

Restorative Justice

Engaging stakeholders effectively

Why me?

Victims for restorative **justice**

About Why me?

Why me? was set up by a victim of crime for victims of crime. In 2009, Will Riley set up the charity following his own personal experience with Restorative Justice (RJ). Since then the organisation has campaigned for better access to RJ for victims, highlighted the barriers and obstacles for victims in accessing RJ and recently set up its own national RJ service taking referrals from both victims of crime and other agencies.

Our campaigns and policy work ensure that victims' voices are heard by those in a position to influence change within the criminal justice sector.

Our vision is to raise awareness amongst criminal justice institutions and to ensure that RJ is available to victims at every stage of the criminal justice process across England and Wales. For this goal to be achieved, we need to better inform national and local decision-makers so that they are motivated and know how to support local RJ Service Providers. In turn, this will help us to deploy restorative processes to address offender behaviour, and help victims cope and recover from crime.

Why me? has run an Observer Programme in England and Wales since 2012 – allowing political and senior criminal justice professionals to witness Restorative Justice meetings. We believe it remains one of the most powerful ways to influence political opinion and to effect policy change.

Why me? would like to thank The Barrow Cadbury Trust, The St. Sarkis Trust, Clifford Chance and the Ministry of Justice for funding the Observer Programme over the last four years along with all host agencies and Restorative Justice Facilitators involved in the Observer Programme, who have made it possible.

Acknowledgments

Why me? would like to thank the Board for their continued support to staff. Thank you to those who attended the summer workshop and have contributed both formally and informally to this toolkit.

A special thank you to Peter Woolf, Office for Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Thames Valley Restorative Justice Partnership, Restorative Justice Council, Remedi, Office for Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Essex Youth Offending Team, Restorative Gloucestershire, London Community and Rehabilitation Company, Louise Raven-Tiémélé, Charlotte Calkin, Dr. Wager and Robert Fortune (Avon and Somerset).

Lastly but not least, thank you to the Observers who have taken part in the Why me? Observer Programme since its inception and have continued to champion Restorative Justice in their sphere of influence.

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Foreword

This toolkit is designed to provide ideas and practical resources for all of you who are promoting Restorative Services across the country. Together we have all made a difference in how RJ is talked about and understood by many people.

Restorative services help victims to cope and recover. Home Office evidence shows that 85% of victims are satisfied following RJ. Offenders are positively affected also, with research proving a 14-27% drop in recidivism. This means less crime and, in turn, less victims.

Victims of crime are left with so many unanswered questions. The very people who are directly affected often find that they are side-lined by the criminal justice process. Time and time again we hear from victims who are not getting their needs acknowledged or met. Research shows that 90% of victims receive an apology through Restorative Justice; whereas only 10% of victims receive an apology at court.

At Why me? we offer victims and offenders a Restorative service, which gives them a space to talk about the impact of the crime. Some victims go on to meet their offender, others do not. Overwhelmingly, we get positive feedback about the healing and benefit of our service.

We hope that you will find the ideas in here helpful and encouraging. We would love to know how you get on and hear your success stories.

Lucy Jaffé

Director

Why me? Victims for Restorative Justice

“I simply couldn’t believe it. The worst emotion of all was that we felt we’d been powerless, as parents, to protect our little son... After the meeting we left the prison feeling like a weight had come off our shoulders, I actually found myself smiling on the journey back, as the two of us held hands, going home to our son”

Laura’s Story

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Charity number: 1137123

Section 1

Introduction

The Restorative Justice Journey

The Ministry of Justice defines RJ as *‘the process that brings those harmed by crime, 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.’* It further states that the fundamental element of RJ is a dialogue between the victim and offender.

RJ is not a new phenomenon. It has been around for a number of years and has been embedded in Aboriginal and Maori cultures in Australia and New Zealand for centuries.

There is widespread evidence about the positive impact that RJ can have on both offending behaviour and upon victims, however it is only relatively recently that the UK has started rolling out RJ schemes nationally.

In 2001 Professor Joanna Shapland examined the effectiveness of RJ. The research indicated positive results when it was used with serious offences. Cost savings to the Criminal Justice System delivered through reductions in reconvictions were estimated at around £6k per offender. The research further suggested that every £1 spent on RJ would lead to a cost saving of £8 to the overall justice system.

