



COMMUNITY REMEDY – CONSULTATION ANALYSIS

The Commissioner's public consultation ran for five weeks. The aim was to seek views to help inform the Commissioner's menu of options within the Community Remedy document. It was widely publicised through a press release and subsequent media interviews, the Commissioner's Outreach Worker's channels including Shape Your Place, social media, eCops (to around 12,000 subscribers), and directly through partners such as Community Safety Partnerships. Consultees were asked seven questions seeking their views on a list of options that would give victims a say in the out of court punishment for those who are involved in ASB or commit low level.

From the thousands of recipients of the consultation, 52 detailed online responses were received. The vast majority of respondents were supportive of using the Community Remedy, with many of those having been a victim of ASB and or low level crime. Had it been an option when they had been victims, they would have supported its use.

There was overwhelming support and concern for victims, the effect that ASB and low level crime has on them, and how offenders must realise the consequence of their actions on both victims and communities. A number of respondents felt that having a range of options within the Community Remedy would be appropriate to fit the offence committed and meet the needs of both the victim and the offender.

It was evident that respondents felt there needs to be a clear link between the offence and the need for punitive action as there was overwhelming support for financial compensation with payment direct to the victim. Community work was also favoured as a form of 'pay back', such as litter picking. However, there was a mixed response regarding whether an apology, either written or verbal, would have any impact on an offender for their actions and their future behaviour and the impact this would have on the victim.

Respondents also gave suggestions for other sanctions on the Community Remedy, such as education and courses for example alcohol awareness. Following the consultation period, the Commissioner now has to agree the options for Community Remedy with the Chief Constable. Initial discussions have already taken place with the Constabulary with a view to ensuring that any option is realistically achievable, practical to deliver based on an officers professional judgement and meets the victim's needs. The Community Remedy will come into effect in early October 2014, with a review by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable as to its effectiveness, the outcomes for victims and whether any further options need to be added, scheduled for spring 2015.