

# DOWNLOAD PDF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WITH VICTIMS AND YOUNG OFFENDERS IN THE UK

## Chapter 1 : Restorative justice - Wikipedia

*In cases involving young offenders the police must pass the victim's contact details to the YOT to give victims access to reparation or other restorative justice processes, unless the victim.*

Davey discusses initiatives by police and county councils; and pilots, research, best practice guidelines and legislation supported by the Home Office. Being new to the field, my next five weeks serving as his training assistant would be an intensive and comprehensive period of personal growth. Terry asked me to present on the development of restorative justice or RJ in the United Kingdom, which is both an honour and a challenge. Given the limits of time, I am certain to omit some things of significance and because of where I work and live, I am most familiar with developments in England and Wales. Nonetheless I will do my best to present an overview from the personal perspective of a former police officer who has been fortunate enough to play a role in a movement that is changing how our society responds to crime and wrongdoing. Victim-Offender Mediation My understanding is that restorative justice made its way to the UK from North America, originating in with a Canadian victim-offender reconciliation programme. Victim-offender mediation in the UK began in earnest in the early 80s, coinciding with the increased use of cautioning and intermediate treatment by the criminal justice system. Most referrals to restorative justice were from juvenile panels or boards seeking youth diversion, causing some criticism because RJ was supposed to be for the benefit of both offenders and victims. In the late 80s the Home Office funded four pilot victim-offender mediation projects and a formal evaluation. The projects were wide-ranging, from diversion of cases before court to intervention following conviction. Although the evaluations of the Home Office pilot projects were largely favourable in terms of participant satisfaction, central funding was withdrawn at the end of the project. Three of the victim-offender projects survived through the support of probation services in those locales, and subsequently other locally supported victim-offender mediation services developed, most of which still operate today. One approach to victim-offender mediation unique to the UK, which developed at that time, is indirect mediation, where the victim and offender have their comments conveyed back and forth by the mediator, without actually meeting face-to-face. The Family Group Conference Another form of RJ in the UK is the family group conference or FGC , which originated in New Zealand in as a creative response to the dissatisfaction of the indigenous Maori people with the existing child protection and youth justice system. In the same spirit as victim-offender mediation, family members were empowered to make decisions about their own children, subject to the review of the court. A national pilot began in and expanded through the 90s Nixon, , link. The model was also adapted for use in schools and in the criminal justice system. Of particular note for youth justice is a project in Essex that deals with serious young offenders from dysfunctional families. Early indications are very positive, in terms of the number of victims satisfied with the process, outcomes for the young persons involved and reductions in offending Essex County Council strategy document, [http: The Restorative Conference](http://www.essex.gov.uk) In a parallel development, the Thames Valley Police, which serves a large area west of London, implemented restorative conferencing for young offenders. Although the Wagga Wagga scheme is no longer in existence, it influenced the development of conferencing within Australia, most notably the large-scale Reintegrative Shaming Experiment RISE in the Australian Capital Territory, and throughout the world. His enthusiasm for conferencing inspired other individuals and organisations, including the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canada, Ted Wachtel in the U. Following this seminar, a small number of officers based in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, began developing their own conferencing practice. In the first 18 months of the project, officers at Aylesbury conducted approximately conferences or meetings, some of which involved victims, representatives of the community, and offenders and their parents, but most of which did not adhere fully to restorative justice principles. While in England, then Chief Constable Charles Pollard invited Terry to train some Thames Valley officers in conferencing, including those already practising in Aylesbury. Unfortunately, at the time there was little formal support or supervision in place to ensure the

