

Committee:	Date:
Safer City Partnership	08 June 2015
Subject: Community Remedy Consultation	Public
Report of: Manager, Community Safety Team	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>The attached Report relates to the Community Remedy and the recent consultation exercise.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Partnership Members are asked to note the report</p>	

Background

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 placed a duty on all Police and Crime Commissioners (in the City of London the Common Council) to consult with members of the public and community representatives on what punitive, reparative or rehabilitative actions they would consider appropriate to be included within local Community Remedy strategies.

The Community Remedy is intended to give victims a say in the out-of-court punishment of perpetrators for low level crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). The Community Remedy is an action which a perpetrator must undertake to make amends and avoid going to court.

The Community Remedy Document (produced by the Home Office) outlines a menu of options to support police officers or other authorised to deal with ASB or low level offences in a way which can improve public confidence in resolution without court proceedings to ensure better outcomes for the victim.

Before deciding on a particular course of action the police must make reasonable efforts to obtain the views of the victim as to whether the perpetrator should carry out any of the actions listed in the community remedy document.

Community Remedy

The Community Remedy applies where:

- The officer has evidence that a person has engaged in anti-social behavior or committed an offence
- The person must admit to the behavior or the offence
- The officer thinks that the evidence is enough for court proceedings including a civil injunction but considers that a Community Remedy would be more appropriate.

It has been recommended that the recording of out of court disposals is essential to reduce the risk of repeat victimization. It is also crucial to have clarity about who will arrange and supervise the different possible sanctions and measures, whether it be a treatment program, reparation of damage or the payment of compensation.

Consultation

The Consultation was promoted via the Corporations website for three weeks from 20 April. It asked 9 questions based on Home Office guidance asking respondent to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with a range of potential actions:

- Reparation direct to the victim for any damage caused (financial or otherwise)
- Reparation direct to the community (unpaid work for a limited time)
- Apology (face-to-face or by letter)
- Counselling
- Restorative Justice or mediation – third party to bring together both parties to reach common agreement
- Agreement contract between parties (e.g. Acceptable Behaviour Contract, Parenting Contract)
- Structured diversionary activity such as educational/training courses (self-funded or otherwise)
- Targeted intervention (e.g. alcohol treatment or anger management course)

The consultation generated 5 responses, the results of which were:

- 100% of participants agreed on reparation direct to the victim for any damage caused.
- 100% of participants agreed on reparation direct to the community.
- 80% of participants agreed on apologies while 20% disagreed.
- 60% of participants agreed on counselling while 40% disagreed.

- 60% of participants agreed on Restorative Justice or mediation while 40% disagreed.
- 80% of participants agreed on agreement contracts between parties while a 20% disagreed.
- 60% disagreed on structured diversionary activity while 40% agreed.
- 60% of participants agreed on Targeted intervention while 40% disagreed.

Conclusion

This consultation was a requirement placed upon the City of London Corporation and has been completed. Although the number of responses was low it does demonstrate that certain Community Remedy options are seen more favourably by the public. This pattern of the public preferring more direct and more clearly punitive responses is one seen in a number of areas. The consultation response will now help inform how the City of London Police delivers the Community Remedy.

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