

CONFERENCING TRUANCY

A Restorative Approach to
Sustaining Truancy Reduction and
Improving School Attendance

File classification: NOT
PROTECTIVELY MARKED - NO
DESCRIPTOR

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- The Accountability Conferencing process for Truancy cases is generally the same as is done for victimless crimes.
- The regular script is followed, using the amendments provided for victimless crimes

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- Meeting with the Student (and his or her families) is important to help them to understand what Accountability Conferencing is and why Humberside Police are involved in a “school issue”

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- One difference during a Truancy Conference would be to have a school representative attending the conference instead of a community representative.
- When choosing a school representative to attend the conference, it is important to choose someone that the student likes and respects (as a support person and as a school official.)

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- Often the student has many concerns about certain school officials, and it is not productive to have those people as support persons.
- However if there are issues with a specific school official, it is important to include them in the conference in order to decide how to get that situation resolved.

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- This helps to get the student back into school and repair the harm done to the school community and the students themselves.
- It is important to include that official and another official that will serve as a support person for the student not attending school.

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- Having support persons that work at the school—teachers, principals, volunteers tutors, etc... is important in these Conferences to foster an atmosphere of caring and reconciliation.
- The student may also invite any other support persons he or she would like to attend the conference.

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- Meeting with the student will help in deciding which school officials (Tutor, welfare officer etc.) should attend the conference.

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- The agreement phase will vary with each case, just as with regular Conferencing.
- Some suggestions in preparing the school and student for the agreement phase are.
- Ask the school what they can offer the student as an incentive to attend school.

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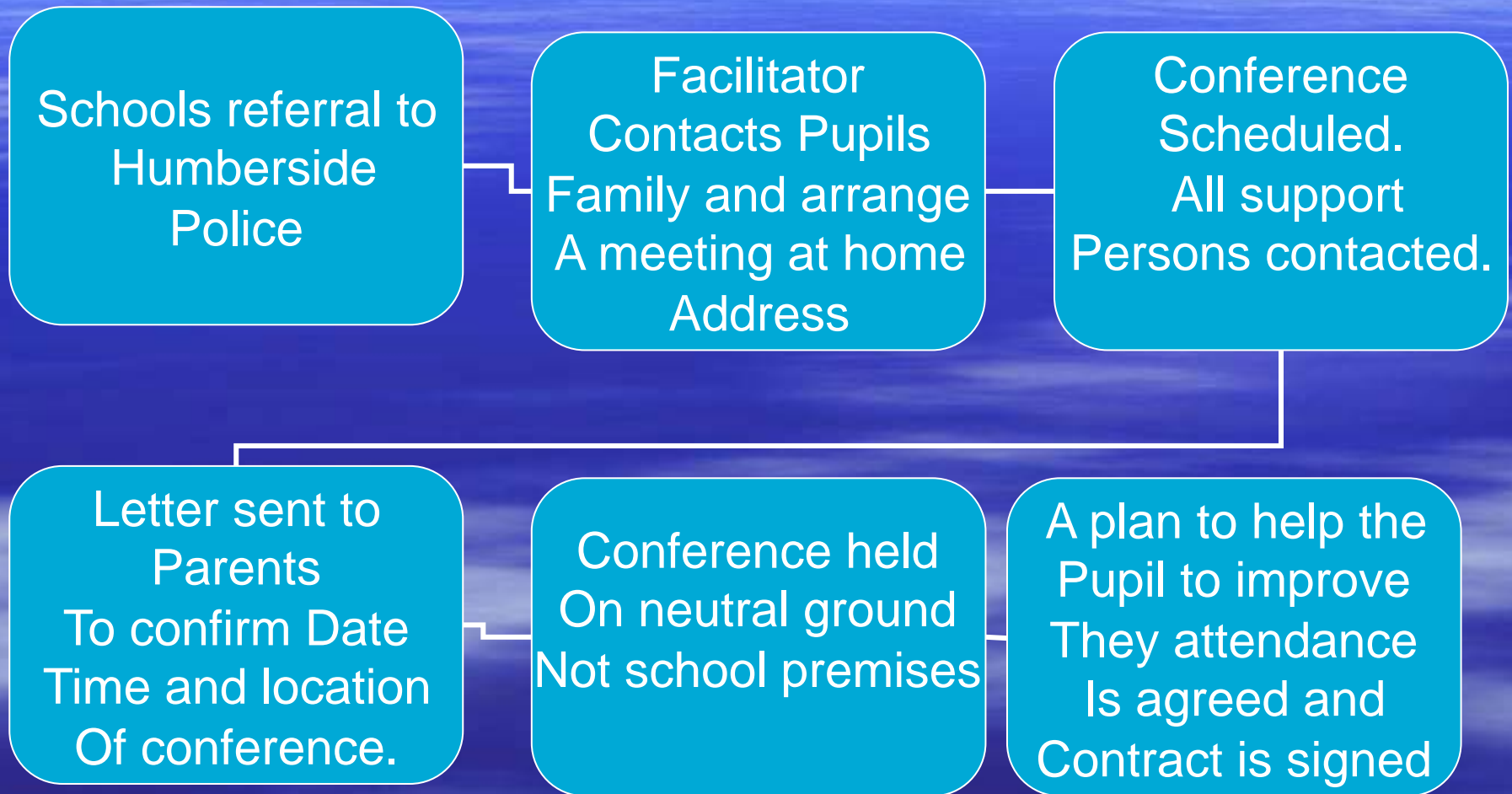
- Ask the student for ideas that would make it easier for them to attend school.
- Ask the family and support persons to think of ways that they could help get the student to attend school.