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training was put to good use. So in April , the Thames Valley Police created the Restorative Justice Consultancy to develop strategies for the effective implementation of high-quality restorative practice. Thus began my own involvement, as the inspector responsible for the development and delivery of RJ training, which was ultimately provided, not only for our own police officers, but also for other police services, schools and agencies in the UK. This was a significant event in re-energizing interest in restorative justice in England and Wales. The application of restorative justice to the cautioning of young offenders became operational across Thames Valley on 1 April So all this groundbreaking work in the UK using victim-offender mediation, family group conferencing and restorative conferencing was starting to make people take notice of the RJ movement. At the same time, a series of findings, reports and media stories expressed public fear of a rising tide of youth crime. This led the government to start to radically rethink the path of youth justice in England and Wales. They are made up of representatives from police, probation service, social services welfare , health, education, drugs and alcohol misuse, and housing. Each YOT has a manager responsible for co-ordinating its services. Because the YOT incorporates representatives from a wide range of services, it can respond to the needs of young offenders in a comprehensive way. It identifies the specific problems that make the young person offend as well as measuring the risk they pose to others. This enables the YOT to identify suitable programmes to address the needs of the young person with the intention of preventing further offending. The Crime and Disorder Act also allowed for contact with victims and for reparation. Although not specifically required under the act, restorative measures were certainly enabled by this legislation and have subsequently become commonplace. As a result of these reforms, a whole new set of youth justice terms developed that warrant some explanation. The police deliver a Reprimand to first-time offenders, often in the form of a restorative conference or meeting. For more serious matters the young person can go straight to Final Warning for their first offence. A Referral Order, a concept introduced by the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act , usually is issued for a third offence, when the young person appears in court. Except in very serious cases, the magistrates must make a Referral Order to a Youth Offender Panel, which then meets with the young person to create an action plan to prevent future offending. The Youth Justice Board encourages a restorative conference at this stage as well. Another option available to courts under the Crime and Disorder Act is the Reparation Order, which must take into account the feelings and wishes of the victims of crime, while allowing the offender to make some amends. The Reparation Order requires the young offender to make specific reparation either to the individual victim of the crime, where the victim desires this, or to the community. Reparation may range from writing a letter of apology or meeting with the victim to apologize, to repairing the damage that was caused. The Reparation may be decided by a restorative conference. A police officer monitors compliance with the Reparation Order. For example, Oxfordshire YOT requires all young people receiving a Final Warning to participate in some form of restorative activity, from direct apology to the victim to undertaking community reparation. This approach has seen an Restorative Practices Beyond Youth Justice The use of restorative justice with youth beyond the justice system, although not defined by legislation, has significantly impacted disciplinary practices in schools. The Youth Justice Board has funded restorative justice pilots in schools in nine areas. The training, for one police officer and one school staff member per school, is being rolled out in one hundred schools. Many schools use approaches loosely related to restorative justice. They are useful in supporting educational outcomes and improving behaviour in schools and can also act as an early intervention to prevent crime. Peer mentoring and mediation, used to tackle bullying, involve the perpetrator seeing how the victim feels and taking part in a group session to find a solution. Restorative practices are increasingly used to deal with inappropriate behaviour in care-home settings. There is a growing realisation that criminalising the same behaviours that would not be treated as criminal in a private family setting was unfair and unproductive. A small study following the implementation of restorative practices in one residential unit for young people found that police call-out rates fell by 22 percent in the ten months following implementation of RJ. Restorative Justice with Adult Offenders Three Home Office pilots with adult offenders are now completed or nearing completion. The Justice

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Research Consortium has been running several schemes at different points of the criminal justice process. REMEDI, a voluntary-sector mediation service in partnership with the South Yorkshire Probation Service, offers restorative justice for victims and both adult and youth offenders who are sentenced to community and custodial sentences. CONNECT, a South London voluntary-sector organisation, offers restorative justice for adult offenders and their victims, primarily after conviction and before sentencing. The evaluation of these projects is ongoing and due to report in All of these projects have suffered problems with referrals and case flows in the early stage, which has meant changing their referral criteria to ensure they have sufficient throughput for evaluation purposes

