



Trafford Neighbourhood Justice Panels

Restorative Practice Conference information for participants

? What are Neighbourhood Justice Panels?

A Neighbourhood Justice Panel (NJP) is a voluntary process which brings together victims and wrongdoers or two parties unable to settle their differences. The aim is to resolve conflict and harm caused by anti-social behaviour and crime. The process is suitable for adults and youths and is facilitated by trained community volunteers.

It offers people who have suffered harm the opportunity to have their harm or loss acknowledged and for something to be done to compensate for it.

Importantly, the process is victim led.

The panels encourage wrongdoers to acknowledge the impact of what they have done and make amends to the victim and wider community by engaging in reparative work, or any other action required, for example: an apology.

NJPs can often be used to address housing disputes and avoid enforcement action being taken against a person's tenancy.

? What are the benefits for me?

- A chance to ask questions
- A chance to make amends
- A chance to repair any harm
- A diversion from court
- An opportunity to solve a problem

? What types of problems do Neighbourhood Justice Panels deal with?

NJPs offer a structured approach to deal with crime and antisocial behaviour. Such behaviour could include:

- Neighbour disputes
- Criminal damage and arson
- Theft and burglary
- Assault
- Hate crime
- Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour

This list is not exhaustive.

Note: domestic disputes and sexual offences cannot be referred.

? How does the process work?

- All parties involved must agree to take part in the NJP process.
- The wrongdoer (where applicable) must admit that they have caused harm.
- Each party can bring a supporter with them.
- All participants meet at a neutral and mutually agreeable venue and are given the opportunity to speak through a structured discussion, and express their feelings without interruption. The participants will come to an agreement about the best way to repair any harm caused.
- At the conclusion of the panel, those involved may sign a Neighbourhood Justice Agreement (NJA).

? Neighbourhood Justice Agreements

An NJA can be signed by both parties should a written agreement be required, and any such agreement could include agreed conditions to make amends, for example: community work or any reparation.

? What happens if the agreement is broken?

The original referring agency may deal with the matter in another way, for example: an eviction notice or court appearance.

Coordinator contact details:

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