

Supporting restorative communication in Hampshire and Isle of Wight



Restorative Justice Newsletter

November 2024

Welcome to the November 2024 edition of the Restorative Justice (RJ) Hampshire and Isle of Wight Newsletter.

This year's RJ Week is **Sunday 17th November to Saturday 23rd November 24**. Our aim this year is to engage with partner agencies highlighting and providing guidance about RJ and the Service. Our focus is around Prison and Probation Services and how we can improve referrals and partnership working.

RJ Week Engagement

Spotlight on...
Lisa Allam

Case Study

RJ Week Engagement

RJ for RAR days!

We are very excited to announce that Restorative Justice has been signed off by Probation Senior Leadership for use as Rehabilitation Activity Requirement (RAR) days. Our plan during RJ week and in subsequent weeks is to visit each Probation office across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and meet with People on Probation during the regularly planned meetings with their Probation Practitioner. The initial meeting, which will count as a RAR day, will explore the RJ process giving People on Probation what they need to decide whether RJ is something that could help them move forward. More information is being shared in SCOOP and through the Senior Probation Officers in each office.

During RJ Week we will be supporting Lauren Robinson, Restorative Approaches and RJ Coordinator from HMP Forest Bank, to address the senior leadership team and staff at HMP Isle of Wight. Lauren will talk about her experience establishing and integrating a Restorative prison “a Journey of change.”

It will be a chance to gather insight and listen to the successes, challenges and how, through perseverance and dedication, they are contributing to transforming their prisons into restorative environments. We will talk about

our RJ work in the prisons and our running of the Violent Crime Awareness Course and its importance.

We have an RJ engagement event planned at HMP Winchester on the 20th November for both prisoners and staff to meet with them and discuss restorative justice and the Violent Crime Awareness Course. Later that day we shall also be engaging with the Sycamore Tree course for prisoners at HMP Winchester, speaking about RJ and the referral process, and then following up with another visit on Tuesday 26th.

We will be reaching out to our victim services partner agencies and are holding joint events with the Victim Care Hub to highlight our work within the hubs as well as holding team briefings for the police around Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Throughout the week we will be releasing social media clips highlighting RJ and our work. These will include clips of people with first-hand experience of the RJ process including service users, probation officers and practitioners as well as Terry Norton - Deputy Police & Crime commissioner Hampshire & IOW.

So look out on our socials:   
Please share, like and support!

Service Updates

- In September, the RJ Hampshire & Isle of Wight team had a team away day in Winchester which, following a team meeting, involved a very interesting tour of Winchester College founded in 1382 by William of Wykeham. The college's motto is “manners makyth man”, a traditional motto with a modern sentiment. Manner refers to what you are and what you do.



- Our wonderful volunteer Rev Cliff McClelland has left his role within the Chaplaincy team at HMP Winchester and as a volunteer for us. We truly wish him every happiness for the future and thank him for all the hard work he has done for us.

- We are proud to announce that volunteer John Arthur has been awarded Intermediate Restorative Justice Council (RJC) registered practitioner status. Our first registered volunteer! John said “I feel very satisfied. It was good to bring together my experience over seven years and to take a consolidated view of my experience.”
- Another of our volunteers, Eirin Young, has accepted a new full time job as Interventions facilitator, at HMP Erlestoke, where she will be running programmes. While this means she will no longer be able to continue volunteering with us, we wish Eirin every success in her new role and thank her for all her work with us.

Spotlight on...

Lisa Allam Head of Commissioning OPCC



Hello, I am Lisa Allam, Head of Commissioning for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Outside of work, I am a wife, mummy to two sport-mad boys and a cricket enthusiast!

As well as being Head of Commissioning for the OPCC, I am also proud to be the contract manager for the PCCs Restorative Justice Contract. I am extremely passionate about the work of the OPCC and the key role we have commissioning services that support victims/survivors following a crime or delivering interventions to try and prevent offending and re-offending. RJ has the unique ability to do both of these things...and much more!

When I joined the OPCC back in 2016 I had a specific remit to commission the RJ Service, create a Restorative Justice Strategy and embed RJ across the Criminal Justice System in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Over the years I have been fortunate to commission a range of services on behalf of the PCC and the communities we service, ranging from Domestic Abuse and Stalking Victim Services to Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes and Out of Court Resolution Interventions. While my role has diversified and RJ is now a smaller part of my work portfolio, my commitment and passion for RJ remains as strong as the day I started.

