

Team Consortium Presents: Our reflections

What was the event?

The Sheriffdom of Strathclyde Justices of the Peace held their annual training event in the Bairdmore Hotel in Clydebank on the weekend of 15-17th November 2013. A total of 30 Justices of the Peace attended on the Sunday morning when Team Consortium was present.

Who invited us and what were we asked to do?

The Training Committee contacted the Scottish Recovery Consortium (SRC) in May 2013 to request a contribution to the training. The SRC Director met with Sam McEwan, a Justice of the Peace, to discuss the most helpful contribution that could be made. The key outcome sought by the trainers was that those attending had an awareness and understanding of life in addiction.

What did we do?

The SRC agreed to offer key glimpses into life in addiction, if equal time was given to life in recovery. This was accepted happily by the training committee and they allocated 2 x 45 minute sessions to the work with a short tea break in between.

Team Consortium for this event were all in 3+ years recovery from addiction. Each presenter had experience of being in prison during their life in addiction. All were now working or training for work. All were connected to the wider recovery movement and mutual aid.

Our format was simple:

- *3 x 7 minute personal reflection presentations on their individual lives in addiction*
- *1 x 5 minute extract from a play about addiction written by a police detective with a long term association with people in addiction in the CJS.*
- *In between each presentation there were moments of silence and slides with facts about addiction.*
- *Tea break*
- *3 x 7 minute personal reflection presentation on their individual lives in recovery*
- *1x 3.5 minute film of Recovery Walk 2013*
- *Questions panel.*

Recovery impact: feedback

“He had been a JP for 7 years and that the team’s presentations were the best and most meaningful training he has ever received.”

“It was not only informative, it was moving.”

“Now Sunday, what can I say, I think it was everything I expected it to be... the reaction from the audience was first class and hearing the comments of some to the guests was encouraging, it was clear they had never heard anything like it before.”

“I have never been hugged so much in my life!”

This was the first time that Team Consortium had presented to an audience out with the recovery community and our feedback suggests that this was successful.

What we learned

There is mileage in the 'Team Consortium presents' format as a public information arm of the SRC's work. What worked well was matching the presenters experience and life stages to both the outcome being sought and the people being connected with. The 'like for like' meant it was easier for the audience to identify with the team. It was clear from both the shared humour and the in depth and ranging questions, that the team and the audience had achieved mutuality and had escaped any "us" and "them".

The team felt that it was important for all the presenters to be in mature recovery (3+ years). It gave a more rounded and confident air to the presentations and it was clear that each of the presenters was at peace with themselves. The presenters were all clearly skilled and capable public speakers. This helped the audience relax into the message more easily.

November 2013

