why me?

VICTIMS FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Listening to the stories

Sian West, Director

January 2011

Who are we?

- Victims, founded by Will Riley
- … including our Patron, Baroness Tessa Blackstone, VC of University of Greenwich
- Sir Charles Pollard QPM
- Sian West, Director

What do we seek?

"... The right for all victims of crime to meet their offender in a face-to-face RJ conference paid for by the state"

History
2002 - 2011

- RJ Conference between Will Riley and Peter Woolf in ’02
- ‘Reunited’ at an RJ seminar
- The book, the film
- Victims want RJ, voices unheard
- Why me? tells the stories
- Registered as charity 2010

Whose crime is it anyway?

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Every crime has 2 direct victims

- the State
- the Individual(s)

CJS – brings justice for the state

But what about the **people** affected and harmed?

Numbers and words

We have strong quantitative data

And powerful qualitative data …

The words

- "I touched his arm. "What if it had been your grandma?" He burst into tears, he said "I'm sorry, I'm sorry". I think that had more effect on him than anything else".

- *"Five years later I still clutch my purse nervously as I pass the fateful corner. But I am buoyed with delight that A continues to keep his side of the bargain."*

- "I left that prison feeling that I'd really changed. I could breathe again."

Reality of now

- Co-alition government committed to restorative approaches
- MoJ Green Paper is clearly keen on roll-out
- MoJ agree 14% delay in frequency of reoffending
- Louise Casey, Commissioner for Victims & Witnesses: inaugural report July '10
  - " ...they are little more than bystanders whilst the wheels of justice turn"

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- In RJ, the victim is not a BYSTANDER
- Powerful stories on website from victims of burglary, assault, loss of partner through drunk-driving
- Victims have spoken direct with policy makers . . ..
- ..... and with media

Why me? in 2011

- Widen range of story-givers:
  - victims who would like RJ
  - offenders who would like to meet their victims and make amends
- Get involved in
  - making it happen, and ....
  - ...ever more creative ways of telling stories

Questions ?

contact us on

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