A very successful Observer Programme (OP) in 2002 inspired a number of highly influential people to support RJ, such as Lord David Ramsbotham, Baroness Linklater, then Home Secretary Jack Straw, Lord Charles Falconer and others. It is largely thanks to these people that RJ has gained such traction within Government today.

In 2012 the Observer Programme, a partnership between Why me?, Restorative Justice Council, Restorative Solutions and supported by the Ministry of Justice, set out to further target key policy stakeholders and offer them the opportunity to observe actual conferences.

Since 2012 we have taken in 33 key stakeholders into a Restorative meeting, including Sir Alan Beith (former Chair of Justice Select Committee), Martin Surl (Police Commissioner for Gloucestershire), Sadiq Khan (when Shadow Minister for Justice) and Judge Horton from Bristol Crown court. We have invited a further 150 decision-makers to either observe and/or explain the Restorative process from initial meeting to conference (should it take place). The OP has been a great way to engage people in positions of influence.

In 2013 funding of £29 million over three years was made available to Police and Crime Commissioners to set up local restorative services. Funding was also provided to the Youth Justice Board to build and maintain capacity to provide restorative services in Youth offending teams.

In 2016 the Justice Select Committee Restorative Justice inquiry made 20 recommendations, including a strong recommendation to raise awareness in the criminal justice system:

‘Progress has been made in expanding the availability of restorative justice service across England and Wales. While we appreciate that some variation in restorative justice provision is inevitable, the objective of equal access regardless of geographic location has not yet been achieved.’

‘We recommend the Ministry, rather than engage in broad national awareness raising campaigns, should instead focus its resources on ensuring restorative justice is well understood by bodies within the criminal justice system who can then convey this information to victims.’

It is clear therefore that the journey is not yet finished!

How to use this toolkit

The toolkit is a resource created for RJ Service Managers and Practitioners, who want to engage and influence local decision-makers.

It includes contributions from a range of professionals from the RJ field. Through sharing a mix of case studies, draft policy guidelines, check lists, top tips, downloadable templates and web links to additional resources; you will be able to gain practical tips in engaging stakeholders and ideas in how your service can develop the work further.

The toolkit also references academic and research journals which may be of interest to other criminal justice professionals interested in learning more about RJ practice and process.

In **Section 2** of the toolkit the reader will find various case studies and examples of individuals engaging with different sections within the criminal justice system.

Section 3 looks more specifically at starting the local Observer Programme and managing risks involved. It will explain and share resources from the Why me? National Observer Programme.

The practical resources, forms and template letters can be found in **Section 4** and available to download from www.why-me.org/our-work/observer-programme

Section 2

Engaging Stakeholders Effectively

Who is a stakeholder?

Stakeholders in any industry or sector are gatekeepers to change.

For the Restorative Justice community its gatekeepers range from Police and Crime Commissioners, funders, policy officers, Chief Constables, Inspectors, Health Managers, Chief Executives from Local Authorities, Magistrates, statutory agencies and so on; each potentially impacting upon the effectiveness of RJ service delivery in local communities.