Implementing Restorative Justice Schemes Crime Reduction Programme: As the Home Office will be relying heavily on the eventual results of these pilots, it will be important to measure in terms of the typology cited at the beginning of this paper how restorative in nature the projects are. The success or failure will be attributed to RJ, so it is critical that they are restorative according to a widely recognized standard. The Home Office has introduced legislation to begin piloting Conditional Cautions for adults that hopefully integrate RJ as part of the process. The conditions must aim to rehabilitate offenders and make sure that they make reparation. At least two of the pilot sites will use a restorative process for its delivery

CJA , Part 3, sections Although Victim Personal Statements are only partly restorative, involving only the victim, they may provide relevant information to the police when considering whether to issue a reprimand or warning to a young offender and whether the victim might be interested in a restorative process. Restorative justice has been used for some time, but on a limited basis, with domestic violence. Hampshire Police, for example, are working with Daybreak, a voluntary-sector organisation, and other agencies, as part of the Dove project, which is being evaluated by Portsmouth University to ascertain if FGCs are an effective response to domestic violence. This was despite strong opposition from most of the Restorative Justice Training and Accreditation Policy Group, including myself, who developed the guidelines. Ironically, to my knowledge the experience of restorative justice practitioners who have worked with domestic violence cases has been positive and productive.

Restorative Justice in Prison and Probation Services The new National Offender Management Service has replaced the old system where responsibility for offenders was split between Probation and Prison Services, with the hope that a unified approach will deliver reductions in re-offending rates. In about a dozen probation areas, victims are also offered access to restorative justice. Operating in partnership with a variety of other agencies, they offer services ranging from direct and indirect victim-offender mediation to family and community group conferencing, and reparation by the offender to the victim or to the wider community. Partly restorative programmes operate in some prisons that bring offenders into contact, not with the actual victims of their crimes, but with victims of similar crimes. The Prison Service has been working with the Probation Service to facilitate victim-offender mediation and restorative conferencing between offenders and victims at a small number of prisons in Thames Valley, as part of the current Home Office pilots with adult offenders mentioned earlier.

Restorative Justice in the Workplace Another area of development is within the field of Police Complaints and Grievances. Research by the University of Oxford Centre for Criminological Research suggests that restorative meetings in these circumstances can lead to far greater mutual understanding between the officer and the complainant

Meeting Expectations: Also, new regulations mandated under the Employment Act now entitle employees, regardless of company size and except in cases of gross misconduct, to informal dispute resolution before they are dismissed. One recommended form of informal resolution is through restorative practices such as mediation and conferencing. Employees are unable to make claims to employment tribunals unless they have first formally raised the grievance with the employer and have not received a satisfactory response.

Restorative Justice in the Community A government-funded community facilitation programme was set up in by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit or NRU and is managed by nine regional co-ordinators. The programme aims to reduce inter-ethnic community conflict in high-risk areas, bridging the gap between divided communities and increasing mutual understanding, tolerance and respect. NRU is now developing a dedicated pool of Conflict Resolution Advisers who can be deployed rapidly when conflicts arise, in addition to a longer-term

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programme of community conflict resolution. Restorative Justice in Scotland and Northern Ireland Since the s, the Scottish Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders has been using restorative justice as a diversion from prosecution in cases where it would not be in the public interest to prosecute. In June the Scottish executive announced the national rollout of restorative warnings by police for young first offenders and is looking at how other youth justice practices in England and Wales may be best adopted or adapted to suit the Scottish legal system. The organisation is non-political and has wide membership from both countries. I quote from its literature to provide a brief description: Based on my own observations, I have seen that, despite the political challenges, both public and voluntary organisations have advanced restorative justice in Northern Ireland with the development of mediation, restorative conferencing and family group conferencing programmes. Although my topic is limited to RJ in the UK, having visited the Republic of Ireland a number of times to deliver training in the last few years, I am pleased to point out that restorative justice has similarly moved forward there as well. National Evaluation A recent national evaluation by the Oxford Centre for Criminological Research provides an overview of a wide range of restorative justice projects in the UK. Less than a fifth offered only conferencing or mediation, while others involved direct or community reparation or victim awareness.

