A Guide for Young People

Respect
Evolve
Sincerity
Together
Observe
Repair Harm
Attitude
Trust
Involved
Victim
Equality
Juvenile
Unite
Solve
Tolerate
Initiate
Co operate
Educate

Restorative Justice

Youth Justice Agency
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Restorative Justice is a way to deal with a situation where a person or a community has been harmed, a way to put something right ..........To find out more please keep reading.

The poetry and art in this book have been produced as a result of competitions run by the Restorative Justice Forum and The Youth Justice Agency. We have included these pieces to help demonstrate what restorative justice is and how it has impacted on people who have had the experience of taking part in it.

We hope that once you have read this book you will understand the benefits of restorative justice.

Links to Websites

www.youthjusticeagencyni.gov.uk
www.pbni.org.uk
www.psnipolice.uk
www.ppsni.gov.uk
www.victimsupportni.co.uk
Restorative justice - is about restoring relationships

Within the Criminal Justice System restorative justice gives offenders a chance to understand how, what they have done affects others and a chance to make up for it. It also gives victims a chance to get answers to their questions and tell an offender how they have been affected.

You can also find examples of restorative justice within schools, residential care settings and the community. Some examples of these can be found later in the book.
A restorative justice meeting will usually follow the same process no matter what the situation.

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<th>Typical Questions asked of an offender</th>
<th>Typical Questions asked of a victim</th>
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<td><strong>What happened?</strong></td>
<td><strong>What did you think when you realised what had happened?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What were you thinking about at the time?</strong></td>
<td><strong>What have your thoughts been since?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What have your thoughts been since?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Who has been affected by what you did?</strong></td>
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Anyone who attends a restorative meeting is there through choice.

People who might attend a restorative meeting include the offender, the victim a person to mediate, supporters of both the victim and the offender and individuals from the community where the harm occurred.
Probation Board for NI (PBN)

PBN work mainly with offenders over 18 and with any victim whose case results in one of the 10 sentences which they supervise.

In order to help victims deal with the harm caused to them and to help offenders face up to what they have done, PBN arrange restorative meetings or contact with any victim or offender who is willing to be involved. This may be a face to face meeting or an exchange of information if they do not want to meet.

PBN also work with community restorative justice organisations.

Victims and offenders say that although being involved in a restorative meeting can be difficult, it can really help sort out some of the difficulties which resulted from the offence.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Police use Restorative Justice in a number of ways to deal with low level crime and anti social behaviour
- Informed Warning or Restorative Caution known as Diversionary Disposals are used to try and stop someone from re-offending. Police recognise young people make mistakes through lack of experience or pressure from friends. A restorative disposal gives the young person the chance to meet the people who have been hurt by their actions and it does not require them to attend court.

- When dealing with the sort of problems that can affect someone’s everyday life, and make them feel angry or frustrated, like neighbour disputes or nuisance behaviour, the police help bring together those involved to listen to each other and come to an agreement to fix the problem.
Youth Justice Agency

The Youth Justice Agency provide a Restorative approach to Youth Crime by a process called a youth conference which can be either diversionary (not dealt with in court therefore not a conviction) or court ordered.

The youth conference is a restorative meeting which brings together the offender and whoever has been affected by the offence e.g. the victim and the community. The outcome from the meeting is a youth conference action plan which has been agreed by everyone at the meeting. This action plan which the offender has to complete can include things like community service, an apology to the victim, payment for damage caused, treatment for addiction or programmes to assist with employment or training opportunities.

Once the action plan is agreed, it must be approved by either the Public Prosecution Service or the District Judge in the Youth Court before it can start.

What scares me about a restorative conference

In Court you just get dealt with
At a conference you have to
Face up to, and talk about what you've done.

The last thing I want to do is to
Talk about things. It would melt my head,
It would bring everything up!

I know that Court is just running away
From facing up to the consequences but
It's easier in Court, because you don't
Have to face up to what you've done and
Who you've hurt.

I've done things to people and they don't deserve it.
A Restorative Conference is probably the best solution,
But it scares ME!
Youth Conference
Some weeks later... --

Joe gets the offer of a youth conference from the CPS. The coordinator phones Joe to visit Joe.

Victims Story:

Mary is making tea in the kitchen when suddenly... a back comes through the lower room window.

Joe's mobile phone is found at the scene by police.