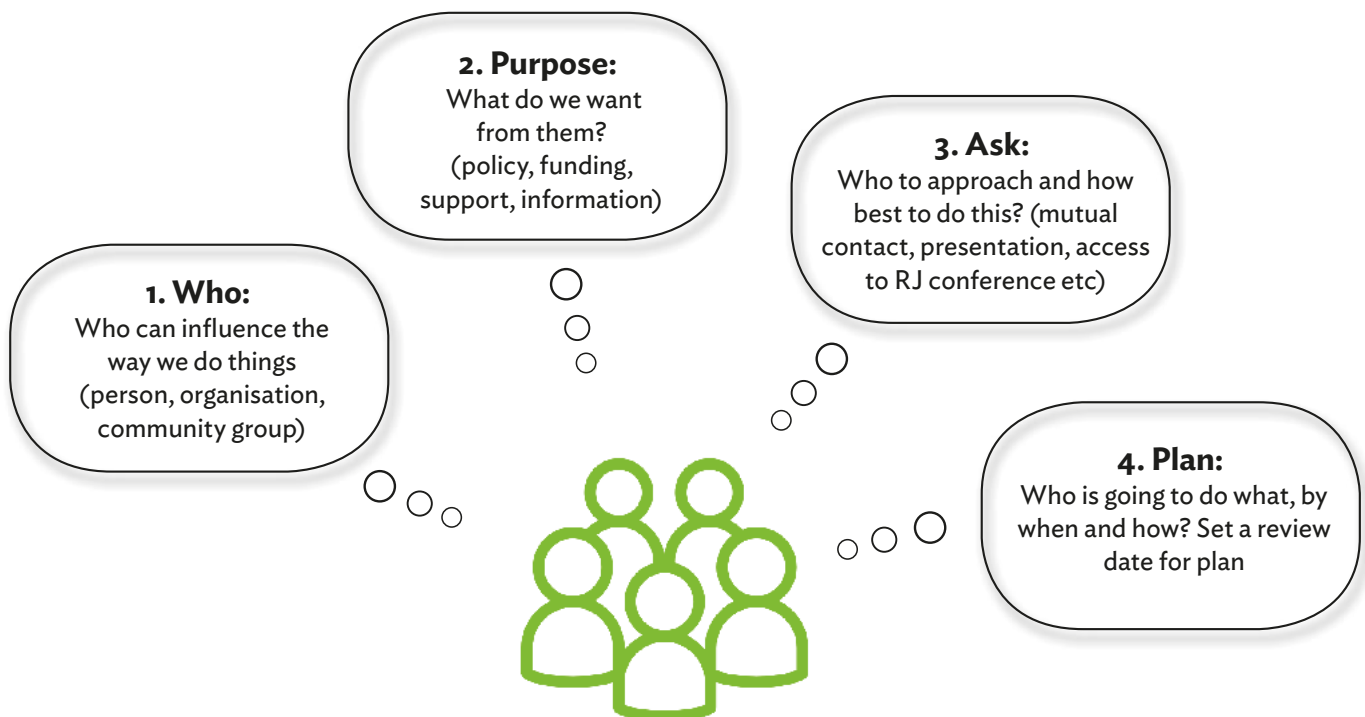
The purpose of engaging with these stakeholders can vary. Often it is an opportunity to raise awareness about the benefits of RJ for the stakeholders, other times to feedback on service delivery against investment. It is **always** an opportunity for the RJ community to communicate the great benefits RJ can deliver to victims of crime helping them to cope and recover and also to promote the positive contributions RJ can make to offender behaviour and long-term rehabilitation.

How stakeholders are engaged can differ: workshops, training, presentations, working groups, direct observation etc. It is clear, from the Observer workshops held by Why me? that practitioners are creative using a variety of methods and tools to communicate messages to stakeholders.

How to develop an engagement plan

A practical way to start is to get together as big a group as possible - include senior management and champions and run an engagement planning session. Encourage the group to be creative in their thoughts about who can influence your RJ service. End the session with an action plan which includes who is going to get in touch with whom and with what message. Check your action plan against SMART principles i.e. specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and set time scales.

Developing an engagement plan



Method and Message

Practitioners involved in delivering RJ understand **how** RJ works and **why** it is effective. However for local decision-makers focussed on other organisational priorities, goals and budgets, the case for RJ may not be so obvious and requires explanation.

The Restorative Justice Council, in a recent publication *Restorative Justice Works* (paper available on why-me.org) explains both the empirical evidence behind Restorative practice and how it works at any stage within the criminal justice system which is a great resource in introducing RJ to a new audience.

The Ministry of Justice defines Restorative Justice as *'the process that brings those harmed by crime, and those responsible for the harm, into communication'*. So, simply put, the role of engagement is to put the

case for RJ, focussing on cost savings and outcomes for victims and impact on recidivism.

In deciding the best way of influencing stakeholders our experience strongly indicates the most influential method is to allow stakeholders the experience of RJ – hence the Observer programme.

Recognising that this is not always possible however, consideration should then be given to stakeholders to meeting victims and/or offenders who have undergone the RJ process to allow them the opportunity of listening about their experience first-hand. There are also a number of resources available on the Why me? website, including DVDs, which may be used to influence the stakeholders understanding.

Interview

'People buy into People'

Remedi have been at the forefront of developing Restorative approaches for the last twenty years, both within the criminal justice sector and community setting.

