



BOSS & Restorative Approaches in Schools

Overview

Restorative Approaches (RA) develop skills and behaviours that help build relationships and resolve conflict as a whole school intervention. This allows schools to get a deeper understanding of the child or young person's behaviour to find a way forward.

In September 2016, Restorative Solutions CIC, working with Family Action, commenced work across Lincolnshire as part of a contracted out service using RA to reduce pupil exclusions from school.

The main part of the service is the Behavioural Outreach Support Service (BOSS). BOSS is a contracted out service, offered across all Lincolnshire Schools. This service addresses issues concerning young people and the reasons for their exclusion from mainstream school.

Running alongside BOSS is a separate service involving 12 Primary and 8 Secondary Schools, selected by the Project Board. This focuses on introducing and developing restorative practice into the schools. This whole school approach is developed through training and specialist support from skilled and experienced practitioners of Restorative Approaches.

A Restorative Approach to Pupil Exclusion

Restorative Solutions have influenced the basis of referrals into BOSS to the extent that a RA is now seen as a significant intervention tool in support of young people at risk of being excluded from mainstream education provision.

RA in schools, as part of BOSS, has also had a significant impact on the development and repairing of relationships involving pupils with pupils and pupils with staff, and including friends, family members and supporters.

Initially, the majority of the RA activity has taken place in Primary School settings, involving predominantly Key Stage 2 pupils. While these pupils are less likely to be excluded from school than their counterparts at Key Stages 3 and 4 the important factor is that behavioural difficulties at Key Stages 3 and 4 usually begin at Key Stage 2.

The Restorative Approach in schools:

- Brings the child / young person harmed by disruptive behaviours and those responsible for the harm into communication with each other. Children and young people have the opportunity to be heard and to have their say in the resolution of harm caused, including agreeing a way forward.
- Encourages children / young people to explore what is happening during times of conflict and to think about who is affected and to be part of coming up with solutions. This enables everyone affected to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.
- Affirms the child / young person's voice in a non-judgmental environment while helping them develop skills and attitudes towards conflict resolution.
- Provides the opportunity to find and address any unmet needs.
- Ensures timely intervention to ensure the maximum positive impact on behavioural issues.
- Embeds the development of practice which facilitates the re-integration of young people being reintroduced into mainstream education following exclusion.

Performance Summary: 1 September 2016 - 31 July 2017:

BOSS

ACTIVITY	RUNNING TOTALS
Awareness Sessions delivered*	34
Referrals from BOSS	23
Referrals from BOSS commenced	17
Referrals from BOSS completed	17
Referrals direct from Schools	42
RA Individual Activity Undertaken	7 KS1 33 KS2 22 KS3 12 KS4
No of people involved in referrals	95 (+ approx 60pupils involved in restorative circles)
Referrals Completed	52
Referrals not yet complete	1

RA OUTCOME TYPE	NUMBER COMPLETED
Restorative Conversation	26
Restorative Booklet	7
Restorative Conference	13
Shuttle Conference	11
Letters	3
Restorative Circle	3

SCHOOLS

ACTIVITY	RUNNING TOTALS
Awareness Sessions Delivered	40
Awareness/Training workshops for parents/carers**	3
Formal Training Courses Delivered	6
Number Trained	44 (1 day) 76 (3 Day Practitioner Trained) Incl. 2x 6 th Formers
Referrals from BOSS	2
Referrals from BOSS commenced	2
Referrals from BOSS completed	1
Referrals direct from Schools	56
RA Individual Activity Undertaken	14 KS2 28 KS3 17 KS4
No of people involved in referrals	79
Referrals Completed	59

RA OUTCOME TYPE	NUMBER COMPLETED
Restorative Conversation	29
Restorative Booklet	3
Restorative Conference	18
Shuttle Conference	7
Letters	1
Restorative Circle	20
Re-Integration Support ***	4