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## Chapter 2 : The Development of Restorative Justice in the UK: A Personal Perspective | eForum Archive

*Restorative justice is the process by which offenders make amends to the victims of their crime. This often takes the form of a face to face apology, but where victims do not want to meet the.*

What are the causes? Who has a stake in the situation? What is the appropriate process to involve stakeholders in an effort to address causes and put things right? What laws have been broken? Restorative justice is also different from the adversarial legal process or that of civil litigation. As Braithwaite writes, "Court-annexed ADR alternative dispute resolution and restorative justice could not be philosophically further apart". Eglash distinguished between three approaches to justice: It offers a different response, namely the use of restorative solutions to repair the harm related to conflict, crime, and victimization. For example, victim-offender mediation is just one model of restorative justice, but in the present European context it is the most important one. Restorative justice may be moving towards restorative practice. Meanwhile, offenders can tell their story of why the crime occurred and how it has affected their lives. They are given an opportunity to compensate the victim directly to the degree possible. A courtroom process might employ pretrial diversion, dismissing charges after restitution. In serious cases, a sentence may precede other restitution. Then they speak to their own experience: A plan is made for prevention of future occurrences, and for the offender to address the damage to the injured parties. Community members hold the offender s accountable for adherence to the plan. This can include programs that only serve victims or offenders for that matter , but that have a restorative framework. Indigenous groups are using the restorative justice process to try to create more community support for victims and offenders, particularly the young people. In prisons[ edit ] Besides serving as an alternative to civil or criminal trial, restorative justice is also thought to be applicable to offenders who are currently incarcerated. By repairing the harm to the relationships between offenders and victims, and offenders and the community that resulted from the crime, restorative justice seeks to understand and address the circumstances which contributed to the crime. This is thought to prevent recidivism that is, that the offender repeats the undesirable behavior once the offender is released. The potential for restorative justice to reduce recidivism is one of the strongest and most promising arguments for its use in prisons. However, there are both theoretical and practical limitations, which can make restorative justice unfeasible in a prison environment. This approach develops and fosters empathy, as participating parties must come to understand the needs of all stakeholders in order for the conflict to be fully rectified. Behavioral problems stemming from grief, for example, may be recognized and acknowledged within restorative justice programs; as a result, the party would be referred to a counselor to receive grief counseling. By approaching student discipline with restorative justice in the forefront, conflicts may be resolved to meet the funding needs of the school district- by way of reduced student absenteeism, rehabilitate the offending party, and to restore justice and make whole the wronged party. Collectivity and empathy are further developed by having students participate in restorative justice circles in administering roles such as mediators or jurors. Methods[ edit ] Restorative justice requires a form of meeting between the offender and the victim. A Cochrane review stressed the need for the offender to meet the victim face-to-face. Suggested reasons for why it can be effective include: The offender has to learn about the harm they have caused to their victim, making it hard for them to justify their behavior. It offers a chance to discuss moral development to offenders who may have had little of it in their life. Offenders are more likely to view their punishment as legitimate. The programs tend to avoid shaming and stigmatizing the offender. These agreements usually state that conference discussions will not be disclosed to nonparticipants. The rationale for confidentiality is that it promotes open and honest communication. Victim-offender mediation[ edit ] Victim-offender mediation , VOM, also called victim-offender dialogue, victim-offender conferencing, victim-offender reconciliation, or restorative justice dialogue , is usually a meeting, in the presence of a trained mediator, between victim and offender. This system generally involves few participants, and often is the only option available to incarcerated offenders. VOM originated in Canada as part of an