Why me? Director Lucy Jaffé interviewed Nicola Bancroft (Assistant Director, Remedi) and asked her to share Remedi's experience in engaging key people in the local areas they work.

What is the most successful way you have of engaging with local and regional stakeholders?

Nicola: I say to my regional managers, don't rely on telephone and email contact with people you want to influence. People buy into people. So you have to build a relationship with them. And for that you need face-to-face contact, through meetings and networking events. Emails and telephone calls do not have nearly the same potential. You then have to work jointly to agree what outcomes you want.

How do you introduce Restorative Approaches to someone who is not well-acquainted with them and how they work?

Nicola: I use basic language, avoiding jargon. I talk about building relationships, managing conflict and I talk about restorative approaches, not restorative justice. I explain how it works in different settings, such as schools, offender management and neighbourhood disputes.

Who are the main stakeholders who need to be involved and you need to think about when setting up RJ in an area?

Nicola: The Police are important especially to address the issue of information sharing; the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies; Victim services, such as victim support for referrals and domestic violence services; local prisons and the courts, and the Police and Crime Commissioner and his office.

If you would like to get in touch with Remedi, call on 0114 2536 669

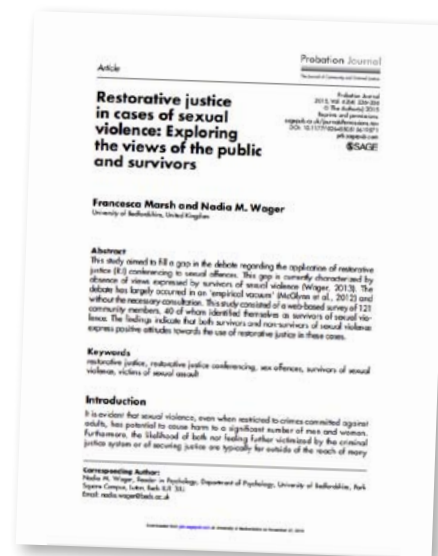
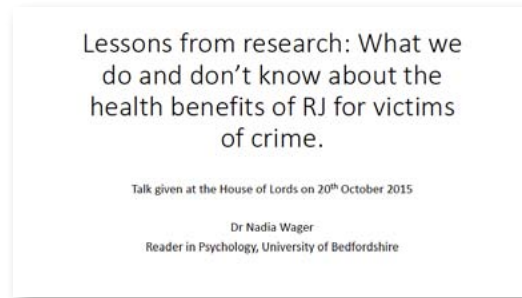
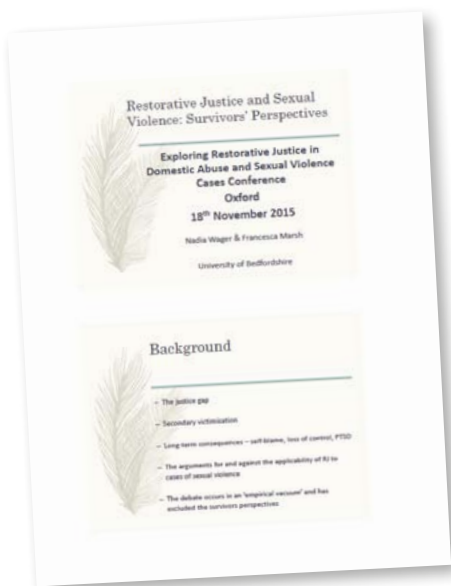
Case Study 1

Building Relationships between the Academic and Restorative Justice Community

Dr. Nadia Wager for the last two decades has been researching and specialising in forensic psychology and victimology in the UK and is currently lecturing at the University of Huddersfield.

She also works on a consultancy basis with several RJ and Mediation Services across the country informing good practice and providing supervision to RJ Practitioners working on sensitive and complex cases.

