

Community Resolutions (CR) – Quick Guide

Community Resolution provides the police with a timely, effective and transparent means for dealing with low level crime. It is a proportionate way of dealing with first time offenders where genuine remorse has been expressed and where the victims have agreed that they do not want the police to take more formal action.

Suitable for CR

- Crime or incident has occurred.
- The crime is a **less serious offence** – determined on a case by case basis. Offence/incident is low level (generally Gravity Matrix Factor 1).
- The offender admits the offence/accepts responsibility and terms of Community Resolution. PACE compliant interview **not** required.
- Victim has been consulted and agreement sought. If Victim is not in agreement a Sergeant must authorise
- Victimless prosecutions such as drugs and public order may be appropriate but require
- The offender is capable of understanding the Community Resolution process.
- The offender has **no relevant** offending history. If they have history but CR is deemed the most appropriate outcome a Sergeant must authorise.

Not Suitable for CR

- Domestic abuse incidents involving intimate or ex-intimate partners.
- Assaults where injury has been caused * Unless very minor and a suitable rationale is provided
- Incidents where there has been controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour including psychological, sexual and financial abuse.
- Stalking or harassment offences.
- Knife crime.
- Driving document offences.
- Offender is subject to existing court order, on bail or wanted on warrant.
- Offender has relevant previous convictions or OoCD's.

Specific Offences

- **Hate Crime** – must be authorised by a *BCU* Detective Superintendent.
- **Sexual Offences Case (adult, child 13 or over or inter familial)** – it must be authorised by a *BCU* Detective Superintendent.
- **Sexual Offences Case (child under 13 yrs or inter-familial)** – it must be authorised by a *PPU* Detective Superintendent.
- **Domestic Abuse** – must be authorised by a *BCU* Detective Superintendent.

Possible Outcomes

- Written or verbal apology to the victim
- Financial reparation
- Non-monetary reparation to the victim
- Offender signs an Acceptable Behaviour Contract
- Structured Diversionary services
- Other activity agreed by both victim and offender
- Agreement to be considered for Restorative Justice.

Procedure

- Confirm offence has occurred and suspicion on who has committed the offence
- Discuss with victim and explain the CR process
- Confirm the identity of the offender (PNC) and check previous offending history.
- Confirm suitable for CR, if uncertain discuss with supervisor.
- Discuss incident/offence with offender and ensure they accept responsibility for the offence and understand CR conditions and implications
- Consider appropriate conditions attached to the CR.
- Update the Crime with full rationale.

Less Serious Offence – Determined by

- The type of offence.
- The offender's previous record.
- The circumstances of the offence. (The classification of the offence may appear serious although the circumstances may be less so and a Community Resolution may still be appropriate).
- Risk to the public and community confidence in the police.
- Likely penalty; and
- Whether Community Resolution is appropriate to be given in the circumstances of the offence.
- The offences seriousness is proportionate to the victim's situation.

All decisions for Community Resolutions must have a full rationale entered on the relevant crime.