**The Community Remedy Document**

**What is it?**
The community remedy empowers police officers to address low-level crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) through tailored, out-of-court solutions. Central to this approach is the officer’s discretion in determining the most appropriate outcome for the offender, while taking into account the victim’s preferences and the circumstances of the case. By offering flexible and innovative remedies, the community remedy prioritises fairness, practicality, and meaningful resolution, building public confidence in alternatives to court proceedings.

**Where did it come from?**
The community remedy was introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. It was developed and approved following public consultation by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable for West Mercia and became operational in October 2014. Recent updates to legislation and the out-of-court disposal framework further enhance the role of officer discretion and flexibility in implementing remedies.

**How is it used?**
The community remedy is delivered through the community resolution process. This approach allows police officers to address incidents such anti-social behaviour and low-level criminality outside of the formal court system. Key requirements for using a community remedy include:

* Sufficient evidence to pursue a court case, if necessary.
* The offender admitting their guilt.
* The officer determining that a community-based remedy is the most appropriate course of action.

The officer in charge, in consultation with the victim will use their professional judgement to decide the most suitable remedy, ensuring it is fair, enforceable, and proportionate to the offence. Victim input is considered as part of the decision-making process, allowing their views to inform the community remedy selected.

**Options available for remedies**
The remedies offered will be carefully selected by the officer in charge, based on the specifics of the case and in consultation with the victim. These may include:

* **An apology**: A written or in-person apology that encourages the offender to take responsibility.
* **Mediation**: A facilitated conversation between the victim and the offender, where appropriate, to resolve disputes.
* **Exclusion orders**: For example, temporarily banning the offender from a location, such as a shop or community space.
* **Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)**: Agreements specifying behaviours the offender must avoid to reduce the risk of reoffending.
* **Reparative activities**: Tasks such as repairing damage, cleaning up, or contributing to community projects to address harm caused.
* **Financial compensation**: A one-off payment to cover damages or a donation to a charity agreed upon by the officer and victim.

The officer may also consider other remedies, such as diversionary schemes (e.g., substance misuse programmes), restorative justice approaches, or bespoke outcomes tailored to the offender and community. These options reflect the flexibility and creativity encouraged in the updated framework.

**The officer’s role**
The officer in charge plays a central role in determining how the community remedy is applied. They will evaluate the offender’s circumstances, the nature of the offence, and the views of the victim to select the most appropriate remedy. This ensures that decisions are balanced, practical, and capable of addressing the root causes of offending behaviour.

**What if the offender does not comply?**
If the offender fails to comply with the agreed remedy, the officer may initiate court proceedings. Before applying a community remedy, the officer must ensure there is sufficient evidence for prosecution or, in cases of ASB, the potential to seek a civil injunction. The remedies must be enforceable and proportionate to maintain the integrity of the process.