Opinions vary greatly in the United Kingdom on the use of RJ in sensitive and complex cases. Whilst further discussions are had on training and developing services to ensure it is robust and safe enough to facilitate dialogue between harmed and harmer, there is a need for empirical evidence to capture qualitative and quantitative findings. Below are three examples of Nadia's academic work, these are available to download on why-me.org



“With the growing demand for victim-initiated RJ many more cases that are being considered are those involving serious crime and particularly those that have involved a betrayal of trust between known parties. I feel that this is where my expertise has bridged academia and RJ practice. I am able to use both my experience of victims/survivors from my research and the knowledge I have built from preparing teaching and training material in informing sensitive practice with victims”

Any questions regarding Nadia's research please contact her at n.m.wager@hud.ac.uk

Case Study 2

Gloucestershire Restorative Justice Service hosting and running a stakeholder event

[Restorative Gloucestershire](#) is funded by the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner and is a partnership group of statutory, non-statutory and voluntary sector organisations offering all people that come into contact with the criminal justice system, or conflict within the community, an opportunity to participate in a restorative intervention.

Background to RJ developing in Gloucestershire

The initial RJ project within Gloucestershire was a scheme linked to a local prison dealing with post sentence offender RJ referrals. The RJ Manager persuaded and influenced the police to set up a Multi-agency strategic group to develop and deliver a wider vision for the use of restorative approaches across the county area. The Restorative Gloucestershire model was born!

Funding from Restorative Solutions, backed by support from the strategic group, enabled the project to train and recruit additional people widening the offer and engagement of restorative approaches to local authorities, education establishments and health authorities.

A successful way of ensuring that all key stakeholders were kept on board and shared the strategic groups vision was to hold an annual regional event. This brought together key stakeholders from a wide range of agencies including representatives from national organisations e.g. Restorative Justice Council, the Victims Commissioner, Why me? to be part of the event.

Fast forward five years to 2016 and Restorative Gloucestershire hosted its fifth annual event bringing together organisations from within the county and extending invites to other organisations and criminal justice professionals across England and Wales.

We caught up with Becky Beard, Manager for Restorative Gloucestershire, and asked her to explain how this year's event came together, its purpose and any plans for the year ahead.

Why is running a stakeholder event important for Gloucestershire?

Becky: It is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the good work that is going on throughout the partnership. 2013 was a pivotal year for us, as it was the year the partnership, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Sally Crook, decided to extend the existing pilot and roll out restorative approaches throughout Gloucestershire. Since then, we have taken the opportunity to bring a mix of external organisations, RJ practitioners and





participants together with the intention of promoting the service, networking and discussing best practice with other professionals.

Why do you think this event has grown each year?

Becky: Each year the annual event has grown, both in numbers of attendees and influence. The partnership regularly welcomes new organisations from a wide range of sectors, further publicising Restorative Practice and the work that we are doing, through their individual networks. This year we welcomed over 160 to the annual event, many of which came from partnership organisations in Gloucestershire and nationally.

Asking attendees to complete a short feedback form has been really helpful in planning for the year ahead. Their contribution enables us to make sure we host an event people would want to attend.

How do you publicise such an event?

Becky: We are really fortunate that the Police and Crime Commissioner is a strong advocate of the partnership and is therefore involved in promoting restorative practices across the County. Gloucestershire Constabulary also helps with developing and maintaining the website and also by distributing event updates through its networks.

This enables us to communicate what Restorative Gloucestershire are doing to an audience county wide and beyond.

What does the future hold?

Becky: Restorative Gloucestershire are already planning for 2017, for further details please email becky.beard@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

Restorative Gloucestershire
 Restorative Gloucestershire Annual Event 2016 – Feedback

The Venue
 Overall, were you satisfied with the venue and were you able to see and hear the presentations clearly?

Yes – 100% No

Comments or suggestions
 Very good location and facility
 Great venue and venue staff were great too
 Good range of presentations, very powerful
 Excellent venue and wonderful food
 Really good venue
 Yes, all good!
 Very good conference
 Just the right size to hold the numbers
 Very good venue
 Excellent facility including nice workshop rooms
 All excellent as in previous years
 Excellent venue and could hear everything even at the back of the auditorium
 Excellent venue, and welcome from Resubert
 Great venue, easy to find and plenty of parking
 Presentations in good position and hearing no problem, good layout of room
 Thanks for lunch
 The heat in the upstairs room was uncomfortable at times

