

Kirklees

- A Restorative Community
Safety Partnership

2013-2016



Kirklees
Partnership

What is Restorative Justice?

There are many definitions of restorative justice but it is widely recognised as a process of repairing the harm caused following conflict or a crime being committed. In this approach, crime is understood as a violation of people, relationships and of the wider community, not simply an offence against the state. Restorative justice processes provide a forum for victims to ask questions and receive answers, gain understanding, explain the impact of the crime on them and, in some cases, contribute to the outcome of the process. This may result in the victim receiving an apology or requesting a form of reparation. It may simply provide a safe environment for the victim to receive some closure. Offenders are encouraged to take responsibility for their harmful behaviour in a meaningful way, to gain insight into the causes and effects of that behaviour on others and to make a change.

What does Restorative Justice look like?

Whilst there are several forms of restorative justice (both in the juvenile and adult arenas), the basic principle is that:

Those with a stake in a particular offence or incident are supported by impartial, fair facilitators to voluntarily participate in an intervention (which could be direct or indirect)¹ to discuss the circumstances surrounding the offence and look to find a mutually acceptable way forward

What are the benefits of Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice is shown nationally to achieve a high satisfaction rate for victims that have engaged with the process as well as contributing to a positive behavioural change in those causing harm, thus leading to a reduced number of first time offenders and a reduction in recidivism.²

Strategic Objectives

This strategy has been developed by the Restorative Approaches Steering Group which is made up of key stakeholders from Kirklees Council, Kirklees Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Probation, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing. The purpose of this strategy is to provide the direction for embedding restorative approaches within the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership. The focus will remain on victims and their needs so, whilst it is acknowledged that the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership will also offer an opportunity to enable offenders to take responsibility for their behaviour, this strategy and subsequent action plans are not intended to become the primary means of reducing re-offending (even though they may contribute towards it). Our aims are:

- **to co-ordinate and consult with all restorative justice service providers to ensure that we can develop Kirklees into a restorative Community Safety Partnership by 2014**
- **to provide every victim and offender with the opportunity to engage in an appropriate form of restorative justice by 2014 in a bid to raise victim satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System and contribute to a reduction in re-offending**
- **to increase the use of restorative justice as a tool to deal with conflict in communities (such as mediation) and for anti-social behaviour related cases**

¹ Direct is through a face to face meeting and indirect could be through shuttle mediation or through written communication

² 85% of victims who go through restorative justice conferences were satisfied with the process. For offenders who take part in restorative justice, there is a 14% reduction in re-offending rates and a potential cost saving of £9 for every £1 spent on restorative justice (Ministry of Justice Action Plan for Restorative Justice in the Criminal Justice System, Nov 2012)

Strategic Priorities

Whilst this is a three year strategy, the priorities will be reviewed annually. The priorities for 2013-14 were agreed by the Restorative Approaches Steering Group in order to meet the following strategic aims:

- Menu Development
- Referral Mechanisms
- Victim Representation/Services
- Communication
- Training
- Volunteers
- Outcomes Framework/Measurements

Action plans will be developed for each of the above priorities. These will be managed by an appropriate working group that will feed into the Steering Group. Each of these action plans will contribute to the aim of Kirklees being a restorative Community Safety Partnership by 2014. Appendix A shows these proposed areas of work in more detail and the following flowchart demonstrates the monitoring structure to support this:



Current Picture

As referrals to a restorative justice process can be considered for both youths and adults at all stages of the criminal justice system (diversionary, pre-sentence, and post sentence), the Steering Group agreed that a mapping exercise should be undertaken to assess what services the Kirklees Partnership currently has and to highlight any gaps in provision. Appendix B demonstrates this in more detail and also links into the first priority around Menu Development.

In the future

Once we have ensured that we have met the aim of Kirklees becoming a restorative Community Safety Partnership, it is intended that in years 2015-16, we shall begin work to widen the use of restorative approaches into other areas. It is recognised that restorative principles can be applied within other services/organisations as a means of successfully resolving conflict so the vision is that the below arenas will be developed fully across the whole of Kirklees to enhance and compliment the work that will be undertaken within the Community Safety Partnership:

- Schools
- Residential care homes (for children and adults)
- In organisations as a tool for dealing with conflict

Restorative Justice/Approaches Implementation Plan 2013-14 (Appendix A)

