

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice is about victims and offenders communicating in a supported environment to discuss the harm that has been caused and how to find a way to repair that harm.

For victims, meeting the person who has harmed them can be a huge step in moving forward and recovering from the crime. For offenders, the experience can help them to understand the harm caused and give an opportunity for them to make amends.

***Most of all
it allows you
to make your
voice heard***

*“I spoke, you listened,
he listened, and he seemed
to understand.
It felt good to be heard.”*

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*“I’m happy that I had a
chance to apologise for
my actions and that the
people I was with were
understanding.”*

HOW CAN I TAKE PART?

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more or take part in Restorative Justice. We can then talk things over with you in confidence and answer any questions you may have.

You can get in touch by phone, email or text:

TELEPHONE:

0117 9415879

MOBILE/TEXT:

07377 864060

07377 864061

EMAIL:

cases@restorative-approaches.org
cases.restorative@approaches.cjsm.net

Caseworkers are available Monday to Friday. If you send a text or leave a message we will call you back.

**RESTORATIVE
APPROACHES**

A restorative justice service for Avon & Somerset



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*repairing
harm
together*

**RESTORATIVE
APPROACHES**

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REPAIRING HARM IN AVON & SOMERSET

Restorative Justice can help provide a means of closure. It can help victims' of crime or anti social behaviour to have a voice, feel heard and for offenders to understand the impact of their actions and change their behaviour.

With Restorative Justice we provide an alternative way of dealing with an offence or incident, the process is focused on the needs of the individuals involved. You can also involve a friend, family member or professional for support.

Your Restorative Justice facilitators will be there to support and guide you throughout the process, they will help you feel safe, at ease, and fully prepared. The facilitators take their lead from you and you can change your mind at any time.

“I was able to get answers to my questions and find out more about the individual and their motivations. The offender was genuinely remorseful for the incident and seemed to benefit from hearing first hand the impact of their actions.”

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Restorative Justice gives you a chance to communicate directly or indirectly with the other person and discuss what happened. It can help you gain an understanding, describe your feelings and ask questions. Most importantly it can help repair the harm caused.

Many people find satisfaction through the process. It can help them make a start in moving forward from what has happened.

Initially you will meet with a Restorative Justice facilitator to discuss:

How you and others were affected by the incident.

What you'd like to achieve through communication with the other person to make things better.

Any questions and concerns you may have.

After this, you will be able to decide whether you want to meet or communicate with the other person.

Your facilitators will ensure that any communication is supervised in a way which is both safe and likely to meet your needs.

WHEN CAN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE BE USED?

Restorative Justice can be used in a variety of situations from anti-social behaviour to the most serious of crimes. It can be used at any stage of the criminal justice process.

DOES RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WORK?

Government research, along with success stories, proves that Restorative Justice can benefit a wide range of victims and offenders. When we asked our service users:

98%

of victims who accessed our services were very or mostly satisfied

99%

of offenders who accessed our services were very satisfied

WHEN CAN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE HAPPEN?

There are **three basic requirements** that must be met before communication can take place:

- 1 The offender must take some responsibility for the wrong doing
- 2 Both the victim and the offender must be willing to participate
- 3 It has to be safe for both the victim and the offender to be involved in the process