

**Restorative Justice training offer from the Ministry of Justice**

6 November 2012

**1. Background**

- 1.1. The Government is seeking to increase the use and availability of Restorative Justice within communities. In order to support this, Restorative Solutions, a Community Interest Company (CIC) have been appointed to support the development of two national programmes, one of which involves the setting up of Restorative Justice Panels.
- 1.2. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is looking to encourage local groups to form Neighbourhood Justice Panels (NJPs) with the aim of dealing with local crime, disorder and other disputes and problems using restorative approaches. The NJPs are made up of a range of organisations/groups including representatives from community safety partnerships, police, probation and youth offending teams, ASB teams, social housing organisations and volunteers from the local community.
- 1.3. The use of RJ to deal with local crime and anti-social behaviour as well as neighbourhood disputes has been documented as being effective in certain cases, particularly with regards to repeat incidents, community conflicts, racial disputes and local crimes. The overall belief of the MoJ is that this approach provides victims and the community with a better service, reducing the risk of reoffending, whilst engaging the community to solve its own problems.

**2. What is on offer**

- 2.1. The MoJ has no funding available to invest in this initiative, but has been able to raise £1m from a family trust to provide training and implementation support for 100 Neighbourhood Panels. This package will involve training professionals and volunteers to become RJ Practitioners as well as provide guidance on setting up the necessary processes and procedures to use RJ. The package will also provide training for trainers to sustain and build RJ capacity within local areas.
- 2.2. This training and support package is being delivered by Research Solutions who are currently working with 25 local groups across England and Wales and in two areas RJ is now being used to deal with local crime and disorder incidents.
- 2.3. There is an opportunity for the Safer Stockton Partnership to bid for one of the £10k training and support packages which is available free of charge
- 2.4. The training package will provide the following:

- A community briefing on using restorative approaches for up to 150 people including police, magistrates and professional workers, local organisations, residents young and old, schools, social housing landlords and anyone else dealing with local crime and ASB.
- One day training for up to 20 people dealing with minor incidents using restorative approaches principles
- Two day training for up to 10 people who have completed the one day training as restorative conference facilitators
- Two day training course for successful facilitators to become RJ trainers – with people from other neighbourhood groups in the area
- Two days follow up coaching
- All trainees will get a Restorative Solutions Facilitators pack
- Successful practitioners will be eligible for the RJC register and further RJ qualification opportunities.

2.5. In order to access the above training, the local project must be:

- Working in a neighbourhood where crime and ASB have a significant community impact
- Committed to using restorative approaches and supported by partners such as neighbourhood policing and ASB teams, the Safer Stockton Partnership, local authority and victim services
- Prepared to recruit community volunteers to deliver restorative approaches
- Willing to recruit young people aged 16-21 from Clubs for Young People or similar organisations to deliver restorative approaches
- Able to provide venues and refreshments for the training and briefing events
- Willing to set up targets for delivering restorative outcomes

### 3. **Next steps**

- 3.1. If there is interest from the Safer Stockton Partnership an expression of interest needs to be completed and submitted direct to Restorative Solutions.
- 3.2. In order to find out more about this opportunity the SBC Community Safety Manager met with Trevor Watson who is the regional director for Restorative

Solutions in the North East. Trevor is an ex-BCU Commander from Durham Constabulary and is currently working with a number of Community Safety Partnerships to develop RJ projects across the region.

- 3.3. Trevor is keen for a project to be developed in Stockton and is prepared to come to a future meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership to present some examples of where RJ has worked well and provide an update of the types of projects that have been developed. Trevor is happy to answer questions and contribute to a wider discussion within the partnership.

It is recommended that:

1. The Safer Stockton Partnership agree to invite Trevor to the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012, diary permitting, to discuss this offer further.