

Social Work Online Team Training (SWOTT) toolkit:

FACILITATOR NOTES -

CASE STUDY

Restorative Practice and Restorative Conversations

The social workers will have 10 minutes to:

1. Read the case scenario
2. Refer to the suggested guide for restorative conversations and think about how they might prepare to have a restorative conversation with Meena /and Dean at the next visit.

Each social worker will have their own thoughts about the use of restorative approaches and having a restorative conversation in this scenario.

It can be difficult for people to talk about the harm that they have experienced or inflicted, especially in situations of DVA. These restorative questions can support gathering the views and perspectives of different members of the family, to name harm and help the family to find ways to repair and resolve situations, where it is safe to do so.

THE ROLE OF THE FACILITATORS IS:

- To encourage the social workers to share their thoughts on having a restorative conversation in this scenario.
- To facilitate discussion to identify the opportunities and challenges of a restorative approach in this scenario.
- Discuss what other approaches social workers think are useful in this situation and how do they compare with a restorative approach?

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR FACILITATORS TO ASK THE GROUP:

- Prompt social workers to share their thoughts on what a high challenge high support approach would be in this situation.
- Ask if any social workers have used these questions in situations like this before with mothers and fathers and what their experience of this was.
- Ask where does it leave this situation and family if there is no restorative conversation?
- Ask the group what other approaches and models they thought they could use? This will help to think about other approaches of working with families in similar scenarios and share practice and learning.
- Ask how could social workers adapt this approach when talking to children? What would be the key restorative questions to ask children? How else would they gather the thoughts and feelings of the children?

TO CLOSE AND RECAP

- The guide provides a number of prompts and questions that can be used for a restorative conversation. It is not intended to be a checklist to be worked through. The social worker will make a professional judgement about the situation and gauge when and how to start a restorative conversation in the context of their work with a family.
- A restorative approach can be adapted within one meeting or across a number of meetings as part of everyday practice. There may also be opportunities for families to engage with more formal restorative approaches, through family group conferences, if available in their local authority.
- A restorative conversation can provide a way of understanding a situation from different perspectives and bring people together to think about difficulties and harm, for harm to be recognised by all involved, and plans made to repair and resolve harms so that the safety and protection needs of the family can be addressed WITH families.



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