Mary's daughter says what do the police want.

Why us? Who did this?
THE YOUTH CONFERENCE

HAVE I DONE THIS RIGHT? WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
IS HE GOING TO TELL THIS STORY?

Joe explains to the conference what he did.

"At my 18th birthday party, I had too many drinks..."

"I was really annoyed with my girlfriend and0 I got angry and left the party."

"On the way home I tripped over a brick. I just lost my balance, grabbed the brick and thought through the window."

"With my bed trailer and the alcohol, I'm not surprised - you were foolish Joe."
What is
Restorative Law

WHAT IS
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Talk it through.
Community Restorative Justice groups such as Alternatives NI and Community Restorative Justice Ireland deliver restorative practices in the community at local level. Both agencies have offices throughout Northern Ireland and provide programmes of mediation; conferencing; family group conferencing; youth programmes; family support; schools work and victim support. As well as working restoratively in their communities they also work with the Youth Justice Agency, Public Prosecution Service, Police Service Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Social Services ensuring communities are involved in the justice process.
Sycamore Tree

The Prison Fellowship NI provide a programme called Sycamore Tree for offenders in prison. The programme teaches offenders what restorative justice is and to understand the effect of crime on victims, offenders and the community. They also get to hear directly from the victim of a crime learning how it can affect their life.

“taking responsibility for my actions, I stopped thinking about myself and started thinking of others” Participant on Sycamore Tree

Victim Support

Victim Support helps people affected by any type of crime. They provide support to victims involved in restorative justice meetings with the Youth Justice Agency or in prison through the Probation Service.
Extern uses restorative practises in both its community and residential projects. At Linden Services for Children Residential Unit restorative practises are used to help manage young people's behaviour.

Barnardo's provide support to staff in residential care to use restorative practises as a way of reducing the number of children in care getting into trouble with the police for bad behaviour. Some examples of how they do this are:

One to One: if one person says or does something that upsets or hurts another person they talk to them about it

Small Group: when one or two young people are upsetting each other a staff member talks to them directly

Circle: if one person upsets everyone else they all come together to discuss it

Restorative meeting: When a young person is involved in something serious a meeting is arranged between them and the person who has been harmed. At the meeting they try to repair the relationship and to agree what can be done to make up for the harm caused.
Definitions

Offender –
Victim –
Community –
Re-offending –
Diversionary Youth Conference –
Court Ordered Youth Conference –

Mediator – a person who is independent and will help the meeting run smoothly

Blind Date

As Bill and I were walking
I saw a muddy sod,
Outside Mrs. Mitchell’s house,
“Ya see her, she’s a Prodi!”

I bet ya wouldn’t throw that brick,
I bet ya never could.”
“Put that brick into my hand
I bet ya that I would”

The brick went through the window,
I saw it hit her head.
We both then started running
In fear that she was dead.

I saw the paramedics
Carefully stitch her head,
I felt such a guilty low-life
I wished it was me instead.

Later I went to the hospital,
I heard the family sighs
My conscience made me do something
It made me apologise.

I walked into her room
And stood there by her bed.
I saw the pain that I had caused,
The stitches in her head.
Contacts

Youth Justice Agency
41-43 Waring Street
Belfast
BT1 2DY
Telephone: 028 9031 6400
Fax: 028 9031 6402/3
Email: info@yjani.gov.uk

PBNI Victims Unit
Office 40 Imperial Buildings
72 High Street
BT1 2BE
Telephone: 028 9032 1972

PSNI
Command Secretariat
Police Service of Northern Ireland
Police Headquarters
Brooklyn
65 Knock Road
Belfast
BT5 6LE
0845 600 8000

Barnardo’s Northern Ireland
542-544 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3HE
02890 672366

Extern
Hydepark House
3 McKinney Road
Newtownabbey
BT36 4PE
Tel: 02890 840555
info@extern.org

Prison Fellowship Northern Ireland
39 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1FY
02890 243691
info@pfni.org

Victim Support
Annsgate House
3rd Floor 70/74 Ann Street
Belfast
BT1 4EH
02890 244039
info@victimsupportni.org.uk

Community Restorative Justice (Ireland)
786 Springfield Road
Belfast
BT12 7JD

NI Alternatives Ltd
64 Woodvale Road
Belfast
BT13 3BT
02890 311420