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alternative court sanction in a Kitchener, Ontario case involving two accused vandals who met face-to-face with their many victims. Fiji utilises this form of mediation when dealing with cases of child sexual assault. For example, the vast majority of offenders are known to the victims in these cases. In a Fijian context, the notion of family extends wider than that of the normative Western idea. Therefore, involving the family in these cases may become complicated, for the family may not necessarily side with the victim or the process itself could cause rifts in within the clan. Furthermore, the process as a whole places much emphasis on the victim forgiving the offender, as opposed to the offender making amends with the victim. This is because Fijian culture greatly values community harmony. Overall, the current process has the potential to cause great trauma and revictimise the victim. There are many different names and procedures of operation for these community-based meetings. Restorative Circles refers to restorative justice conferences in Brazil [47] [48] and Hawaii , [49] though can have a wider meaning in the field of restorative practices. A conference will typically include the victim, the offender and members of the local community, who have typically received some training. RC is explicitly victim-sensitive. The discussion continues until restitution is agreed; they may also see that the agreement is fulfilled. Over a period of three years approximately one third of the entire population of Kosovo were documented to be actively involved in restorative justice conferences to end the blood feuds. This approach has demonstrated the capacity to enhance the safe integration of otherwise high-risk sex offenders with their community. Canada judges some sex offenders too dangerous for any form of conditional release, "detaining" them until they serve their entire sentence. A subsequent conviction often leads to designation as a "Dangerous Offender". Prior to , many such offenders were released without any support or observation beyond police surveillance. Between and , CoSA assisted with the integration of well over such offenders. CoSA projects now exist in every Canadian province and every major urban centre. CoSA projects are also operational in several U. Sentencing circles[ edit ] Sentencing circles sometimes called peacemaking circles use traditional circle ritual and structure to involve all interested parties. Sentencing circles typically employ a procedure that includes: Other social movements[ edit ] Positive criminology and positive victimology[ edit ] Positive criminology and positive victimology are conceptual approaches, developed by the Israeli criminologist Natti Ronel and his research team, that are well connected to restorative justice theories and practice. Positive criminology and victimology both place an emphasis on social inclusion and on unifying and integrating forces at individual, group, social and spiritual levels that are associated with the limiting of crime and recovery from victimization. A common understanding is that human relationships are affected more by destructive encounters than by constructive or positive ones. Positive criminology and victimology argue that a different approach is viable, based on three dimensions " social integration, emotional healing and spirituality " that constitute positive direction indicators. Prison abolition[ edit ] Prison abolition not only calls for the eradication of cages, but also new perspectives and methodologies for conceptualizing crime, an aim that is shared by restorative justice. In an abolitionist style of restorative justice, participation is voluntary and not limited by the requirements of organizations or professionals, the process includes all relevant stakeholders and is mediated by an independent third party. The emphasis is on meeting the needs of and strengthening the community. The only principled basis for selectively allowing, or banning, RJ is harm reduction. It highlights the importance of a victim-centered approach to determine the most effective mode of implementation for a comprehensive reparations program. The main finding of the report is that victims demand tangible basic benefits lost as a product of violence, such as food and shelter. It also acknowledges the need for symbolic reparations, such as formal apologies. The provision of reparations will in a sense create a restoration of the way life was before violence, and also signal the moving forward of a society through institutional change. The extent and cultural particularities of RJ programs and their affiliation to the criminal justice system is ascertained. The involvement of police in RJ programs for minority populations will be explored. Finally, the proposed research will exemplify the scope of RJ approaches for the improvement of police " minority communication and interaction. The findings will have a wider impact on the Middle and Eastern EU situation. The research will include open questions of gender, age and cultural

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compatibility of RJ. With positions at police universities the researchers are well grounded in police science and have carried out previous work on minorities. This grants them access to the field and to practical areas of police work and management. Their principal involvement in B. Recidivism[ edit ] Reduction of recidivism is also a goal of RJ, [57] secondary to the restoration of offenders. A meta-analysis by Bonta et al. This study is important because it addresses the file-drawer problem. Also, some of the studies analyzed implemented a randomized controlled trial a gold standard in research methods , although this does not represent the majority of studies included. This meta-analysis lends empirical support for the effectiveness of RJ to lower recidivism rates and increase compliance and satisfaction rates. However, the authors caution that a self-selection bias is rife through most studies of restorative justice. They reference authors from one study [66] who found no evidence that restorative justice has a treatment effect on recidivism beyond a self-selection effect. The third meta-analysis on the effectiveness of RJ was conducted by Bradshaw, Roseborough, and Umbreit The results of this meta-analysis add empirical support for the effectiveness of RJ in reducing juvenile recidivism rates. Bergseth and Bouffard , supports these findings and also concludes that there may be some long-term effects of RJ over the traditional justice system; as well as RJ being more effective with serious crimes. RJ participants are less likely to commit serious crimes if they do re-offend and they go longer without re-offending. All of these studies found that RJ is equally effective regardless of race. It is at least equally as effective as the traditional justice system in all cases. In most cases especially with more serious offenses and with adult offenders it is significantly more effective than the traditional justice system at lowering recidivism rates. These authors conclusions are as follows A recent meta-analysis by the Cochrane Collaboration on the effect of youth justice conferencing on recidivism in young offenders found that there was no significant effect for restorative justice conferencing over normal court procedures for number re-arrested, nor monthly rate of reoffending. They also noted a lack of high quality evidence regarding the effectiveness of restorative justice conferencing for young offenders.

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## Chapter 3 : Restorative justice used for young Teesside offenders - BBC News

*In October , a conference was held in London entitled 'Calling Young Offenders to Account: UK Applications of Restorative Justice', featuring presentations by Charles Pollard and others and a re-creation of a restorative conference by a professional theatre company.*

YOTs have a statutory duty to comply with the code of practice for victims of crime. Under year-old victims are defined as vulnerable and qualify for an enhanced level of service. YOTs should review and update protocols with local police to ensure this is done efficiently. The YOT must also decide if it would be appropriate to invite the victim to be involved in a restorative justice intervention and record the reasons for this decision. Voluntary engagement in a restorative process When making contact with victims, the YOT must explain its role and allow victims to make informed choices about whether they want to be involved. Victims may choose not to receive services under the code at any time. The code states that the criminal justice system as a whole should be flexible and ensure victims receive the level of service they want. Keep victims informed If the victim agrees to be involved directly or indirectly in a YOT restorative process, the YOT must keep the victim informed as requested about the progress of the case and notify them when the intervention has concluded. YOTs may also wish to offer victims who choose not to be involved in a restorative process the option of receiving this information – this is not, however, a code requirement. The code sets out obligations for all criminal justice services to ensure victims receive information about their crime within a specified time. Information on victims should be destroyed when the restorative justice intervention in a case is at an end. Information that is retained for evaluation purposes must be anonymous. Training YOTs must ensure that all staff working with victims have had appropriate training. Information about services for victims If victims ask for additional help, the YOT must give them access to information about local services providing advice, information and support to victims of crime. They should do this at any time during or after a restorative process. If YOTs fail to comply with the code Failure to comply with the code does not make a person liable to legal proceedings but a court can take it into account when making decisions. If a victim feels that the YOT has not delivered services in accordance with the code the individual that dealt with them should first discuss their complaint. After this the YOT should alert the victim to the internal complaints procedure. If the victim is not satisfied with the outcome, they can refer the issue to the Parliamentary Ombudsman through a Member of Parliament. Published 8 October

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## Chapter 4 : Increase use of restorative justice for adult offenders - Petitions

*On the whole, it would seem that traditional restorative justice with the offender and the victims as its main participants are being greatly disregarded. It would seem that within the new justice system ethos of restorative justice are quite limited (Holdaway et al., ).*

