

PFCC Decision Report

Report reference number: 015-24

Classification: Not protectively marked

Title of report: Essex Restorative and Mediation Service Annual Report 2022/23

Area of county / stakeholders affected: Countywide

Report by: Abby Hare (Essex Restorative and Mediation Service Manager)

Chief Officer: Greg Myddelton (Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery)

Date of report: 16 January 2024

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the PFCC's approval to publish the attached Essex Restorative and Mediation Service Annual Report for 2022/23.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Commissioner notes the contents and approves the publication of the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service Annual Report 2022/23.

3. Background to the proposal

- 3.1 The Essex Restorative and Mediation Service Annual Report 2022/23 provides valuable information about the performance of the service over the financial year. It ensures that performance data and information is in the public domain and supports the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024.
- 3.2 Previous ERMS annual reports have been published on the PFCC-owned ERMS website (www.restorativeessex.co.uk) and are cited by the public, media and professionals when they contact the Restorative and Mediation Service. Publication of the report demonstrates the activity of the service and ensures transparency.
- 3.3 The report offers the opportunity to reflect and report on previous performance and ambitions as well as setting out the plan for the coming year.

4. Proposal and associated benefits

- 4.1. The report references relevant Police and Crime Plan commitments, as well as the service's own commitments. It also provides evidence of compliance against the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.
- 4.2. The report highlights some of the key successes of the Restorative and Mediation Service in 2022/23 including the development of a one-day mediation process, the delivery of 30 training inputs to partner organisations, the recruitment of 13 new volunteer coordinators, and receiving a 97% satisfaction rating from participants.

5. Options analysis

- 5.1 The PFCC could decide not to produce or publish an annual report for the ERMS and instead refer to ERMS performance in the PFCC's overarching annual report. This would minimise the richness of detail and context published with regard to the service and miss the opportunity to celebrate its achievements and success.

6. Consultation and engagement

- 6.1 This report was presented to the ERMS Strategic Group in May 2023 and the PFCC's Senior Management Team on 16th January 2024.

7. Strategic links

- 7.1. The Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 commits to "*promote and expand the use of Restorative Justice across the county as a proven method to aid recovery for victims and reduce reoffending*". This report outlines the work carried out by the ERMS during the 2022/23 period.
- 7.2. The Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 also commits to "*Invest in those who volunteer for the roles embedded in the PFCC's Office, including Restorative Justice Volunteers, to ensure they feel skilled, valued and appreciated*". The report summarises the feedback from volunteers and supports the commitment to value volunteers.
- 7.3. The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime says that "*If the offender is an adult, you have the right to receive information about Restorative Justice from the police and how to access Restorative Justice services in your local area. If the offender is under the age of 18, you have the right to receive information about Restorative Justice from the Youth Offending Team*". This report demonstrates that Essex has an effective service to facilitate Restorative Justice and meet this requirement.

8. Police operational implications

- 8.1. An efficient Restorative Justice service means that more referrals can be processed and managed by the service, the majority of which come from Essex Police.

8.2. An efficient and effective ERMS has the potential to result in a reduction in workload for Essex Police officers and the wider criminal justice system, as RJ can prevent the escalation of issues and is proven to improve victim satisfaction and reduce re-offending.

9. Financial implications

9.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the publication of this annual report.

10. Legal implications

10.1 We do not have a statutory obligation to publish this annual report, although it is considered best practice.

10.2 As set out in section 4 above, the report provides evidence of compliance against the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

11. Staffing implications

11.1 There are no direct staffing implications arising from publishing this annual report.

12. Equality and Diversity implications

12.1 The publication of this annual report is not expected to disadvantage any individual with a protected characteristic.

12.2 All victims of crime are entitled to access Restorative Justice to aid their recovery from the harm they have experienced. Anyone can be a victim of crime and the Essex Restorative and Mediation Service seeks to make itself as accessible as possible, encouraging and facilitating referrals from a wide range of partners including Essex Police, local authorities, housing associations and the Probation Service, as well as promoting self-referrals through a dedicated website, publicity activities, and marketing materials.

13. Risks and mitigations

13.1 There is the potential for reputational risk associated with not publishing this report which this decision will mitigate.

14. Governance Boards

14.1 This annual report has been presented to, and discussed at, the PFCC's Senior Management Team meeting on 16th January 2024.

15. Links to Future Plans

15.1 This proposal contributes to the delivery of various plans and strategies including the Police and Crime Plan, the PFCC's RJ Pledge, and various other local criminal justice and community safety strategies and plans.

16. Background papers and Appendices

16.1 The Essex Restorative and Mediation Service - Annual Report 2022/23



ERMS 2022-23
annual report final.pdf

Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the PFCC’s Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 19 January 2023

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Added to awaiting CFO signature, document on 7 March 2024

Date: 16 March 2024

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)

None

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 NO 2. Of Appendix? YES NO

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

N/A

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

Date signed:

Decision and Final Sign Off

I agree the recommendations to this report:

Sign: 

Print: Roger Hirst

PFCC

Date signed: 25/03/2024

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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Sign:

Print:

PFCC/Deputy PFCC

Date signed: