

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice brings those harmed by crime and those responsible for the harm into communication with each other, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

Restorative Justice offers victims an opportunity to be heard, to ask questions of the offender, and to have their say in what they want to happen next.

Restorative Justice has a proven, significant impact in supporting victims and allowing them to move forward with their lives. 85% of victims who have participated in Restorative Justice would recommend it to others.

For offenders, Restorative Justice provides an opportunity to face the consequences of their actions, recognising the impact that their offending behaviour has had upon others and, where possible, make amends.

In this way, Restorative Justice has the potential to help rehabilitate offenders and support them in addressing their offending behaviour. It has the potential to motivate them to change and become responsible, law-abiding, productive members of society.

Restorative Justice works

Restorative Justice could work for you



Frequently asked questions

What happens if I change my mind?

You can change your mind at any time, either by opting out or opting in.

What happens if I want to communicate with my offender but they don't want to communicate with me?

Restorative Justice has to be voluntary for both victims and offenders. If the offender decides that they do not want to take part in a Restorative Justice process, our team will talk with you about what other support is available and how you can access it if you wish to.

What if I don't want to meet my offender face to face?

We will arrange another way for you to communicate.

Will this affect the sentence the offender gets?

If a case goes to court then sentencing is always up to the Judge. Restorative Justice is not an alternative to sentencing. The Judge is the only person who can decide on the appropriate sentence for the crime that the offender has committed.

Please contact us using the details below if you would like to find out more.

Freephone: 0800 043 8785

Email: hiow@restorativesolutions.org.uk

www.rjhampshire.org.uk

Restorative Justice



When you're ready Restorative Justice may be able to help

If you would like to find out more about the Restorative Justice Service in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight call us on 0800 043 8785 or email hiow@restorativesolutions.org.uk

www.rjhampshire.org.uk



Find us on Twitter
[@rj_hampshire](https://twitter.com/rj_hampshire)



Find us on Facebook
[@restorativejusticehampshire](https://www.facebook.com/restorativejusticehampshire)



How can Restorative Justice help me?

For some people who have been affected by crime it can help them to explore why the crime happened.

Evidence shows that most people who take part in a Restorative Justice process come away feeling satisfied because it has allowed them to have their say.

It can also help people to move forward and to feel less fearful of crime in the future.

"Since the process, I'm no longer a victim. I'm really glad I did it."

If you decide you would like to try Restorative Justice, when you are ready you can:

- Have your say
- Explain to the person who harmed you what impact their behaviour has had on your life
- Get some answers to any questions you may have about what happened

What happens next?

If you would like to learn more, a member of our team will meet with you to talk through your options. They will seek to understand what has happened and the impact that it has had on you.

If you feel that you would like to communicate with, or meet, the offender, we will try to arrange this.

The offender has to agree as well, and to accept responsibility for the harm they have caused, but we will start with finding out what you would like to do.

The timing and method of any communication or meeting will be up to you.

The service is free of charge, and is completely confidential and impartial.

RESTORATIVE
JUSTICE
WORKS

Victim
satisfaction
85%

Reoffending
reduced by
14%

The Process

If you and the offender agree that you would like to meet, and our team member assesses that a meeting will be safe for you both, then we will organise that. You will be welcome to bring a friend or family member with you to support you, and the offender can do the same.

The meeting will be guided by our team member. It will be held in a neutral, safe place and during the meeting everyone will get to have their say about what happened.

If another type of communication is more suitable we will help with that. That might be by an exchange of letters; or by our team member meeting you and then meeting the offender separately to ask the questions/tell the offender what you would like them to know, and then meeting you again to tell you what the offender said.

Why do offenders take part?

Restorative Justice can be helpful for offenders because it enables them to understand the impact that their actions have had.

It gives them the chance to listen and to answer any questions you might have, and to consider the consequences of their behaviour.