

The Next Step: 'Developing Restorative Communities' 8th International Conference on Conferencing, Circles and other Restorative Practices

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA. 18th to 20th October 2006

'The U.K. Experience of Using Restorative Practices in the Resolution of Workplace Conflict'

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Contrasting Adversarial and Restorative

"What happened?"
"Who's to blame?"
"What punishment is needed?"

"What happened?"
"What harm has resulted?"
"What needs to be done to make things right?"

'For punishment and sanctions to be effective (in changing behaviours), they need to be delivered in a context that provides both meaning and relevance.'

"Why would restorative approaches be better than adversarial ones in this regard?"

EXISTING COMPLAINTS, DISCIPLINE, and GRIEVANCE SYSTEMS

- ❖Behaviour seen as a breach of the discipline code/rules
- Wider workforce and community largely ignored
- **❖**Accountability and responsibility viewed in terms of punishment and sanctions
- Adversarial approach pre-occupied with blame and punishment

RESTORATIVE APPROACH

- ✓Behaviour seen as harmful to individual/s, organisation and service provision
- ✓Wider workforce and community involvement
- ✓ Accountability and responsibility related to repairing harm and professional relationships
- ✓ Promotes the opportunity for challenge, reflection and learning

What are the <u>needs</u> of the following in workplace complaint, grievance and discipline systems?

- 1. The organisation
- 2. The person making the grievance
- 3. The person subject of the grievance

Gather group idea's / thoughts, discuss and nominate one person to feed back your groups views on your allocated question.

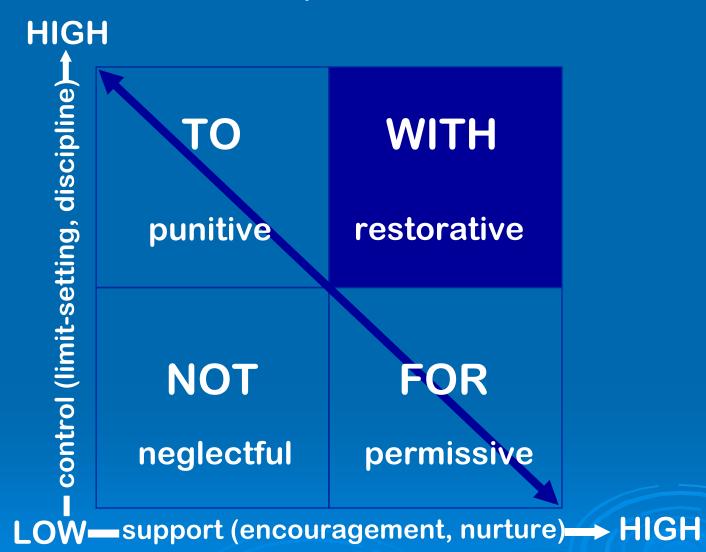
Punitive-permissive Continuum

punitive

permissive



Social Discipline Window



Adapted by Paul McCold and Ted Wachtel from Glaser, 1969.

Organisational Change Window

HIGH pressure (mandate, requirement)

TO

Managed strategic change

Top-down Imposed change

WITH

Connecting personal and professional growth Self-managed project

NOT

Cosmetic change (faddism)

