

What our previous participants have said about engaging with the Restorative Justice Process

Our experience in working with persons who have been harmed by others is that people want different things.

For some an apology is important, for others it's the chance to get answers to questions, to seek reparation or to express directly to the person who committed the offence the impact of their actions.

Below is just some of the feedback we have received from people we have worked with.

'In our case.... we had a say in what we would like to happen, an input in what we would like to see... we were made to feel very important in the process... it was a good feeling, being taken seriously'.

'to get an answer or to have the chance to go and say why did you do this...to stand up to the person that actually made you feel so small and vulnerable to be able to sit in the same room and say why did you do this to me I think is a good thing'

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Restorative Justice in the Community

Repairing the Harm:
Information for
Victims of Crime

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What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a process that seeks to bring together those harmed by crime, and those responsible for that harm, to actively participate in resolving matters arising from the offence, with the help of a trained and impartial restorative justice facilitator.

What should I expect from the Restorative Justice Process?

At Restorative Justice in the Community (RJC), we work with people who have been affected by crime to enable them to decide how they would like to proceed.

We listen to your expectations, wishes and concerns. We will answer your questions and explain the process.

We will arrange a meeting with you to talk about the offence. We will ask you about what happened and how you were affected. We will take note of any questions you may have and address any of your concerns.

We will explain the options available to you.

Some people wish to meet the person who committed the harm for a conversation facilitated by the restorative justice caseworker, to ask questions, seek assurances or to seek some form of repair.

Some people prefer to work in a more indirect way and meet with the restorative justice case worker to discuss their preferred outcome, but they may not wish to meet with the person who harmed them. This “shuttle” approach means that the case worker will go between you and the offender.

RJC can work with you to decide what approach might best suit you.

Do I have to take part in Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice is a completely voluntary and free process. It can only proceed when there is agreement to participate.

The person who has offended also needs to take responsibility for their behaviour for this process to be successful.

All aspects of the process will be discussed and agreed in a caring and confidential manner before moving forward.

The key aim of restorative justice is to repair the harm caused and find a positive way forward.



Restorative
Justice in the
Community