



Restorative Justice in Hampshire Youth Offending Team

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What is Restorative Justice?

- Restorative justice is an approach used in the criminal justice system with both adults and children.
- Enables children to understand the impact of their behaviour on others, take responsibility and make amends
- Harmed persons to feel more empowered.
- Positive impact on children's reoffending
- Involves direct or indirect communication between parties
- It is a voluntary process using skills of the worker to encourage children and harmed people to engage

How it is used in HYOT

- HYOT employs 6 Restorative Justice Officers (RJOs) overseen by a Team Lead.
- They contact all harmed people during the child's assessment stage.
- Simultaneously engage with the child to identify what they work they will do.
- Any agreed activity then goes into their plan.
- Can involve shuttle mediation, reparation, a letter of apology and direct contact.
- If the Harmed Person declines the team can still work with the child.

Finance and performance

- HYOT has a budget which comes from partnership contributions. This is both, cash and people
- Main contributors are central government via the Youth Justice Board and Hampshire Childrens Services
- RJ services are financed via this budget, this includes both staff and any registration requirements
- Not subject to national indicators but local targets
- 100% of victims are contacted about 20% want to be involved
- Last year the RJ team worked with 361 children

Links to the Restorative Justice Council

- Currently HYOT has the RJ quality mark, however the council has recently changed its registration process and we are required to become a registered provider
- Currently we are involved in collating the evidence to be a provider.
- Recently there has been a number of changes in the team and we are investing in upskilling our staff.

Evidence and case studies

- In 2001 the Government launched a 7 year research programme into the effectiveness of RJ in adults who offended.
- Found that those who participated had an 85% victim satisfaction rate and a 14% reduction in the frequency of reoffending.
- Currently an all Party Parliamentary Group for RJ looking at: raising practitioner standards, opening universal access to restorative justice in the criminal justice sector, building evidence and identifying other arenas where it can be used.

Using RJ more broadly

- Looking at how we can support children's residential placements.
- Offering support to staff in alternative education provision
- Increasing awareness with our police partners.

Questions?