

Issue for consideration of Priorities Panel

For official use only:

Issue ID Number:016

Date received by Operational Director

: ____02__/_10__/_2009____

Date to Priorities Panel

__08__/_10__/_2009____

Office use:

Name:

(JJ, RA, KT, All)

Date completed and initials:

Date of referral to LINK	01/10/09
Date issue arose	01/10/09
Title (Headline/short title of issue)	Restorative Justice in Prisons. "Restorative Justice is a process whereby parties with a stake in a specific offence collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of the offence and its implications for the future" (Marshall 1999:5)
Nature of interest/standing of person in relation to issue:	
Recipient of service	Family Friend Advocate/Campaigner X
Other	
If other, please state what their standing is in relation to the issue:	
Is the person raising the issue a:	
LINK participant?	
Member of the public?	
Priorities Panel Member?	
Governor Group Member	

<p>LINK Development Worker</p> <p>Part of an organisation X</p>	
<p>If raising issue on behalf of an organisation, state name and brief details of what they do</p>	<p>Department of Law and Criminal Justice Studies (DLCJS), Canterbury Christ Church University - Work with Kent Mediation, victims and offenders to improve offender empathy for the victim to promote a reduction in re-offending, by facilitating an opportunity for victims of serious crimes to, "move on" or gain "closure" as a result of mediation.</p>
<p>Summarise issue (no more than 100 words). If necessary, a more detailed account may be submitted on page three with additional pages attached if necessary</p>	<p>To date 25 victims of crime who live in Kent have accessed this programme. An interim report of the first five cases has been completed and is attached to confirm the positive outcome of the study so far. Further cases are expected to show how this innovative approach to resolution of serious crimes reduces the need for long term resources from health and social care providers to support individuals who have encountered traumatic experiences.</p> <p>DLCJS / Kent Mediation seek funding to continue their work with a further 25 cases over the next 18 months. If successful and as a direct result the Kent LINK will be identified as a key partner in this ongoing study.</p>
<p>Please use this space to give a detailed account of the issue to be raised with the Priorities Panel. (N.B: Form will expand to accommodate additional text – other documentation can be appended, as necessary).</p> <p>This proactive approach to rehabilitation is aimed at enabling both victims and offenders to resettle back into society more effectively whilst identifying and implementing best practice. Evaluation of the 5 cases studied has provided evidence of the potential benefits for the enhancement of longer term health and wellbeing, reduction in the fear of crime and evidence of closure to traumatic and damaging experiences. Although this snapshot of participant's perceptions has been recorded as positive, further cases are needed to provide more methodical grounded conclusions, thus enabling other individuals an opportunity to move forward and fulfil their life aspirations.</p> <p>Stakeholders of this project consist of: mediators, offender supervisors and managers together with the Kent community as a whole.</p>	

Is the issue currently under investigation, via a complaint or inquiry or being dealt with by somebody else (this includes being part of a wider campaign on the issue)?

Yes

No

If yes, give details of actions already taken including contact details of others dealing with the issue:

This issue is considered as a positive approach to which other services do not address. Initial funding of £8000 has been secured of from the Nuffield Foundation to continue the study but leaves a short fall to fund to mediation service for victims. Each mediation case costs Kent Mediation approximately £500 to £700.

Is there a timescale/deadline/circumstance affecting this issue which may mean the LINK will have to act quickly, e.g. closure of a unit, change of service, a particular urgency?

Yes

No

If yes, what is that circumstance and what is the timescale by which action has to be taken?

Although a specific timescale has not been identified, further cases will not be considered for assessment until additional funding is secured. As a consequence the ongoing damaging effects to the health and wellbeing of victims and offenders will be not addressed, resulting long term implications to health and social care service providers.

What expectation does the person raising the issue have of the LINK, i.e. what does that person want the LINK to do/what action does it want it to take?

The DLCJS request the support to build a working partnership with the Kent LINK to enhance the opportunity to work with people that are seldom heard and as a consequence have little opportunity to address issues which affect their long term wellbeing. As a direct result some become dependant on the long term support of statutory services.

What would be a good outcome from the perspective of the person raising the issue?

DLCJS request a full or partial commitment of financial support from the Kent LINK to continue this approach to rehabilitation as to ensure the health and wellbeing of a small percentage of Kent's population. By ensuring the therapy / rehabilitation of some who have experienced / committed serious crime.

What evidence does the person raising the issue have to support the case they are putting for the LINK to take action? List or attach evidence and sources, if available.

Canterbury Christ Church University Interim report:
An evaluation of Adult Prison Restorative Justice Report May 2009

How widely does this issue affect other people?

The impact of other people is difficult to quantify at this stage. However, there is much anecdotal evidence to suggest that for each victim or relative, and each offender, there are significant numbers of other members of the extended social and family groups affected. For example, in a case of manslaughter already mediated, the improvement in the well-being of the victim's wife has impacted positively on her immediate family.

In what ways are other people affected by this issue.

Mental health problems
Physical health problem
Fear of crime
Family / Relationship problems
Lack of community cohesion

Signed Cate Boland LDW (Mid Kent)

Date..02/10/09