The Guest Speakers

Interesting and informative	Not at all – 0%	Not really – 0%	Somewhat – 0%	Mostly – 7%	Definitely – 93%
Relevant to you	Not at all – 0%	Not really – 0%	Somewhat – 0%	Mostly – 24%	Definitely – 76%
Inspiring	Not at all – 0%	Not really – 0%	Somewhat – 0%	Mostly – 7%	Definitely – 93%

Comments or suggestions

Case Study 3



Why me? RJ Service working within Prisons

For ten years [Why me?](#) have been primarily a campaigns and policy based charity until in 2015 we launched an RJ Service. A major challenge however has been establishing referral pathways. This case study looks at the engagement work undertaken with prison establishments to develop these pathways:

*“Building positive working relationships with prison staff and volunteers has been crucial to the collaborative work in prisons; making Restorative Justice more available to both harmed and harmer. It was important, in the environment we are working, to have credibility when we engaged with offenders. Peter Woolf gave an inspirational talk to both offenders and staff. We also use the ten minute *The Woolf Within* DVD which continues to be a great resource in explaining the power and potential of RJ”*

Louise Raven Tiémélé
(Restorative Justice Co-ordinator)

Key learning point

The comments from Louise regarding the impact of Peter Woolf, as the person who actually took part in an RJ process, should be noted. Practitioners who have been involved in various forms of stakeholder engagement have reported similar feedback. Wherever possible victims and offenders who have taken part in an RJ process should be considered as part of the engagement planning. However care needs to be taken. As with other stages of RJ the involvement of victims and offenders as part of engagement activities should be risk assessed. Consideration should be given to the impact upon the victim and/or offender being requested to ‘re-live’ their experience. Talking to the RJ facilitator who was responsible for the RJ process involving the parties may assist final decisions.

Why me? is currently working in four prisons. If you are interested in knowing more about setting up referral pathways in prisons, please contact Louise at ask@why-me.org

Read on to see Louise’s four stages to working within a prison setting.

Working within a prison setting:

Engaging Enthusiastic Prison Staff

The Why me? RJ service has developed a strong working relationship with Sycamore Tree course Coordinators within the Prison. These individuals are open to RJ, keen to educate and inform the Prison community about RJ and on hand to explain the formal process of getting access to Prison.



Presenting to Offender Management and Offenders

Having established a good relationship with individuals and departments within the Prison, we were invited to present to 80 prison staff and officers to explain what is RJ and the importance of Prison involvement in the process. This involved sharing case studies, creating a visual presentation and taking questions from the floor.



Post Presentation Follow Up

Soon after meeting with staff we gave an information pack to course tutors and key departments within Prison. This included a FAQ sheet, referral forms, lead contact point for the service and a one A4 sheet explaining what the service can offer to support Prison staff moving forward.



Create Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) with Prison

To make referrals and communication between Prison and RJ Service smooth, it is important to have an ISA between two the organisations. Here are some questions to consider in drafting this agreement:

- ◆ Who will be the named contact for both the Prison and Service?
- ◆ Do you have the Prison Governor on board?
- ◆ Do either organisations have separate risk, health and safety policy in place for volunteers and staff?
- ◆ What are the expectations of either organisation?

Promoting Restorative Justice to different audiences

Informing the public through digital communication

In an age of technology, digital and online media can be a very effective way of promoting Restorative Justice to a wider audience. Sussex Police and the Police and Crime Commission (PCC) have created content targeting an audience more used to consuming news and information online. [View clips](#) from Katy Bourne (Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner) and her team.

“The RJ playlist was created to make it quick and easy for practitioners, clients and anyone with an interest in RJ to share videos which demonstrated and explained the process and how it works in Sussex”

(Office of Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner)

Engagement with Parliamentarians

In the last Parliament, Why me? developed contacts with the Justice Committee and extended invitations to observe an RJ Meeting to individual members.

As part of the preparations for the 2016 Justice Committee work looking at Restorative Justice, the Committee held an RJ awareness session in Westminster at which victims of crime, Why me?, the Restorative Justice Council (RJC) and others organisations with experience and responsibilities in the delivery of RJ took part. Why me? organised an RJ demonstration, facilitated by Charlotte Calkin, with a scenario taken from a real RJ conference.

Feedback from members of the Committee was that this session gave them very useful context for the formal evidence-taking phase of the inquiry by giving them a concrete insight into how RJ worked and enabling them to discuss issues informally with practitioners and others.

