

## **Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner**

### **Topic: Restorative Justice**

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### **Purpose of briefing**

To outline one of the key services commissioned by the OPCVC.

### **Background**

Restorative Justice is an activity that allows victims to initiate a conversation to an offender who committed a crime against them and get answers to questions that enable the victim to move on from the incident. The Restorative Hub was established with monies from the MoJ Victims Fund, an annual grant from central government. The trained practitioners who work out of the Hub provide a range of restorative approaches and mediation to support victims and individuals in the communities. The Hub is integral to supporting victims of crime cope and recover from the crime.

### **Current Issues**

The service is delivered by individuals seconded from other organisations and others employed by the Durham Agency against Crime with their activities directed by the OPCVC. The service is currently 100% funded by the OPCVC.

The service has been very successful in helping victims of crime move on from the impact of the crime and solving problems on behalf of the client and referring organisations. The service has had national recognition for the range of support that it offers to clients and victims of crime.

### **Decisions Needed**

The service is expected to be commissioned alongside the victim referral and assessment service currently provided by Safer Communities and known as VCAS (Victims of Crime Advisory Service). The Hub has supplied two restorative practitioners to work alongside the VCAS team supporting victims on a journey through the Criminal Justice System. The key decision is which commissioning model will be best for this service going forward and what will be included in the service specification.

### **Partnership Involvement**

Many partner organisations refer clients to the Hub (local councils, housing association, community organisations and self-referral).

### **Police Involvement**

The police are the main referrers to the Hub and beneficiaries of the service.

### **People to Meet**

The team providing restorative and community mediation activities and some of the clients of the service.