



Area Board Project

1. What is the initiative?

Funding specialist training to allow the set up of a Restorative Justice/Practices project in the Westbury community area

Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime or conflict, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

Victims get the chance to tell offenders how the crime against them affected their lives. In this way, the practice helps offenders understand the real impact of what they've done, to take responsibility, make amends and offer an apology.

It holds offenders to account for what they have done, personally and directly, and helps victims to get on with their lives.

Restorative practices are increasingly being used in schools, care homes and the wider community to address conflicts such as anti social behaviour. It builds understanding and strengthens relationships between people.

Plans to set up a Restorative Justice/Practices project in our area have come from the BA13+ Community Area Partnership which hosted an information session and open meeting to gauge interest and local commitment. This was enthusiastically received and generated a number of potential volunteers. This grant application would fund the set up, training and publicity for the project.

2. Where is the initiative taking place?

The training will take place both online and at Matravers School using innovative training materials developed specifically for this project. Once up and running, the project will operate throughout the community area and will be able to respond to any local issues, disputes or hot spots.

3. When will the initiative take place?

Training will be offered for up to 18 people and is expected to start in September 2011. Once the online training programme is developed, it will be used for future volunteers hence the project will be self sustaining.

4. What are the Community benefits/evidence of need/links to Community

Plan/Community Issue?

The project will help build safer and stronger communities, encourage inter generational communication, increase the numbers of volunteers, and reduce antisocial behaviour.

5. What is the desired outcome of this initiative?

Helping to build strong and vibrant communities. Using restorative practices throughout the community area as a way to address issues faced by the community such as anti social behaviour.

6. Who will Project Manage this initiative?

The project will be led by the BA13+ Community Area Partnership in conjunction with Matravers School.

7. Costs/quotes/ match funding?

£2,700.00 is requested to pay for:
Three days of training for up to 18 people (£1,800);
Development of dedicated innovative web based training programme (£400); Publicity and administration (£350)
The staging of a dissemination event (£150).

Funding has been applied for from the NESTA Neighbourhood Challenge without success.

8. Additional information

Restorative practices, inspired by the philosophy and practices of restorative justice, creates an ethos of respect, inclusion, accountability, and taking responsibility, commitment to relationships, impartiality, being non judgmental, collaboration, empowerment and emotional articulacy. Restorative practices are a way to address the traditional under achievements of a sector of the community. The capacity and resources of the community to do this can be unlocked by improving emotional literacy, resilience and self efficacy. Restorative practices can develop the skills of people to change the way families resolve conflict and impact on the success of the community.