As well as the RJ service commissioner, I was an RJ volunteer and also worked for Youth Justice Services as a Restorative Practitioner for 10 years

prior to that. Over the years I have facilitated both direct and indirect RJ processes for a range of offence types. I am a firm believer that as professionals we do not have the right to tell participants that RJ is or isn't suitable for them based on the nature of the offence - however we must empower and support people to make informed decisions on what is right for them. I have personally witnessed an 11 year old girl tell the man that killed her mother how his actions had affected her life and her feelings of safety - my opinion is that impacted him more than the many years he had spent in Prison. The power of RJ to transform lives, especially lives that have been so damaged by the actions of others will never fail to amaze me. It will never be appropriate for everyone, but it should be accessible to everyone. A victim once told me (after explaining how she had been denied access to RJ for years by professionals), 'how could RJ possibly be worse than what has already happened to me'. That has always stuck with me.

The OPCC has been working in partnership with Restorative Solutions for 9 years now and I have great pride and confidence in the accessible, safe and empowering service they deliver in partnership for Hampshire and Isle of Wight residents. They are a pro-active organisation and are always looking for ways to diversify and push the boundaries to ensure the RJ offer is made and understood - if you haven't already, invite them to visit your teams and find out more.



Engagement, Training and Briefings

Throughout Q2 July - September 2024:

-  112 The RJ Service received 112 referrals into the RJ Service.
-  79 112 cases were closed of which 79 had a facilitated process involved.
-  We continue to work closely with Probation Services, Victim Liaison Officers, HMP's Winchester and Isle of Wight to increase referrals into the service.
-  The Team attended Eastleigh Pride which was very successful, chatting to members of the public and to other victim services. Following which we have been briefed by GamCare on the fabulous work they do. We shall also be briefing GamCare and NHS Social Prescribers.

 In October RS received training from PARCS around Handling Disclosures and Vicarious Trauma which was really insightful.

 RS's Simon Mason and Helen Barfield briefed Gosport's NPT with Steve Rolls of Portsmouth Mediation Service answering questions and advising on RJ and mediation.



We are sharing RJ Week this year with **ASB AWARENESS WEEK**

Their theme this year is: **#MakingCommunitiesSafer**



Please visit their Facebook page:

 facebook.com/ResolveASB

to see the events they will be holding which include: a partnership day, victims day, **"Lets Talk ASB"** day.

Case Study

The harmer's (H) friend passed away following a drug overdose and the H concealed his body in a bin and was subsequently charged with perverting the course of public justice. Harmed person (HP) is the deceased's daughter.

Initial meetings with both parties explored their motivations for wishing to engage and explained the RJ process in full. The meeting with the H took place at his probation office, with his Community Offender Manager there as supporter. The harmer wished for the opportunity to apologise and provide answers to the harmed person with the hope of being able to give her some closure. For the HP, her motivation was to get answers to a variety of questions regarding what happened to her father and to share the impact.

Both parties wished to engage in a direct process.

Three preparation meetings were held with each party and the conference held at a local community centre. During the conference the H was able to provide a full account as to what happened and that he was under the influence of substances at the time and shared an apology and regret for his actions.

The HP shared the impact the incident had on her, and asked the H her questions. She shared that she did not blame him for her dad's death, but did blame him for what happened afterwards. He heard and understood this.

The conference ended with both parties agreeing that once the H's license conditions were lifted, they would meet for a coffee and share stories about the deceased, as a way for them both to get closure and remember her father/his friend. Agreement was made for contact details to be shared through a mutual contact once the conditions are lifted.

HP feedback:

“The preparation process definitely helped. I was able to think of all questions that I had not previously thought to ask”

“The way the harmer was surprised me. I didn't expect him to be as emotional and as genuine as he was” and “I got some answers I wanted”.

H feedback:

“Really glad I took part. It has helped me.”





If you would like to receive an input about restorative justice please get in contact with us. We can be flexible in the time and duration of our inputs and we have free literature to hand out. Also, if there is any content that you would like to see in the next edition, please email us your ideas.

Contact Us

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Remember to follow us on social media for more updates from the RJ service.

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