Graham Turner for the Guardian In a small workshop on an industrial estate, Jordan Lee Caffyn is putting the finishing touches to a beautifully handcrafted wooden memory box. But Caffyn is not a trainee joiner. Rather than prosecute him, Caffyn was given the opportunity by a panel of police and youth support workers to make amends in the community. The memory box will be given to parents whose premature babies died. Staff say these boxes are a massive help to the bereaved families. Restorative justice is the process by which offenders make amends to the victims of their crime. This often takes the form of a face to face apology, but where victims do not want to meet the young person, they may stipulate that the perpetrator does something for the community. First formally used in the UK criminal justice system during the s, the Ministry of Justice says victims who take part in restorative justice are satisfied with the process and that it can help reduce the frequency of reoffending. But until now, projects have been small scale, often focused on adults or used with referral orders in youth justice. Since , in Surrey all but the most serious youth crimes are referred to a panel of police and youth support workers who then decide whether the young person should go to court, be given a caution or a youth restorative intervention YRI. Prior to the meeting background and other checks are done on the young people, so that when they come to discuss the case, they will know if they are Neets, on the at risk register, have worked with YSS before, have previous convictions, are known to the beat officers, etc. If the recommendation is a YRI, a police officer or youth support worker will speak to both the offender and the victim to discuss whether they are happy with this approach rather than court. Ben Byrne, head of youth support at Surrey county council, says: In addition, 1, fewer young people have received a criminal record. These young offenders "albeit grudgingly" recognise the value of what they are doing. I am less likely to offend the time I am here," says Chris James, Connolly was only too happy to agree to their case going through a YRI rather than court. The teenagers all apologised and Connolly and his wife Joan told them how the theft had impacted on them. Connolly is not alone. Byrne says YRIs have also contributed to other cost reductions for youth services. YRIs are starting to be noticed elsewhere: Jon Collins, chief executive of the Restorative Justice Council, the membership body for the approach, wants other areas to follow suit. Back at the workshop, Caffyn sums up why restorative justice worked for him. This has helped my home life a lot.

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### Chapter 5 : Restorative Justice: The Evidence – Report Draws Attention to RJ in the UK | eForum Archiv

*General consensus about the principles and purposes of victim-offender mediation exists, yet there are many forms of victim-offender mediation in the UK. One factor affecting variation is that parts of the UK have significant differences in their criminal justice systems (e.g., Scotland).*

The study, "Restorative Justice: The Evidence," headed by Dr. Heather Strang, concludes that restorative justice is as or more effective than traditional methods of criminal justice for reducing crime, and is also more satisfying and beneficial to victims. More justice, less crime: The report is available online in PDF format [here](#). They looked at 36 studies in all—from Australia, New Zealand, the US, Canada and the UK—which measured the effectiveness of restorative justice processes, focusing mainly on conferences—face-to-face meetings among all parties connected to a crime, including victims, offenders, their families and friends—and court-ordered financial restitution. Their study concluded that in at least two trials each: RJ reduced recidivism for offenders of both violent and property crimes. RJ reduced post-traumatic stress symptoms and the desire for revenge for victims. RJ processes were preferred over CJ by both victims and offenders. RJ reduced costs when used as diversion from CJ. When RJ was an option, two or more times as many cases were brought to justice including cases of robbery and assault. It suggests, too, that RJ may be better for crimes with victims than for impersonal crimes like shoplifting or drunk driving. Among the studies included in the report are the rigorous Randomized Controlled Trials supported by the Jerry Lee Program. Conducted by police and criminal justice agencies in London, Northumbria and Thames Valley, UK, these research programs randomly assign willing offenders to either conferences or the traditional criminal justice process and are considered the most accurate way to measure the effects of RJ on offenders, both youth and adult. See [here](#) and [here](#) regarding the effect of RJ on reducing post-traumatic stress symptoms of victims. At the least, this fact suggests a missed opportunity for more effective and preventive sentencing practices. Nicola Preston, assistant director for the International Institute for Restorative Practices IIRP UK, which provides RJ training and consulting, explained that the conference, following a violent burglary, had been a powerful experience for all concerned. Peter, a self-described career criminal since age 14, had been in and out of prison and had victimized perhaps hundreds of people by his robberies and burglaries. For the first time, the conference put a human face to the people Peter had hurt. Peter felt a lot of remorse, but the most shocking thing to him was when the victims told him that their greatest wish was not for revenge, but rather to see Peter lead a different life, something he has gone on to do. According to Preston, the show received highly positive feedback. The Youth Justice Board, a national organization, recommends its use. However, it is up to local Youth Offending Teams to actually put RJ into practice, so usage partly depends on local interest, training and experience. In the adult area, a program called the Chard and Ilminster Community Justice Panel CICJP provides a promising model for dealing with low-level anti-social behavior and offenders who have admitted minor crimes. This program reports re-offense rates after two years as low as two percent. Additionally, the Restorative Justice Consortium <http://www.rjconsortium.org/>

