victim Support to be included as part of the Community Remedy Process and to monitor the number of places used on a monthly basis to understand any cost implications in the future.

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(If yes please provide further details below)

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

If at least 10 offenders do not attend each course the PCC may be required to subsidise places in order for Victim Support to break even. This will be closely monitored.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

None arise.

Equality and Diversity Implications

N/A

Human Rights Implications

N/A

Sustainability Implications

The course should be self-financing and therefore sustainable due to the fact that offenders pay a fee to attend as part of their Community Remedy conditions.

Risk Management Implications


Costs may occur if the minimum number of offenders does not attend each course. As this course may also be used wider than for Community Remedy i.e. as Condition Cautions etc. it is likely that the minimum number required will be met.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed: _____



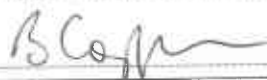
Date: _____

5/8/15

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS / ~~DOES NOT HAVE~~ my approval.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

10/8/15