

Restorative Justice Implemented in Dorset Probation with Adult Offenders



Dorset
Probation Trust



Louise Edwards
RJ Co-ordinator
and Facilitator

Denize Darragh
Service Delivery Manager
And RJ Facilitator

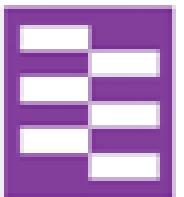
A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US

- We are the world's largest charity for victims and witnesses
- We are not a government agency or part of the police
- Our services are free and confidential and offered to anyone affected by crime
- There are 80 volunteers in Dorset, working both in the community and court
- We are celebrating our 40th anniversary this year

What is RJ?

RJ is a 'processes which bring those harmed by crime or conflict, and those responsible for the harm, into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward'

(Restorative Justice Council cited in CJ Joint Inspection 2012, p4).





BENEFITS TO THE VICTIM

Restorative Justice empowers a victim

- By putting them at the heart of society's response to crime
- By giving them the chance to tell offenders of the real impact of the crime
- By giving them an opportunity to get answers from their offender
- By receiving an apology from the offender
- By working together to collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of crime.



BENEFITS TO THE OFFENDER

- Offenders take responsibility
- The chance to make amends/apologise
- Understand the impact the offence has had upon others
- Help the offender to focus on their thinking and behaviour
- Chance to make a real difference to the person to whom they have caused harm

What are the statistics that show Restorative Justice works?

Research commissioned by the UK Government, which was undertaken between 2004 and 2008 by a team headed by Professor Joanna Shapland at the University of Sheffield, showed that 77% of victims offered an RJ session took the opportunity. Offender participation rates were similarly high.

33% of offenders leaving prison are less likely to reoffend after RJ.

55% of those who have had non-custodial punishments are less likely to reoffend after RJ.

Government trials showed that 85% of victims were satisfied with the process and 72% would recommend it to others.

Only 1% of victims are
offered Restorative
Justice.



Our current delivery model

- **Eligibility and Suitable cases**
 - Presumption in favour of offender participation.
 - Those who have pleaded guilty or accepted some involvement to the harm they have caused.
 - They will be sentenced to a community order or will be placed on licence.
 - Medium/High Risk
- **Offence types**
 - Burglary (dwelling), assaults/battery, ABH, GBH, Criminal damage, Robbery (of person) & Fraud
- **Exclusion criteria**
 - Domestic Violence and Sexual offences



RJ interventions

Direct

Face to face meeting, this is called a conference.

Indirect

Can include victimless conferences by a facilitator between victim and offender.

A letter.

Victim awareness



Facilitator's role

- **Pre-conference**
 - Venues
 - Victim/Offender Supporters
 - Home visits
 - Risk Assessment
- **Conference**
 - un-biased
 - Lasts around an hour
- **Follow up**
 - Conference agreements.
 - Keeping the victim up to date with the offender's progress.
 - Feedback on the process for both parties.
 - Ongoing support for both parties.

Dorset
Probation Trust



THE WOLF WITHIN



Any Questions?



WORKING TOGETHER

