

Identifying and maintaining best training
practice in the field of Restorative Justice

European Forum on Restorative Justice

Lisbon May 2007

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

- The questions raised in the following presentation have been inspired by the work in progress done by a working party of the **National Trainers' Forum** of the **Restorative Justice Consortium UK**.
- Once the **'Training Code of Practice'** will be completed, it will be made available on the Restorative Justice Consortium UK **website**.
- For more information you can contact the **Restorative Justice Consortium** via **info@restorativejustice.org.uk**
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- Or look at: **<http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/>**

1) LEGISLATION AND POLICY

What legislation is there in your country to support and inform best practice?

How can training providers keep themselves up to date with developing policy and legislation?

2) DEFINITIONS

What practices would you include under the umbrella title of 'Restorative'?

Would you expect a restorative trainer to be able to offer all of these or at least be aware of them?

Do specific models of practice have to be agreed or can a diversity of approaches be offered?

3) QUALIFICATIONS

Should there be a requirement for trainers to also be experienced restorative practitioners themselves? In the past? Currently? How would you measure experience?

Should a restorative trainer have any formal or academic qualifications?

What opportunities are there in your country for people to become trainers in general and restorative trainers in particular?

4) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

What opportunities are there for refreshing and updating training and practice skills?

Should this be a requirement for trainers?

5) TRAINING STYLE

In what ways does 'restorative training' differ from other sorts of training?

Is it just the content that differs or do we have an obligation to ensure that our training practice models restorative values and skills?

6) TRAINING CONTENT

What needs to be in an initial training course?

An advanced course?

Should training include theoretical knowledge?

What theories are useful? necessary? optional?

7) PRACTICAL ISSUES

Should there be a maximum number of trainees with a single trainer/ two trainers to ensure that everyone receives adequate feedback?

Should training include an obligation to provide adequate time for every single trainee to conduct a restorative meeting from start to finish?

Should there be a minimum agreed number of hours for delivering a course in restorative conferencing or victim/offender mediation?

8) ASSESSMENT

Should training competence be assessed and if so how? Do trainers need an agreed set of criterion for 'passing' a trained restorative facilitator?

Should theoretical knowledge be assessed? How?

9) PREPARATION AND FOLLOW-UP

What preparation should there be before a training course in terms of working with clients to identify training needs and what the trainer can provide? Should there be a contract specifying responsibilities on both sides?

To what extent is the training provider responsible for on-going support of trainees and the implementation of restorative practice by trainees in their working environments?

10) FEEDBACK

Do trainers have a responsibility to provide feedback to individual trainees? In what form should this feedback be?

Should feedback be provided to the funder of the course as well? How can this be organised?

In what form should trainees give feedback to the training provider?

11) ACCREDITATION

What accreditation is available in your country for trained restorative practitioners in different fields of practice? What accrediting bodies exist who could offer this?

12) CODE OF PRACTICE/COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Could the answer to all these questions form the basis for a national or even a European Code of Practice to which every trainer would be encouraged to sign up? What would the benefits be to signing up to such a code?

How could adherence to the Code of Practice be monitored?

To whom would a complaint about training be taken and how would this be dealt with?

Many of these questions have been debated by a working party of the National Trainers' Forum, currently supported by the Restorative Justice Consortium (RJC) in the UK. A Code of Practice, which all restorative trainers in the UK are to be encouraged to sign up to, is almost finished. Once these are agreed the Code will be on the RJC's website:

www.restorativejustice.org.uk

As the umbrella organisation supporting restorative practitioners in the UK, the RJC will also be the body to which complaints from clients are directed and the Trainers' Forum are also debating what a Complaints Procedure would consist of and how complaints would be dealt with. This will also be available on the website.