On why-me.org there is an article on how to set up an RJ demonstration.

Using an Audit Process to promote Restorative practice

By early 2016 Avon and Somerset had made some progress setting up RJ hubs across the three geographic areas, including integration with a new Victims service structure. To be able to keep a continued growth of the RJ service the Police and Crime Commissioner’s office identified that an independent reviewer with RJ experience would be a good way to engage with key stakeholders, e.g magistrates, RJ providers, youth offending services etc, and identify any potential service gaps. The process provided all parties an opportunity to express views openly and the reviewer was able to highlight areas of good practice within each hub. The results were presented at a multi-agency stakeholder event where recommendations were discussed, approved and prioritised. It proved to be an excellent tool to engage key individuals who felt that they had ownership of the final plan having contributed to the process. Avon and Somerset have now progressed a significant number of the recommendations and are building upon the strong foundations the review provided.

“The independent review gave us the ability to look at ourselves and the key stakeholders in a constructive yet critical way so we could make sure we were providing the best support for our victims.”

Robert Fortune
(North East Area Manager - BANES & South Glos)

To get in touch, please email robert.fortune@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

Section 3

Developing a local Observer Programme

Opportunities, Challenges and Risks

The Observer Programme involves taking an individual to witness a RJ meeting. Its purpose is to give the Observer a first-hand experience of the reality of restorative justice.

Why me? has run a national Observer Programme (OP) for political and senior leaders across the Criminal Justice Sector since 2012. Our experience is that the benefits RJ has for victims are better understood when an individual observes a conference and we have seen clear examples of how this has influenced policy. Through running the OP we have had considerable success in disseminating information about good practice, raising the profile of RJ agencies and highlighting the benefits of RJ for all participants, especially victims.

The Programme enables the restorative team to have one-to-one meetings with the Observer both before and after observing; this is important as it provides an opportunity to explain fully the rationale for RJ and to talk through the processes which take place in preparation for the meeting. There is also the opportunity to answer specific questions the Observer may have. Running the national OP has provided increased access to key decision-makers in Government, Parliament and the Judiciary but most importantly it has continued to bring the victims voice to the forefront of political and policy change.

“To me that [restorative meeting] was the realisation of what can actually happen; the reveal moment. You can learn all you like in training sessions but until you see it for yourself, you don’t understand how that potential can spread into other parts of the Criminal Justice System.”

Richard Monkhouse
(Former Chair of the Magistrates Association)



“I was significantly influenced in my understanding of Restorative Justice from talking to those involved in delivering this vital service. Victims and offenders can only benefit if those who influence the big decisions learn more about Restorative Justice. I hope you find this toolkit useful and I wish you well in your endeavours.”

Mel Giedroyc, Presenter of BBC TV series, The Gift

The Observer process explained

Task 1: Identifying an Observer

For every conference the Why me? Observer Coordinator identifies an observer – starting with the most senior in position and then arranging a back-up observer who has expressed an interest in observing. This could result in contacting a number of individuals for each conference.

All observers are then given a briefing pack which consists of the following:

- ◆ Letter Invite to take part in the Programme
- ◆ Anonymity Form
- ◆ Guide to Observing Restorative Justice Meeting
- ◆ Post Conference Feedback Form

Note: These are available to download, edit and revise for your service from www.why-me.org

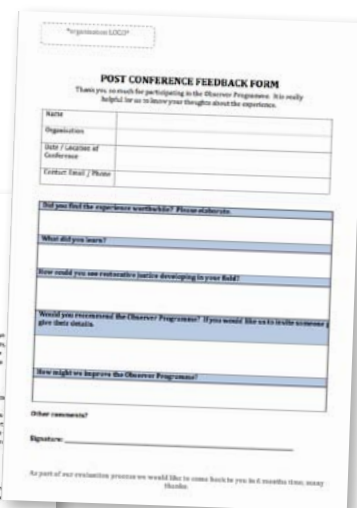
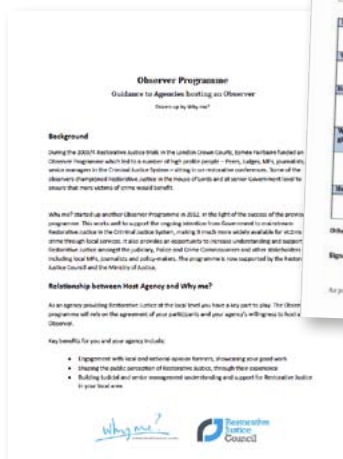
Top tip: Engagement with the Observer before and after the conference is equally important. Refer to Section 2 of this guide – where it gives other examples on how to explain the RJ message and different techniques.

