



## RESTORATIVE SOLUTIONS

Restorative Solutions is a registered Community Interest Company working on a not-for-profit basis.

Our mission is to promote the use of Restorative Approaches as a practical tool for organisations working at the front line to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to resolve other harmful disputes.

1. Over the past 12 months we have been developing a new model of Restorative Justice for use specifically in Neighbourhood Policing and other community applications, to
  - Contribute to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour by reducing the risks of repeat incidents and re-offending
  - Provide a better service for victims and their families and neighbourhoods
  - Increase levels of community involvement in tackling local issues including drug problems
  - Reassure residents that their concerns are being addressed
2. The unique features of the new model, called Restorative Approaches in Neighbourhoods (RAiN), are
  - Aimed at tackling low level crime, drugs & anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods
  - The recruitment, training and involvement of community volunteers in 5 different roles
  - The introduction of 'street RJ' where police officers, PCSOs and volunteers can be involved in simple, quick, on the street interventions with less training and high impact.
3. Working with NPIA, ACPO and Government Departments we have created this model and set up a programme involving 40+ pilot sites in 9 police forces due to go live on 1 April 2008. Whilst restorative conferencing has already been rigorously tested in numerous evaluations – and found universally to benefit victims, and to reduce re-offending in many situations –

it has never been formally tested and subjected to independent evaluation in the community context where anecdotal and 'small study' evidence is very strong. The purpose of the RAiN programme is to fill this gap, with the evaluation being carried out by the Police Foundation.

4. One of the unique features of RAiN is the involvement of community volunteers. It is intended that they will
  - a. Assist with setting up RJ conferences
  - b. Help organise and supervise reparative activities
  - c. Act as co-facilitators at restorative conferences
  - d. Represent the community's concerns at restorative conferences
  - e. Assist as necessary with paper work
5. Restorative Solutions have invested around £30k of their time in developing RAiN and setting up trials with 9 police forces (still being added to). The model is the intellectual capital of Restorative Solutions and this is in the process of being registered.

We are keen to share our experience & expertise with others and will be working with NIPA and ACPO to disseminate lessons learned. Most of the funding for the police and their partner agencies is coming from BCU budgets and proceeds of crime funds.

We are having some problems in raising money for the evaluation (£90k) and funding the training of volunteers (£230k). We have raised £250k to resource our implementation support costs. We would welcome further partners in this important initiative, particularly if they can help us find the additional funds we need over the next three years.

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