

**REPORT:
SAFER PLYMOUTH
PARTNERSHIP – (Restorative
Approaches Forum)**

DATE: 9th October 2014



Introduction

Restorative Justice Project was discussed in July with the Safer Plymouth Board.

Background

Plymouth Family & Community Solutions Service, PCC have appointed to the role of RJ Co-ordinator on behalf of the Restorative Approaches Forum. Jane Tilsley will be undertaking work on behalf of the forum to support the establishment of a Restorative Approaches structure within the City of Plymouth. Jane has been in post for 6 weeks.

Identity

The development of an identity for the Plymouth forum is being discussed in consultation with user groups, from both victim and offender networks.

Systems and Process

The Forum have now signed off on the Terms of reference for the group and reached a mutual working agreement on what is understood as Restorative Justice.

Work is underway to establish a clear process upon which self and other agency referrals can be received via non reported crime route.

Clear protocols are in the process of being drafted, which highlight the minimum standards that -:

Victims and offenders can expect from an RJ in the city

Facilitators convening RJ must comply with, including training and supervision

Allocations process locally

Complaints process

RJ Facilitators and Training

Stakeholder mapping exercise is under way and to date 11 trained RJ facilitators have been identified, although trained facilitators, this does not mean they all have experience of undertaking Restorative processes.

We are working with our colleagues across the Peninsula to ensure consistency of training and joint training sessions in order to keep the cost of further training, including refresher training, to a minimum to ensure the standards can be met.

Partnership agencies who wish to undertake RJ will need to meet the expected standards and will be consulted on the proposed pricing structure, ahead of discussion with LCJB Peninsula wide steering group.

Publicity and awareness raising

Jane and I have been working with the task and finish group across the peninsula on the wording of the publicity materials, which should be finalised within the next two weeks, before going out to consultation with victim and offender user groups.

The Plymouth area of the PCC website will be developed during November, in line with the PCC timescales.

We are in the early stages of planning awareness raising events for National RJ Week across the city. Talks are taking place with the view to having small community engagement events within -: substance misuse services, hostel, age concern and victim support to name a few options.

In addition we are working towards a launch date for the delivery to the OPCC Victim care centre, with plans to utilise the Mobile promotion bus sited at Plymouth Fire Service.

The forum have identified Hate Crime as an area to which some focus could be given and a presentation from a forum member will be made at the next meeting later this month.

The police are now linked in with the forum and have been very helpful in supporting with promotional information and data around crime spikes and hot spot areas where it might be pertinent to target potential projects.

The Police and Crime Commissioners office

OPCC are focused on building the capacity of victims services across the Peninsula, to ensure services are available to all victims by the 1st April 2015. The investment in RJ at this time is part of the requirements under the victim code and support is being offered to ensure that every area is ready to deliver before April 2015.

The development of the Victims Care unit (VCU) and the referral pathways are moving forward which will link in with local RJ service around referrals for RJ.

As these developments occur within the VCU we need to keep up to date to ensure the referral process locally are workable.

MY RJ has been purchased for use across the peninsula. This is a requirement upon all RJ facilitators and our Co-ordinators to use. Plymouth proposes to use cascade training to roll out the MY RJ software to local facilitators.

PCC is ensuring training for all front line officers on the VCU, victims code and RJ.

The drafting and negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding around information sharing at a partnership level to minimise difficulties in data sharing.

Indication that further funds are to be made available to the forums to begin undertaking some RJ work locally.

Proposals in Plymouth include -: the introduction of peer mediation training for young people in Schools in targeted areas.

Hate crime project

Recruitment of community champions for RJ through the use of local community engagement events.

Recommendation:

Members of Safer Plymouth are asked to agree/note:

N/A

Mabel Edge
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Plymouth City Council
9th October 2014

