

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative Justice (RJ) brings those harmed by crime and those responsible into communication enabling everyone affected to play a part in repairing that harm. It empowers victims and can help in them moving on. It may involve meeting the offender face to face in a controlled environment in order for you to have your say and ask questions that only they are able to provide answers to. You will be able to explain to them how you have been affected. If you don't want to meet the offender in person other options can be explored. RJ is victim focussed and your needs will be prioritised throughout.

“
I just want him to look me in the eye, say sorry and mean it
”

“
I want to know why at the time of committing the offence, he lied to me and tried to convince me he hadn't done anything
”

“
I want to know if this process will change him as a person and prevent him assaulting anyone else
”

“
I want to know what he was thinking at the time
”

WHO IS SUITABLE?

The victims code states that all victims of crime are entitled to receive information around Restorative Justice and how to access it. It is a voluntary process and consent is obtained from all parties taking part. The process is risk assessed and the offender must accept responsibility for the harm caused. If a risk of re victimisation is identified the process may not proceed.

“
I would advise anyone to go ahead. Every case is individual but it worked for me and I could see that it benefited the victim which I am grateful for (convicted offender)
”

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

You will meet with a Restorative Justice facilitator who will talk to you about the offence. They will ask you what happened during the incident and how you were affected. How you felt at the time and how you feel now. The facilitator will also document any questions you may want to put to the offender and address any concerns.

“
There will always be a part of me which is angry. I'll never forget his face, or the emotion but I can forgive
”

*It is not a requirement for you to offer forgiveness to the person who has caused you harm.



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Your options will be explained to you. It may be that you don't want to meet directly with the offender and a "shuttle" approach meaning the facilitator acts as a go between in order for communication to take place or letter would be more preferable.

You do not have to decide at that time whether you want to proceed. You are in control of the process. The facilitator will then meet with the offender and explore the same process.

“ I was particularly pleased with the step by step planning and not being rushed. I had plenty of time to prepare ”

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

Restorative Justice puts the victims needs first. Victims often want to understand why the crime happened to them and want some influence in what happens to the person who committed the crime.

Some victims want to know that they are not likely to be harmed by the same person again. Restorative Justice is not a soft option for offenders.

“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. It does not affect any sentence imposed by the court. The Research shows that restorative justice is associated with high levels of victim satisfaction.

“ It's difficult to prove remorse. I want to provide some closure but more than anything I want to express how very very sorry I am ”

“ I initially declined taking part in the process through fear and felt I would never be able to provide enough (for the victim), I was worried about facing the victim ”

“ The best part of the process for me was when she said “you need to forgive yourself and move on” and that she's offered me forgiveness. It was a nice surprise ”

“ I really want him to know that I'm not going to move from the viewpoint that I've let him down. I want to help him to move on ”

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Please contact the North Wales Police Restorative Justice Officer PC Alex Challinor if you would like to know more about the process and to enable you to make a more informed choice:

Restorativejustice.officer@nthewales.pnn.police.uk

01745 588847



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