

# Transforming Conflict

National Centre for Restorative Approaches in Youth Settings



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Newsletter

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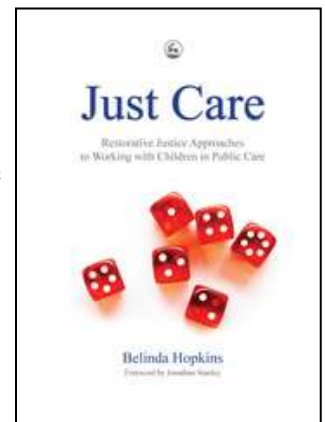
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## Editorial

September always has a New Year feel for those of us hardwired into academic school year mode! I hope you feel refreshed after some break over the traditional summer hols period and not too busy too also enjoy this recent wonderful late summer sun.

This autumn brings some excitement in the Transforming Conflict office as we await the publication of Director, Belinda Hopkins' new book '**Just Care – Restorative Approaches with Children in Public Care**' available from us here at the office or from Jessica Kingsley Publishers. This is the first book ever published about restorative approaches in care settings and we hope that it will help many more people learn about the huge potential of this way of interacting and responding to challenges in these settings.

Another exciting event – Belinda's visit to Brazil where exciting restorative work is being done in justice and educational settings. She will be working in Sao Paulo at first, delivering training to a group of educators, and then travelling a bit and hoping to learn more about what is happening elsewhere in southern Brazil.



*Belinda Hopkins*

## Exclusions down in Barnet schools using restorative approaches

A recently published report from the London Borough of Barnet highlights the positive impact of restorative approaches in Barnet primary schools. The evaluation was commissioned from an independent evaluator with a background in psychology. Over the past 6 years

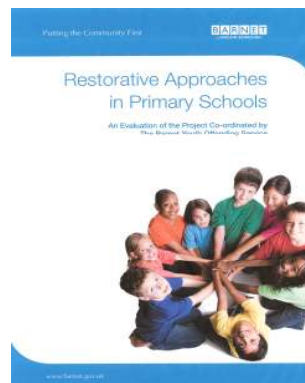
Transforming Conflict Director Dr Belinda Hopkins, has delivered restorative skills training to staff from over 16 schools as well as local authority staff and staff from PRU's and residential homes. She has worked closely with Mari Martin, the Restorative Approaches in Schools Coordinator for Barnet Youth offending team. Mari has supported the schools post-training, running refresher groups, training for parents who want to find out more about restorative parenting, offering advice and encouragement.

The study focuses on the 16 primary schools and findings include:  
- a reduction in exclusions in RA trained schools of 51% compared

to a 65% increase in exclusions in the 32 Barnet schools that have received no RA training.

- increased confidence amongst staff in handling of bullying and conflicts
  - an improved sense of responsibility amongst young people from their behaviour
  - calmer safer school environment
  - more positive school ethos
- Since the report was commissioned Belinda and Mari have been extending the training to more secondary schools in Barnet and they hope to continue this work in the coming academic year.

Full report ...  
[Barnet Evaluation Booklet](#)



## 6th Annual Conference on Restorative Approaches in Educational and Residential settings - 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February in York Rewards and Sanctions – why do we still use them?

Book this exciting event in your diaries now. Speakers and workshop leaders are being invited now and the programme is emerging. This conference promises to be the best yet. We will be having an input from Make Believe Arts – the first theatre company to be trained in restorative approaches, using these approaches not only in their productions but also in the way they interact with young people who attend their workshops and amongst themselves as a company.

We are also expecting some lively debate as Dr Hilary Cremin from Cambridge Institute of Education challenges our thinking on the place not only of sanctions but also of rewards in our management of relationships and behaviour.

As ever the main speakers will include headteachers and residential home senior managers who have already started implementing a restorative approach. Day 1 will look at starting out on the restorative journey, and the challenges at this early stage. Day 2 of the conference will have input from people who have been working in this way for over 5 years – and will be taking the time to look back and reflect on what impact this approach has had on themselves, their staff and the school community as a whole.

We are also fortunate in having Jonathan Stanley from the National Centre for Excellence in Residential Child Care (NCERCC) to draw together the strands of new developments in this field and the place of restorative approaches in this developing field. Jonathan has written the forward to Belinda's new book and is a strong supporter of restorative approaches.



## National Centre for Restorative Approaches in Youth Settings

## Transforming Conflict

Mortimer Hill  
Mortimer  
Berkshire  
RG7 3PW

E [info@transformingconflict.org](mailto:info@transformingconflict.org)  
W [www.transformingconflict.org](http://www.transformingconflict.org)  
T 0118 9331520

### Team News

Restorative Approaches are about nothing if not relationships and over the years many of you will have had the pleasure of meeting and developing strong relationships with members of our training team, either on courses or at our conferences. You may be interested to hear news about some of them:

**Phil Bence** has now become the happy father of a new baby girl called Harley, to add to his new family of 5 children. Unbelievably he still has time and energy to deliver our courses as well as practising his restorative parenting skills.

**Gordon Murray** is sadly leaving the team but the good news is that he has been appointed manager for North West Scotland by the charity Action for Children (formerly NCH - National Children's Homes). He will be moving to Scotland – where his roots are – and back to his beloved mountains! His work in developing restorative approaches in care settings has been invaluable and he hopes to bring his experience to bear in his new job.

**Peter Burton** will be leaving us to focus his energies on developing restorative approaches in Wiltshire under the auspices of his own new company, and

hopes one day to move to that area. Peter has given an immense amount of energy and commitment to Transforming Conflict over many years and we are very grateful.

**Christine Hatwell** has decided to leave us for now and focus on her health. We will miss her – not least for her wisdom and experience in working with youngsters with especially challenging behaviour and complex learning needs. However we know she will always offer us advice and support.

### Residential training January 18th to 22nd 2010



Our ever popular entry level course on restorative approaches is running at Heckfield Place again in January. This superb location provides the perfect venue for our course – offering luxury and good food as a backdrop to an enjoyable, challenging highly interactive course – one that can be life changing for some people.

There are still places on this course but do please sign up soon to avoid disappointment.

All participants will receive a copy of Belinda Hopkins' classic text 'Just Schools' or, for those working in the care sector, a copy of the 'hot off the press' book 'Just Care'.

[Residential Course Information](#)

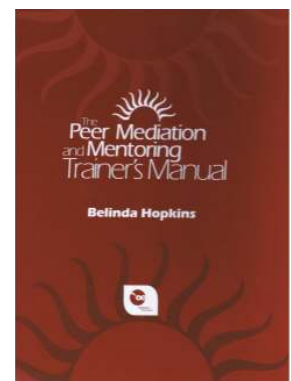
### Peer Mediation Training for Trainers - January 25th to 29th 2010

Heckfield Place awaits anyone interested in learning how to run a lively course for young people wanting to become peer mediators or mentors. The course is set within the framework of a whole-school restorative approach.

All participants will receive a copy of Belinda Hopkins' excellent and much-praised Peer Mediation and Mentoring Training Manual and a chance to buy other resources at discount prices.

Again – sign up soon ....

[Peer Mediation Training for Trainers Course Information](#)



**Please contact us if you need further training or support, we are always delighted when people keep in touch**