Helping to support troubled families

Annette Hinton, Manager of Maidstone Mediation

Troubled families

- Families with troubles

- Troubled family agenda

Families with troubles

- Children misbehaving, being aggressive, getting into trouble at school and with the police
- Drugs or alcohol problems
- Teenage pregnancy
- Financial problems
- Neighbour problems- ASB
- Domestic abuse
- Parents separated – steparents

Families with troubles

Restorative approaches can be used to help :-

- **family relationships** – mums and dads- siblings- parents and children –parents and grandchildren- step parents.

- **Repair harm, resolve conflicts and change attitudes –** with neighbours – with other children at school, with school staff – with victims of their criminal behaviour

Maidstone Mediation

- Registered charity and voluntary organization

- Delivering restorative practice since 1989

Maidstone Mediation

Restorative Justice- bringing victims of crime and offenders together at all levels of the criminal justice system.

- Police restorative clinics-Reprimand and final warning
- Referrals from the Youth offending Team
- Referrals from Probation

Maidstone Mediation

- **Mediation to resolve conflicts**

- addressing incidents of harm, joint problem solving and using future focus techniques .

Maidstone Mediation Scheme

Helping bridge the conflict

Maidstone Mediation

- Neighbour disputes
- Parents and teenagers and other family members
- Siblings
- Victims and offenders
- schools

Troubled families agenda

- **80 families identified**
- Antisocial behaviour , drugs or alcohol, domestic abuse, school absenteeism, school exclusion, lack of parenting skills.
- 10 families will have access to an **intensive family worker.**
- **CAF** (common assessment framework)
- **Team around the family**

Troubled families agenda

- Maidstone Mediation integral to the **Team around the family.**
- The TAF Plan will often include mediation to repair family relationships .
- We will work with the family, facilitating their dialogue, helping them explore their feelings and the consequences of each others behaviour.

Troubled families agenda

- We use restorative approaches to help them repair the harm, give and receive amends and move forwards.
- Where there are problems with the community due to ASB, we facilitate a restorative conference to address the issues and end the conflict.
- Where the problems are with the school, we go into the school and mediate each conflict

Troubled families agenda

Key skills and techniques

- **Listening** – identifying areas of conflict, - helping each member of the family understand and articulate how they feel, why they feel as they do and what they need to make this better
- **Communicating –** Helping the family understand each other

Troubled families agenda

Dealing with the past

- Explanations
- Apologies
- Making amends

Planning for the future

- Exceptions/ Positives/ magic wand
- Shared problem solving

RJ and families with troubles

- Strengthening families
- Strengthening communities
- Building for the future

Maidstone Mediation Scheme

Helping bridge the conflict

Maidstone Mediation

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