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- Once an agreement has been reached a contract is signed by everyone at the conference and the agreement is turned into the school and considered “official.”
- This means that if the student does not honour the agreement, the case will be referred for further action/referrals.

Truancy Conference Time Line



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THE VISION

- To provide a cost-effective new approach to truancy
- To provide a quality program that serves the school and the student, to encourage accountability and improve students attendance.
- To provide an alternative to current forms of punishment.

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PRINCIPLES

- Restorative Justice
- Accountability/Shame
- Understanding
- Empathy
- Reconciliation
- Reintegration

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Community Building

- Support
- Encouragement
- Moral Learning
- Bridge building between the student, parents and school staff.

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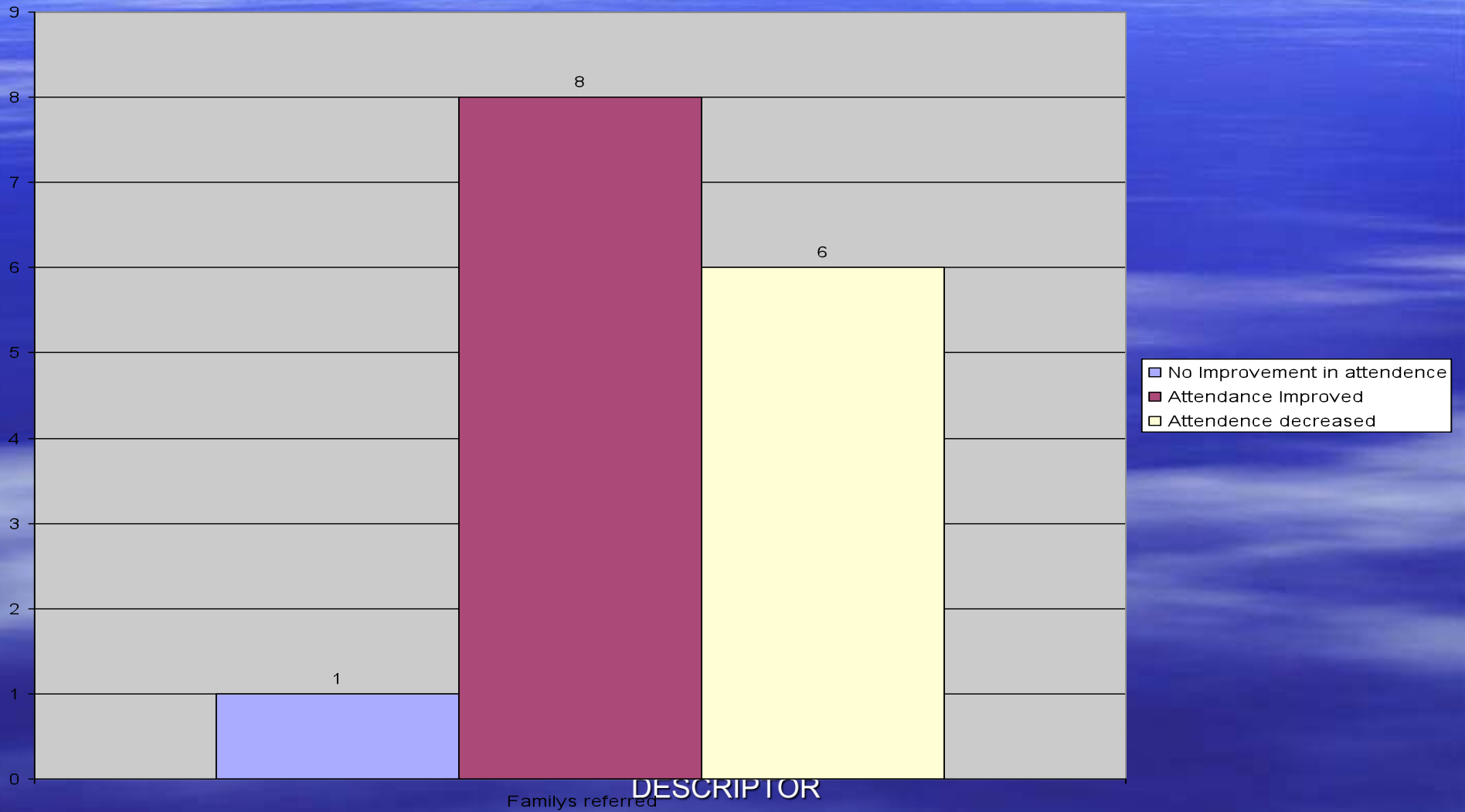
Conditions

- Student must admit guilt
- Participation of School officials is always voluntary
- Participation of Student is voluntary.

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The Results

Familys referred 17



The Results

- 17 Families referred for Truancy Conferencing
- 1 students attendance stayed the same
- 6 students attendance dropped resulting in 3 fix penalty tickets been issued and 1 referred to court.
- 8 students attendance has improved.

QUESTIONS

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