

Restorative Policing Training For Neighbourhood Beat Managers

Introduction

1. Restorative Justice is a process that addresses the balance between the concerns of the victim and the community whilst recognising the need to re-integrate the offender into society.
2. The Force is training all NBM's in the use of 'Restorative' techniques and has delivered one-day awareness training to their supervisors. A bespoke accredited training package has been commissioned and is delivered to NBM's via a three-day training course. This provides a preventative problem-solving approach to criminal/anti-social behaviour and community conflict.
3. Training primarily involves
 - Community conferencing
 - Victim/offender mediation
 - Restorative questioning

Recommendation

4. The Committee note the content of the report and the requirement to include the training of external agencies.

Training Provision

5. Training for NBM's will be completed by 24 February 2005 with only three courses still to run. (23 completed). All supervisors' training has been completed.
6. A further 'training of trainers' course is planned for May 2005 to provide greater resilience within BCUs for future courses and the potential of training external agencies.

Evaluation

7. NACRO are conducting an independent evaluation of both the training and use of learned techniques. These courses have been viewed so far and complemented by:
 - Pre and post training questionnaires
 - Interviews with trainers, NBMs, partners and community members
 - Case studies of particular incidents
8. The evaluation is due to deliver a final report in September 2005 with interim reports due at the end of February and May 2005.

9. A survey, within South & West Devon BCU, of satisfaction levels amongst those reporting Anti-Social Behaviour/Nuisance/Hate incidents during April 2004 has been carried out. This assessed attitudes before Restorative Policing Training was implemented. Results show lower levels of satisfaction and increased fear of crime amongst respondents to these type of incidents eg:-

Overall % satisfaction with the service provided by the Police (April 2004)	Burglary	Violence	Vehicle Crime	ASB RJ Pilot
	86.3	68.8	64.1	59.4

10. It is evident that we need to improve our response to such incidents to maintain public confidence. Restorative policing will impact on this and this data provides a baseline to gauge the impact of such techniques within each BCU.

Note:- *Similar surveys have now been completed for all other BCUs. Results are being collated by Force Consultation Unit at present.*

Opportunities

11. Initial training of schools representatives has occurred within South & West Devon BCU. The training of external agencies offers income possibilities as well as assisting Force performance.
12. This issue is currently being considered via the BCU Commanders' Forum in order to assess appropriate costings/feasibility.

Conclusion

13. There is strong evidence to prove that Restorative intervention
- Is better for victims
 - Is a key element of community engagement
 - Can reduce re-offending
14. With NBM training almost complete and independent evaluation being conducted, there is opportunity to influence markedly upon both local confidence and national policing approaches.

Report of The Chief Constable

Contact for Further Information

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