Restorative Justice Council

Enabling quality restorative justice in youth offending teams

Jon Collins

Chief Executive Officer

Restorative Justice Council

Promoting quality restorative practice for everyone

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About the Restorative Justice Council

- The independent third sector membership body for the field of restorative practice
- Sets standards and provides quality assurance for the restorative practice field
- Provides a national voice advocating the widespread use of restorative practice
- Our ultimate aim is to drive the availability and take-up of safe, high-quality restorative practice

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‘I came out as happy as anything. I felt like I’d got a chance to explain my situation, and they’d got a chance to explain their feelings towards me, which helped me to understand how wrong it was. All in all, that was brilliant.’

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‘Every time, it kind of broke me, but it made me as well’

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‘For me, restorative justice has been incredibly empowering. I’ve regained control by turning a negative, frightening experience into a positive, life-changing one. I’ll always be grateful for that’

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Restorative justice in a changing environment

- Significant government funding for victim-led restorative justice, distributed through PCCs
- Funding for YOTs, via the Youth Justice Board
- Pilots for presentence restorative justice
- Pilot of a new approach to out-of-court disposals and greater use of Neighbourhood Justice Panels
- Broader use of restorative approaches, e.g. in schools

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Leading role for YOTs

- YOTs have acted as pioneers for restorative justice in the justice system
- Now embedded in Youth Conditional Cautions, Referral Orders and Youth Rehabilitation Orders
- Use of restorative disposals out of court helping keep young people out of the justice system
- Increasing interest in the concept of YOTs as restorative organisations

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Taking forward restorative justice in YOTS

- Develop a compelling narrative
- Gain and build public and professional support
- Maintain a focus on quality and standards
- Develop effective partnerships in a new environment
- Ensure that services can demonstrate impact
- Move towards YOTs becoming fully restorative organisations

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Putting young people first

- Restorative justice has real advantages for young offenders and young victims of crime
- Using restorative justice gives young people the skills to deal with conflict in their lives and careers
- Restorative approaches can create the right environment for the most challenging young people

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