

Safeguarding Factsheet 9

Restorative justice

A collaborative piece of work produced by Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB), Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSP)

The basics

THIS FACTSHEET WILL INFORM YOU ABOUT:

- 1 The basics
- 2 The benefits
- 3 The Kirklees perspective
- 4 More information

Restorative justice is widely recognised as a process of repairing harm caused by conflict or a crime being committed. This approach views crime as a violation of people, relationships and of the wider community, not simply an offence against the state.

Restorative justice provides 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.

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 positive change.

The benefits

Many victims feel that the criminal justice system does not give them a chance to get involved. Restorative justice puts victims at the heart of the justice process - it gives them a chance to ask the offender any questions that they have and get anything that they may want to say about the impact of the crime off their chest.

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 re-offending.

Government research demonstrates that restorative justice provides an 85% victim satisfaction rate and a 14% reduction in the frequency of reoffending.

Source: Restorative Justice Council

The Kirklees perspective

The Kirklees approach to creating safer communities are based on preventing and tackling issues at the earliest possible time to prevent problems becoming more difficult to tackle, whilst taking a partnership approach to post crime interventions to reduce further harm to individuals and communities.

The new strategic objectives and action plan developed in conjunction with the Restorative Approaches Steering Group provides direction for embedding restorative approaches within the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership.

The steering group includes key stakeholders from:

Kirklees Council
Safer Kirklees
West Yorkshire Police
West Yorkshire Probation
West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing

The continuation and development of the Steering Group is pivotal to ensure victim's needs are met through problem solving and identifying gaps in service delivery.

More information and contact details

Restorative Justice Council
<https://www.restorativejustice.org.uk/>

For all Restorative Justice and Neighbourhood Resolution Panels (mediation) enquiries and referral forms in Kirklees contact:

Courtney Smith on 01484221000 or
Email: courtney.smith@kirklees.gov.uk or sean.hurry@kirklees.gov.uk

"I'd say to anyone thinking about going through restorative justice to do it, as it really helped me."

*Alex's story, source:
Restorative Justice Council*