Avoiding/resisting change

FOR

Management consultants

Best practice emulation

LOW _

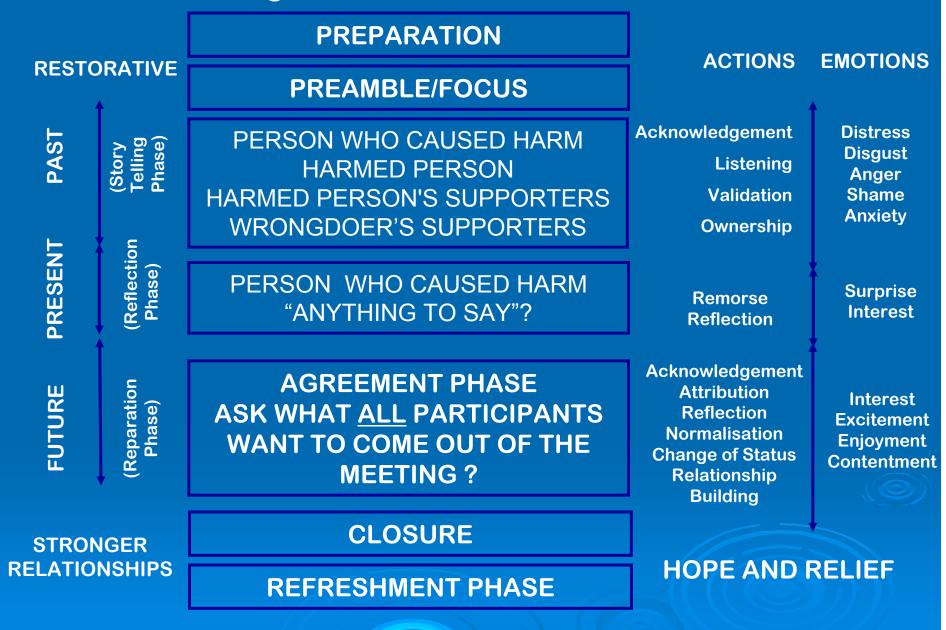
support (encouragement, nurture) -

HIGH

For Restorative Practice to be explicit, organisations need to actively:

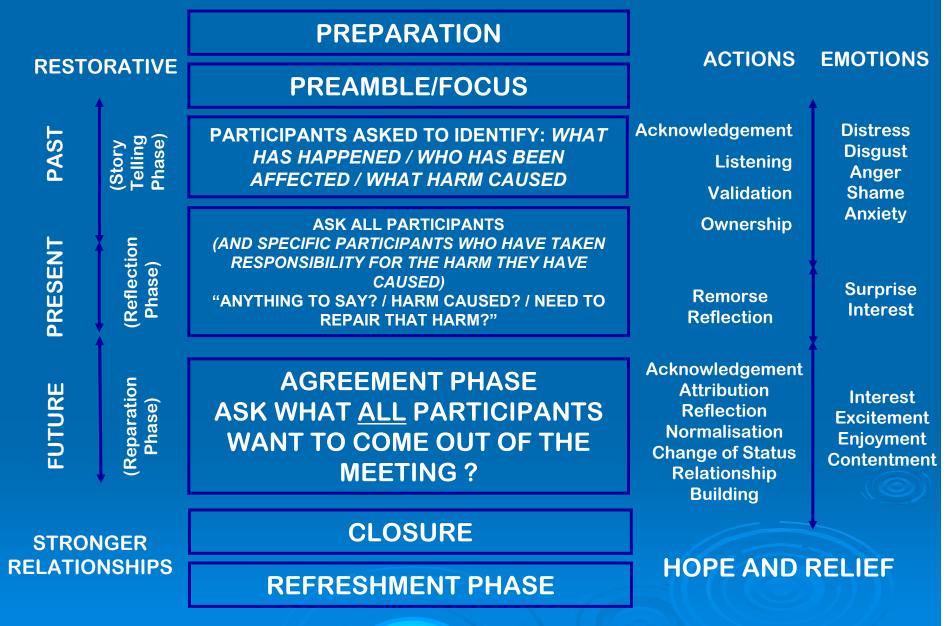
- 1.Work WITH people
- 2.Offer them Fair Process
- 3. Use Restorative Language
- 4.Encourage Free Expression of Emotions

Acknowledged Harm - CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK



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Unacknowledged Harm - CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK



Who are IIRP UK working with?

- Police Services
- Royal Mail
- School staff teams
- Council Offices



IIRP UK Case Studies

- Staff Problems
- Management dispute
- Team re-building



Case Studies

- 1. Who was affected and how?
- 2. What were their needs?
- 3. What might help meet those needs?
- 4. What are the implications for the organisation/team?

Gather group idea's / thoughts, discuss and nominate one person to feed back your groups feedback on your allocated case study.



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