

Restorative Justice Update

Introduction

As the group are aware Stockton IOM secured funding from DAAT commissioning group to fund a project around the delivery of restorative Justice across those offenders being managed by the IOM multi-agency team

Brian Neale was employed with one years' funding to implement the process within Stockton. A brief update is attached which details the work completed so far

Restorative Justice Approaches – Update report on project progress.

- Three face - to - face conferences held at the Stockton Probation Office. Conferences held with Morrison's Deputy General Manager, Boots the Chemist store manager and Halfords store manager and regional manager
- Good dynamics across the conferences, with all victims expressing a very positive experience.
- Morrison's have requested updates as to how offender is progressing. If positive then it is their intention to invite the offender into store and to meet staff.
- Halfords regional manager requested further information on RJ in order to discuss at Head Office and across the chain. (Information packaged and sent by return.)
- Halfords would be happy to support project in terms servicing /maintenance of any cycles we acquire – at this time they stopped short of providing cycles.
- Boots manager will 'feed' the positive RJ experience back into the organisation at senior level. They have also agreed to allow the offender to clean a number of their small delivery vans. This has been arranged through their Teesside Park delivery hub. Cleaning materials will be provided through the project and PC Lockwood will undertake the initial supervision of the vehicle cleaning.
- All three companies are willing to participate in any future media coverage; the proviso being, that any press release will be sent to them for comment / approval, prior to circulation.
- In relation to the offender, agreements were completed, which contain a number of actions, to include the following; undertake the vehicle cleaning and secondly take up any opportunities offered in relation to him getting back into a 'work environment.'
- On the issue of 'work environment' BN visited the BELP project and discussed the possibility of the offender undertaking some structured work. Agreement was reached and a further appointment made, in which the offender, together with PC Lockwood and BN attended BELP for discussion. This has resulted in a plan being put into place, which will afford the opportunity for the offender to engage in a different circle of people, undertake a number of courses, pertinent to his skills / interest and to participate in working on some environmental projects.
- Other stores have been identified as victims and are at various stages in their RJ deliberations, as offenders involved in theft from the respective stores are wishing to participate in the RJ process. Within this group there are several companies who are sounding very positive. Home Bargains, Sports Direct and Wilkinson's. Despite earlier interest from Wilkinson's BN was informed that they had other priorities. However, perseverance paid off and BN managed to speak to a senior manager with national responsibility for the company. A lengthy telephone conversation ensued,

with an agreement to participate in RJ being given. (Meeting arranged with the national lead and regional manager on 26.4.13.)

- In furthering the restoration / rehabilitation agenda, BN Has explored opportunities, as previously discussed with JE, to develop an initiative around cycles and cycling. The University of Durham will support any structured activity we come up with around cycling or indeed other physical activity. They would provide volunteers to work with us on an initiative. They cannot provide cycles, as they are used by students. However, they could provide storage facilities. It has been suggested that the best time for the university to be involved would be during the summer break.
- BN has spoken to staff at the Cycle Hub, Bridge Road, Stockton. They would provide courses for staff to be trained in the requirements necessary to undertake supervised cycle rides. They do not have any cycles for the use by offenders, but would assist in the maintenance of the cycles. The only pre-requisite being they would need to be Stockton residents / offenders.
- BN made enquiries with the Middlesbrough Cycle Hub, which is housed in the Bus Station at Middlesbrough. BN advised that they can provide cycles for our use, maintenance and courses. The only stipulation being that their Stockton counterpart's be given the opportunity first and if they cannot support the initiative, then they would. Contact is being made this week to progress.
- An offender manager in the IOM is working with an offender who is moving off substance misuse and has been provided with a cycle by CRI. It is the offender's intention to undertake the coast to coast ride. Her manager has requested that she be able to support the offender by undertaking the training with her and asked if a cycle could be sourced for her use. This can be accommodated by the Middlesbrough Hub.
- A further offender currently serving a custodial sentence has expressed a wish to enter into an RJ process with his victims. A number of victims were identified, but only one, to date has agreed to a conference. Arrangements are being put into place to undertake the conference in Holme House Prison.
- Meeting has taken place with Ian Snaith and Dave Wintersgill at Holme House Prison and they have invited BN to discuss RJ with two groups of Stockton prisoners on the DRW and within the Therapeutic Community. The sessions will be on 25.4.13 and 2.5.13.
- Within the Stockton Probation Office a termination list has been circulated to all staff, accompanied by a request that they consider RJ as an option for those individuals who have been managed by them
- The introduction of the A4 form and accompanying leaflet, to be included in the supervision pack will help in getting staff to consider RJ.
- CSS has also been identified as an ideal location to identify potential candidates. A regular meeting to coincide with the monthly release of the termination list is thought to have merit
- CSS also allows access to their volunteers and discussions will be had with some of those individuals.
- Currently, paper files have been prepared on each potential RJ opportunity and are located within the IOM team.
- Further visit to the Moses project – 3.4.13 re the identification of appropriate RJ candidates.
- Lifeline. Current link is Claire Halpin. RJ question has now been included in their Joint Assessment forms, in conjunction with ABS. Periodically; staff will raise RJ

throughout the review process, which takes place every six weeks. Any referrals will come direct to me from Claire.

- A quantity of leaflets have been provided to Lifeline, which outline the basic facts surrounding RJ.
- BN has addressed the Lifeline team and will be visiting a number of their groups. i.e. Service User Group, Alcohol Awareness Group – ATR's. Relapse Prevention Group and Women's Group – victims.
- CRI. Following BN meeting with Carrie Roberts, he is meeting with two specific workers on 3.4.13, to talk through the RJ message, identify a referral route and to discuss individuals they feel may be ready to enter into an RJ process.
- Victim Support – further meeting and delivery of victim specific RJ literature for circulation. Invited back to discuss RJ with their volunteers, as they are keen to understand how it can work in practice. Meeting to be arranged.
- BN met with two local Magistrates who support RJ. They would welcome more information at court, as to what has been considered and indeed could be proposed around RJ – they would like to see that coming from Probation reports. Asked to talk with a group of court volunteers, as to RJ considerations.
- BN held a meeting with a representative from a way out regarding RJ and sex workers. Agreed in principle to work with BN and the Police. From that meeting met with DCI Donaghy and Insp Anderson. Agreed to work collaboratively on the subject, as it continues to be a problem in certain areas of Stockton. Research to be undertaken in identifying similar work in Bolton – enquiries by BN and Liverpool – enquiries by Police. The Bolton project does not involve RJ – DCI Donaghy notified. At that time had not got a result back on the Liverpool project. He will be in touch once this information has been received.
- Meeting took place with Steven Hume, Stockton L.A. He talked through his proposals around RJ / ASB. BN agreed to assist as appropriate in the development of a local multi-agency model.

Conclusion

In conclusion some really good progress, with the added benefit of actual conferences having taking place. I think RJ has started to resonate with the IOM staff and they are beginning to see that RJ 'is real' Good progress has also been made with commissioned services within the Borough and it is hoped that the foundations have been laid with our support network in Stockton which will result in referrals coming from other sources

J. Evans
April 2013