

Restorative Solutions RJ Training

BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Following discussion of the potential opportunity to access to some additional training in relation to Restorative Practice (RP) at the last SSP meeting on 6th November it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with key individuals to discuss the opportunity further. There was an initial concern at the last meeting of duplicating existing efforts as well as an over-saturation of RP training with a number of practitioners currently accessing other opportunities.

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.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- 1.2. A meeting was held with partners from Probation, Community Safety, Tristar Homes and Trevor Watson who is the regional contact for Restorative Solutions. Colleagues from the Police, Drug and Alcohol Action Team and the Youth Offending Service were invited but were unable to attend.

- 1.3. At the meeting it was agreed that there currently exists within Stockton an established process of RP when dealing with high level cases through probation as well as those within the youth justice system. Work is also currently on going to involve individuals with substance dependencies in restorative practices.
- 1.4. It was felt that there was an opportunity to develop a project which focuses solely on victims and perpetrators of ASB as RP could be seen as a useful resource in some cases prior to embarking on further sanctions through the courts or with housing providers.
- 1.5. This project would consist of the establishment of a 'virtual team' of 10 trained practitioners from a number of partner organisations who could manage an identified caseload within Stockton. In order to meet the requirements of the training agreement 4 members of this team will be volunteers. At the meeting it was agreed that in order to start the project 1 volunteer each should be sought from Fire and Rescue, Probation, SBC Neighbourhood Enforcement and Victim Support. The proposed makeup of the 10 RP practitioners is as follows:
 - 2 x Tristar Homes Officers
 - 2 x SBC Community Safety Officers
 - 2 x Police colleagues (possibly NPT)
 - 1 x volunteer from Probation
 - 1 x volunteer from Victim Support
 - 1 x volunteer from SBC Neighbourhood Enforcement
 - 1 x volunteer from Fire and Rescue
- 1.6. As part of the training package there would also be a community briefing as well as a one day training/awareness raising session for partners who are likely to refer cases for consideration for RP.

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- 1.7. In terms of cost implications there is a requirement to cover all venue and refreshment costs for the sessions. An additional cost implication of up to £3,000 would also apply should we cancel a training session less than 28 days prior to it going ahead, or if we fail to deliver an agreed amount of RP conferences or activities in the first 12 months. While this is a risk which needs to be considered it is highly unlikely that we would find ourselves in this position. Restorative Solutions have never had to exercise this clause in the past.
- 1.8. At the meeting volunteer recruitment was discussed and to reduce the risk of volunteer drop out it is proposed that each identified organisation should provide two possible volunteers for consideration. Where possible all training dates will be circulated in advance to assist with volunteers planning their attendance.
- 1.9. There is the possibility of developing a reciprocal arrangement with colleagues in Middlesbrough which would provide the opportunity for further partnership working on RP cases in both Stockton and Middlesbrough. Middlesbrough are

currently developing their own project taking advantage of the training on offer and are keen to work in collaboration. This is in the early stages of development but would fit in with the aspiration of the PCC for more joint working in the future.

1.10. It is proposed that a suitable co-ordinator for the project be identified and an initial project steering group be established to monitor progress. Proposed membership of the steering group is:

- Jeff Evans, DTV Probation
- Lucia Saiger, DTV Probation
- Miriam Robertson, Stockton YOS
- Lynn Beeston, Cleveland Police
- Richard Parks, Tristar Homes
- Claire Sills, SBC Community Safety
- Steven Hume, SBC Community Safety

Future co-ordination is to be agreed, the Community Safety Manager has agreed to be the main contact in the first instance.

NEXT STEPS

1.11. Subject to the approval of the partnership the next steps of the process are to complete and sign the training contract and negotiate with Restorative Solutions suitable training dates and times.

It is RECOMMENDED that:

The Safer Stockton Partnership agrees to the proposal and the subsequent take up of the training opportunity through Restorative Solutions.