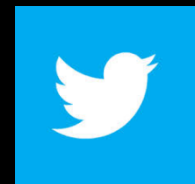


# Restorative Practice in the aftermath of serious crime: Examination of the evidence and identification of learning for practice



Claire Lightowler,  
CYCJ Director



#RJconf

How is this relevant to my practice?

What am I going to do based on this?

# Restorative justice is...

The “process that seeks primarily to address or repair the harm caused by an...offence”

The primary aim of which is “to enable people to express their feelings in a safe and constructive way, and to ensure that people take moral responsibility for their part in what happened”

Why have CYCJ and SACRO organised  
this event?

# Transformative potential of restorative encounters

But it's challenging

Stakes are high

We don't have all the answers...

Not insurmountable barriers

Time to tackle them head on...

# Why now?

What kind of  
Scotland do we  
want to be?



# EU Directive – Nov 2014

Directive 2012/29/EU

“Member states shall facilitate the referral of cases, as appropriate to restorative justice services”

# Victim & Witnesses (Scotland) Bill

Stage 2 – amendment passed placing *duty on Scottish Ministers* to make provision for the referral to restorative justice processes.

Compromise reached:

*ability* for Scottish Ministers to issue guidance

“I...agree that more consideration should be given to the potential benefits of restorative justice to victims. We already know that it can be useful to youth justice, in particular”

Justice Cabinet Secretary: Kenny MacAskill

- Allowing flexibility
- Not requiring restorative processes
- Infrastructure not in place
- Good practice models not ready

# Event today an opportunity to...

- Feed-in to wider RJ discussions
- Inform the guidance
- Build personal, organisational & sector capacity
- Inform future capacity building
- Contribute to a better understanding of good practice

# 1. Lawrence Sherman & Heather Strang

*Restorative Justice: The Evidence, 2007*

Review of 36 different restorative programmes

*“seems to reduce crime more effectively with more, rather than less, serious crimes”*

Lessening of trauma symptoms among victims participating in restorative processes after serious crime

# Restorative Justice Conferencing (RJC): The Effects of Face-to-Face Meetings on Offender Recidivism and Victim Satisfaction.

## 2. Vincent Mercer

### Adolescent sexually harmful behaviour

- Restorative Justice Co-ordinator for Assessment, Intervention and Moving On (AIM) Project
- Restorative Conference Facilitator
- Mediated in cases of arson, robbery, murder & rape



### **3. Bill Whyte (Edi Uni), Billy Nicol (SACRO) & Niall Kearney (trained restorative practitioner)**

Developing a Restorative Practice Model

**Restoration in Serious Crime (RISC):** outreach project involving behaviour resulting in death or serious injury

# Workshop afternoon...

You did indicate preferences... allocated accordingly

**Kirsten Park**, National Restorative Practices Development Manager, Scottish Prison Service (SPS)

**Ian McDonough**, Service Manager with SACRO

Next

Steps...

Tom

Halpin

SACRO

Time for questions after each keynote

Space for comments & questions at end

Professor Sherman and Dr. Strang  
leaving at lunch

Slides available: [www.cycj.org.uk](http://www.cycj.org.uk)

Reflections invited: [raisingyouthjustice.org](http://raisingyouthjustice.org)

Twitter: #Rjconf

RJ survey coming your way!