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## Chapter 6 : Restorative Justice for All (RJ4All) Institute | London | UK

*Restorative justice has been effectively introduced in Northern Ireland where three-quarters of victims of young offenders choose to meet the young person face to face. Where victims and offenders meet victim satisfaction rates are 90% - much higher than when restorative justice is not available.*

Restorative Justice is a process that brings together victims and offenders, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward. The funding announcement coincides with Restorative Justice Week, which is aimed at raising awareness and understanding of Restorative Justice. Justice Minister Damian Green said: Restorative Justice gives victims the opportunity to look offenders in the eye and explain to them the real impact the crime has had on their life. The process also provides a chance for offenders to face the consequences of their actions. Restorative Justice is not a soft option and will not lead to offenders escaping punishment. Crimes of a serious nature will continue to be progressed through the courts. Research shows that Restorative Justice is associated with high levels of victim satisfaction and can also help reduce reoffending by offenders. As part of Restorative Justice Week last year, an Action Plan was published to help bring about a step change in the delivery and provision of Restorative Justice across England and Wales. The Ministry of Justice has also announced that the Restorative Justice Council will develop key Restorative Justice service standards for training, practice and supervision, as well an accreditation framework. These will be available by January as part of one of the commitments of the Action Plan. We look forward to working closely with our partners to ensure Restorative Justice services meet the needs of victims and can be accessed where and when they want them. Notes to editors Restorative Justice RJ processes 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. An RJ activity can include any of the following: A face-to-face meeting sometimes called a RJ conference or victim offender conference , involving a trained facilitator, the victim, secondary victims not necessarily mention in prosecutions and the offender s and supporters, usually family members. Professionals, such as social workers, and representatives of the wider community may also be involved. Such meetings might well conclude with an agreement for further steps to be taken, such as some sort of reparation but this is not mandatory. This is facilitated in the same way as a RJ conference but it differs in that it can involve many people. It makes it explicit that the courts will be able to use their existing power to defer sentencing to allow for an RJ activity. Both victim and offender must be willing to participate in all cases. The provisions on pre-sentence RJ in the Crime and Courts Act are due to be commenced in December and guidance will also be published. For more information, contact the Ministry of Justice Newsdesk on

## Chapter 7 : Restorative Justice: How It Works - Marian Liebmann - Google Books

*Restorative justice gives victims the chance to explain how the crime has affected them, and receive an apology. Photograph: Murdo Macleod The use of restraint in secure children's homes and young.*

## Chapter 8 : Victim-offender mediation in the UK | RJ Library | Restorative Justice

*Restorative Justice gives the victim the chance to have a meeting with their offender. In order for the meeting to take place, all of the parties have to agree to participate. The meeting is assisted by a mediator, and the aim is to discuss the offence and its consequences as a group.*

## Chapter 9 : Restorative justice | calendrierdelascience.com

## DOWNLOAD PDF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WITH VICTIMS AND YOUNG OFFENDERS IN THE UK

*A meeting then took place, along the lines of an informal Restorative Justice conference, with the offender, the victim and the offender's mother. The victim's neighbour was invited, but declined as he felt he would get too angry.*