



East Renfrewshire Community Mediation Service

PRESS RELEASE

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Local Schools to Benefit from Mediation Expertise Education Funding Made Available

East Renfrewshire Mediation, managed by Sacro, the leading community justice organisation, has been awarded funding by East Renfrewshire Council to provide training in Peer Mediation to all 24 primary schools in the area.

Peer Mediation involves trained young mediators in helping other children resolve disputes such as fall-outs and arguments without recourse to adult help.

East Renfrewshire Council is the first local authority in Scotland to have made education funding available for this service, which will include training for staff and support staff, as well as children that have been identified as capable peer mediators. The council has committed £10,000 over the next two years.

Richard Hendry, Sacro National Co-ordinator, Work with Schools said, "This is a very forward thinking move by the Council and we are delighted to be able to provide Sacro expertise across East Renfrewshire. Four primary schools in the area – Springhill, Cross Arthurlie, St John's primary and Busby primary - have already undergone training with excellent results.

"Managing relationships in schools is a complex area. A combination of restorative and mediation approaches can enable staff and students to build relationships, solve problems, resolve conflict and address harm more effectively than retributive responses. Young mediators can develop skills in listening, empathy, self-awareness, and can help their peers to create an environment in which conflict can be resolved more positively".

Councillor Alan Lafferty, East Renfrewshire's education convener said: "We are very pleased to work with Sacro in this important area. The funding will allow Sacro to expand an already successful service which helps pupils resolve a variety of issues, often before the issues develop and become serious, by being able to speak to fellow pupils trained to help as peer mediators".

In addition to East Renfrewshire, Sacro has helped schools to establish peer mediation in Fife, Aberdeen, Highlands and a number of individual schools across the central belt.

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