



Community Remedy

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Summary

The Community Remedy, as a provision of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014) is designed to introduce simpler and more effective powers for tackling low level crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Community Remedy provides a menu of options from which a victim can choose how an offender will make reparations and will administered by a police officer.

The menu of options for Northumbria's Community Remedy was developed following consultation with the public to ensure the Community Remedy is shaped by the people who live and work in the Northumbria Force area but is workable, reasonable and proportionate.

Based upon the findings from the survey the Community Remedy list is as follows:

- Unpaid work within the community
- Payment for damage or stolen property
- Educational or rehabilitation activities
- Mediation
- Written or face to face apology
- Acceptable Behaviour Agreement

Further information

The Community Remedy gives victims a say in the out-of-court punishment of perpetrators for low-level crime and anti-social behaviour. This has been introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and gives victims and communities a say in the way anti-social behaviour and low level crime is dealt with.

However, the victim's involvement is voluntary and the victim must not be made to feel they should take part in a process they are not comfortable with, that they think may put them at risk, or that they do not believe will be of benefit to them.

Community remedy is primarily aimed at first time offenders where genuine remorse has been expressed, and where an out-of-court disposal is more appropriate than taking more formal action.

This approach can help to reduce re-offending by encouraging offenders to face up to the impact of their behaviour and to take responsibility for making good the harm caused.

To inform the Community Remedy list Police and Crime Commissioners are required to consult with members of the public on what punitive, reparative or rehabilitative actions they would consider appropriate. Police Officers will work with this menu of sanctions when using two types of out-of-court disposal – informal community resolutions and conditional cautions.

The victim must be consulted on the sanctions to be offered to the offenders and given the option to choose an appropriate sanction from the menu. The Police Officer in question will have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the sanction offered to the offender is proportionate to the offence.