



An innovative new training organisation aimed at tackling re-offending in the UK has been launched with the help of the TTC Group.

Former probation manager David Ellicott and former Head of Youth Offending Des Morrison have joined forces with TTC to provide an answer to reducing crime by educating offenders, equipping them with skills and getting them into employment.

Criminal Justice Training Solutions (CJTS) works in partnership with probation and the prison service to steer people away from crime through "high quality interventions" to turnaround low risk offenders leading to greater public protection.

"We intend to make a tangible difference. The best outcome for an offender and for society is for them to secure a job. We hope to bridge the gap and encourage employers to take a measured risk and give them a chance to stay on the straight and narrow," said Des.

The former Premiership assistant referee who has arbitrated in many difficult situations on the football field, said: "Specific programmes for offenders give them skills and re-training and build up their confidence so that they will not re-offend in the future."

A total of 37 offenders sentenced by magistrates to unpaid work orders for a range of offences including car crime, burglary and theft, took part in the first pilot CJTS Skills Builder programme launched in partnership with Derbyshire Probation Service. The



Intending to turnaround offenders: David Ellicott, Des Morrison, Jenny and Graham Wynn, of Criminal Justice Training Solutions.

Skills Builder Tackles Crime



Ex-offenders on the skills programme

programme has given them essential employment skills which CJTS hopes to roll out to other areas.

Offenders learn problem solving, presentation skills, working as part of a team and on their own, interview skills and sessions on DIY, manual handling, food hygiene, painting and decorating for beginners, first aid and alcohol awareness.

Their partners in the training venture are TTC Group director Jenny Wynn, a former senior Probation Manager and husband Graham, an ex-magistrate, who provide alcohol and drug education to raise awareness among offenders and motivate them to stop.

"Linking up our two organisations means that together we have a very experienced and professional team able to provide solutions to the criminal justice system across the UK," said Jenny, whose company has more than 100 trainers nationwide, many former senior police and probation officers.

Stars are ex-offenders

Ex-offenders can be "turned around" into living productive "crime free" lives, believe CJTS.

Such people can find a job and "stick to it" once they have the skills to gain employment which boosts both their confidence and self-esteem, said Des Morrison.

Colleague David Ellicott said: "Gordon Ramsay and Stephen Fry are both pillars of the community but they are both ex-offenders."

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay, who was involved in car crime as a youth, threw himself into cooking to become one of today's best loved TV stars. While actor, comedian and presenter Stephen Fry was jailed as a young man for credit card fraud.

"They have made a success story of their lives and people attending our courses can be equipped with the skills and motivation to turnaround their lives too," said David.

Natalie's Story

Natalie started taking cannabis as a 13-year-old after getting involved "in a bad crowd."

She progressed onto amphetamines and ecstasy and was eventually arrested aged 21 with her boyfriend when police raided their house. Convicted of supplying cannabis – which she denies – Natalie spent 2 months in prison on remand where she became drug free before being sentenced by magistrates to 150 hours unpaid work.

She was among the first offenders to take part in the CJTS Skills Builder Programme launched in Derby in October 2007. Natalie learned first aid, food and hygiene, team building, DIY and basic electrics.

"It was a very good course. I've now got certificates in hygiene and first aid. The things I learned are useful and now I am planning to go to the adult learning centre to do a counselling course," said Natalie, who lives in Derby, and hopes to be a drugs counsellor.

"The course definitely helped me a lot. I've got more confidence in myself now. The team building gives you that and helps you to work with others.

"For the first time I've got my head straight and I am much more positive about the future. Drugs counselling is something I have always wanted to do and now I am much more focussed and I can go forward with confidence," she added.

WHAT THEY SAID:

- "The sessions have helped me to solve problems in real life," said another ex-offender who successfully completed the CJTS Skills Builder course.
- "I want to put my new knowledge to use," said another.
- "I enjoyed them and intend to try harder, learn more and stick at it," said Dean.
- "The new skills will help me to find a job and to keep in employment."

SPEED AWARENESS

Speed awareness courses aimed at reducing road crashes have been launched by the TTC Group in both South Yorkshire and Merseyside. Police in both counties called in TTC to develop their speed awareness programme.

Motorists attended the first course in Barnsley in early October with courses starting in Merseyside at the end of January 2008. Drivers learn about hazard awareness, speeding

consequences and tips on how to keep themselves and others safe.

Police are hoping that educating speeding drivers will lead to a reduction in the number of deaths and injuries on their roads. In South Yorkshire alone there were 6,246 crashes in 2006 with speeding a contributory factor in at least a quarter of 71 deaths – which included eight children. Studies show that the course is successful in re-educating drivers.

Keith Blower (52), from Barnsley, said: "The course really opened my eyes. I've been checking my speed ever since."

Chief Inspector Ian Bint,



Speeding motorist Keith Blower thanks police for better education – and no points on his licence

of South Yorkshire Police, said: "Our objective is to reduce casualties. If we can do this by educating people instead of prosecuting, then that is what we will do. It is common sense."

NEWS IN BRIEF

- Lion laboratories national conference in Blackpool attended by UK police heard from John Price about how TTC provide drink drive education to more than 10,000 people each year.
- A national accolade has gone to TTC. The organisation was highly commended in the Road Safety in the Community section and the Fleet Service Provider of the Year awards run by road safety charity Brake. The awards recognise achievements of organisations helping to reduce the one in three road deaths involving an at-work driver.

TTC GROUP ON TV

BBC 2's Working Lunch programme in which companies get the latest national business news featured TTC in a recent programme.

Trainers were filmed delivering a course to civil engineering firm McPhillips (Wellington Ltd) at their Hadley Park training HQ in Telford.

TTC Group Director Graham Wynn warned viewers about the importance of corporate driver training with the introduction of the Corporate Manslaughter Act this April which will make senior managers and directors more accountable after a fatal work related crash.

"Managers must act now and put policies in place to manage occupational road risk," said National Training Director Malcolm Jones.

"This new law is very real indeed and managers need to prepare now. It puts the onus on employers to ensure risk assessments are carried out and recorded in writing. Measures



TTC's National Training Director Malcolm Jones talks to Working Lunch's Rob Pittam

must be put in place to minimise and manage the risk to all company drivers and there must be a proper detailed audit trail.

"But this is not bleak news for companies, it can be turned into a benefit for them. Not only will you be contributing to the safety of your employees by reducing road crash statistics but your business will be more profitable with fewer crashes, fuel savings and lower insurance costs for your fleet managers."

Course insight for magistrates

Another 700 magistrates and court staff have attended seminars on the drink drive rehabilitation course for offenders run by TTC in 2007.

This means that more than 1,500 magistrates have now experienced a "walk through" of the 18¼ hour course over the past three years.

Magistrates across the country are now much more aware about the course detail and many have said how it

had improved their own knowledge on alcohol and had made them better informed in their JP role.

TTC intend to continue this service which started in 2005. Just contact us for this presentation at your court.

Tameside magistrate Lee Brown said: "It was excellent, a really good presentation. We all think we know a bit about alcohol but it really opened our eyes."



TTC's Mel Hughes (left) with Bolton magistrates

The vast majority of drink drivers who attend the course, say they wished they had the knowledge about

alcohol, units, absorption rates, health and effects on driving ability before they broke the law.

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