Task 2: Organising an Observation

Preparation is crucial to running a successful Observer Programme. Its purpose is to inform and invite the Observer **without** compromising the restorative process for participants involved.

Once an observer has confirmed availability, further phone calls are made to both Observer and RJ practitioners facilitating the meeting to finalise meeting time, venue details, security clearance (if the conference is in a secure establishment) and to understand the nature of the case and brief the Observer accordingly.

Why-me?’s Guidelines to Agencies Hosting an Observer gives practical pointers in how to prepare facilitators, participants and manage Observer expectations. If you need further information and support in the set up phase, please email info@why-me.org



The challenge in running a successful OP is managing Task 1 and Task 2 simultaneously and often to a tight deadline. How can a Service Manager balance day to day management and developing a local programme to showcase good work and inform local decision makers?

Read our top four tips for developing a local Observer Programme:

- 1. Understand** the local and political context the service operates in and where necessary map out key decision-makers and ideas on how to connect them with service
- 2. Provide training** to team members and invite facilitator input in the development phase of the programme
- 3. Design a communication pack** (invite letter, info sheet of the programme etc.) explaining what the programme is and who it is for
- 4. Create policy guidelines** that reflect organisation values and ensure safe introduction of an observer into a Restorative meeting

The Why me? Observer Programme is not the only example in England and Wales. Other RJ Providers use similar schemes and have successfully engaged local decision-makers with the RJ message and method.

Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership have developed a similar scheme for local decision makers in the county.

To get in touch contact John Willets (Strategic Restorative Justice Manager) on 01273 481 561 or email john.willett@sussex-pcc.gov.uk

“For an Observer to witness a meeting is both a powerful opportunity but it may threaten the participants’ feelings of trust and safety. In 2013 I was approached by Why me? to see if it was possible for a member from the Magistrates Sentencing Council to witness the meeting I was lead facilitator on.

My first thought was ‘how will everyone react’ and my second was ‘do I have enough time to prepare participants’. A completed risk assessment, conversations had with all participants and supporting facilitator helped to inform my ‘yes’ decision.

To invite an external individual to be present is an additional risk factor to manage, but my encouragement to all facilitators is to consider all cases, present and future, there is nothing quite like seeing it happen!”

Maggie Donnelly
(Thames Valley Restorative Justice Service Facilitator)

Section 4

Resources

These case studies and resources are designed to enable you to take the next step in influencing local decision-makers. Below are supplementary resources for you to use. Why me? welcomes contributions to the toolkit so if you have resources that you have found work for you and you are willing to share please let us know.

National Perspective

Why me?

www.why-me.org

For policy publications, Repairing the Harm DVD, Woolf Within DVD, The Damage Done by Peter Woolf, Guidelines for Host Agencies and this toolkit, please visit the [Why Me?](http://WhyMe?) website or email info@why-me.org

Restorative Justice Council

www.restorativejustice.org.uk

(2016) Mapping Report of Restorative Justice provision in England and Wales, [Available Online](#)

Ministry of Justice

Update to Action plan due late 2016 or early 2017. Visit gov.uk in the coming months.

Restorative Justice for Youth Offending Practitioners

Essex Youth Offending Team

The Essex YOT team have produced Essex Victim Awareness Workbook (available on Why-me? website) and produced two films available on YouTube. Titles are Surviving the Impact and Released from Fear.

To follow up with the team please call Paul Taylor or Cally Lewis on 03330 138 943

International

Alliance for Safety and Justice (2016)

Crime Survivors Speak: The First-ever National Survey of victims' views on Safety and Justice, [Available online](#)

“The Restorative Justice meeting not only changed my life but had an impact on my outlook. The RJ element was the coming together of minds which I will be eternally grateful for”

Peter Woolf
Author of ‘The Damage Done’

Why me?

Victims for restorative **justice**

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