Working Group/Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menu Development & Provision • Referral Mechanisms • Outcomes 	Timescales
Establish Neighbourhood Resolution Panels within Kirklees (for adults and equivalent of Juvenile Referral Scheme)	Already established - referral routes being reviewed
Establish an Alcohol Referral Scheme for adults	Already established
Explore Environmental Referrals (for young people & adults)	On-going
Collate basic referral criteria/information from all services offering restorative interventions	Feb 2014
Create an information booklet with the above information to circulate widely between referral agencies and other relevant services to raise awareness and to limit duplication	Feb 2014
Build on strong partnership working by looking at better ways of sharing information	Feb 2014
Develop a simple central method of collating statistical information (such as referral numbers) on a quarterly basis from key service providers	Feb 2014
Look at existing methods for recording performance and explore whether these could be standardised (ie. feedback forms)	Feb 2014
Make links with the University to explore the possibility of producing an independent evaluation of services	Autumn 2014
Working Group/Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim Representation • Communication 	Timescales
To challenge negative perceptions by increasing positive messages about restorative justice in the press/media	April/May 2014
Establish links/re-engage with Victim Support to ensure they are involved in partnership discussions and represented in the delivery structure	Links made – ongoing
Create best practice guidance ensuring national standards are met to raise victim awareness and confidence (also link in to the Restorative Justice Council)	April/May 2014
Develop a specific restorative approaches external communication plan and ensure this incorporates key messages, successful case studies and achievements from across the partnership	March 2014
Develop an action plan for internal communication to increase awareness of services available within the partnership	March 2014
Make better links with the Restorative Justice Council and other national restorative organisations to try to gain status on a wider level	April/May 2014

Working Group/Priorities	Timescales
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training • Volunteering 	
Develop a restorative approaches training plan and ensure that this incorporates the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current picture • Future needs (such as refresher training) • Developing on-line resources • Restorative approaches awareness raising mechanisms (such as briefings, team meetings, away days etc) 	March 2014
Engage with all volunteers by organising an event/workshop which will allow them to explore what other additional opportunities there may be for them to get involved in more restorative work	To possibly coincide with launch approx. June 2014
Identify any training needs through consulting with existing volunteers (and linking into training plan)	March 2014
Develop a partnership system to monitor and manage the retention of volunteers	March 2014

Review and refresh with a view to formally launch Kirklees as a Restorative Community Safety Partnership by the end of June 2014

RJ services currently operating within the Community Safety Partnership (Appendix B)
Children & Young People (17 years and under)

Scheme/Work Area	Brief Description	Lead Agency (ies)
Diversionsary Street RJ & Community Resolution	Police officers resolving low level issues/ disputes on the spot	West Yorkshire Police
Diversionsary Juvenile Referral Scheme	For those at risk of entering the system for low level offences and ASB	West Yorkshire Police Integrated Youth Support Service
Out of Court Disposal/Pre Sentence Youth Caution & Youth Conditional Cautions	Opportunities for all victims to engage in RJ with appropriate offenders	Integrated Youth Support Service
Post Sentence Youth Rehabilitation Order	For offenders whose sentences include a mandatory RJ element (such as taking part in a panel or reparation). Victims are given the choice as to the level of their involvement	Integrated Youth Support Service
Post Sentence In custody	For victims/offenders who voluntarily wish to engage in RJ and are deemed appropriate	Integrated Youth Support Service
Post Sentence Reconnect Project	RJ interventions between young people in custody and their families to aid with their release	Integrated Youth Support Service
Post Sentence On licence	For victims/offenders who voluntarily wish to engage in RJ and are deemed appropriate	Integrated Youth Support Service

Adults (18 years and above)

Scheme/Work Area	Brief Description	Lead Agency (ies)
Diversionsary Street RJ & Community Resolution	Police officers resolving low level issues/ disputes on the spot	West Yorkshire Police
Diversionsary Neighbourhood Resolution Panels	RJ for low level criminal offences, ASB and mediation for neighbour disputes	West Yorkshire Police Kirklees Council
Diversionsary Street Workers	Developing a scheme for street workers to engage with RJ after 2nd street warning has been issued (before proceeding to formal Home Office Caution)	West Yorkshire Police Kirklees Council SWEET Project
Diversionsary Mediation	For housing/neighbour disputes for Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing tenants only	Yorkshire Mediation Sevices
Out of Court Disposal/Pre Sentence Alcohol Referral Scheme	Offenders are given the opportunity to halve their fine if they attend an educational/ awareness raising session based on RJ principles	West Yorkshire Police Kirklees Council NHS/Ambulance Service Fire & Rescue
Post Sentence Community Order and Intensive Community Order	Where a suitable and appropriate case is identified, Offender Managers can recommend that RJ is considered as a mandatory element of an order. Victims are give a choice as to the level of their involvement	West Yorkshire Probation West Yorkshire Police Integrated Offender Management Unit
Post Sentence In custody	For victims/offenders who voluntarily wish to engage in RJ and are deemed appropriate	West Yorkshire Probation (including Victim Services Unit) Prison Service West Yorkshire Police Integrated Offender Management Unit
Post Sentence On licence	For victims/offenders who voluntarily wish to engage in RJ and are deemed appropriate	West Yorkshire Probation (including Victim Services Unit) West Yorkshire Police Integrated Offender Management Unit