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What is Restorative Gloucestershire?



What is Restorative Gloucestershire?

Restorative Gloucestershire is a group of statutory, non-statutory and voluntary sector partners who have joined together with the aim of offering all people who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System or who come into conflict in the community an opportunity to participate in a Restorative Intervention.

The Restorative Gloucestershire hub, which sits at the centre of the partnership, provides advice, assistance and guidance to existing, new and potential partners. They work with other service providers to ensure that Gloucestershire remains at the forefront of best practice and that this best practice is shared. They also work strategically with the Ministry of Justice and the Restorative Justice Council.

Restorative Gloucestershire has the following aims:

»»» Develop the use of Restorative Practices across services operating throughout communities in Gloucestershire.

»»» Build on existing work where Restorative Practices impact positively on outcomes, in order to develop a strategy designed to embed Restorative Practices county-wide.

»»» Implement the use of Restorative Practice Philosophy, not just Restorative Justice Interventions.

»»» Place an emphasis on the proactive community and relationship building side of Restorative Practice, as well as dealing with the reactive side of Restorative Practice.

»»» Employ agreed protocols that strengthen relationships and seek to repair harm when relationships break down.

»»» Be a central hub and centre of excellence for Restorative

Practices in Gloucestershire by:

- Providing training, advice and guidance.
- Offering a Restorative Interventions service using qualified, experienced facilitators.

- Promoting and supporting the use of Restorative Practices across the County.

- Setting up a system of support for all Restorative Practitioners operating within Gloucestershire.

Restorative Gloucestershire is funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and is governed and held accountable to the Restorative Gloucestershire Steering Group.

What is Restorative Practice?

Restorative practice is a wide field of approaches that includes restorative justice.

Restorative practice can be used anywhere to prevent conflict, build relationships and repair harm by enabling people to communicate effectively and positively. Restorative practice is increasingly being used in schools, children's services, workplaces, hospitals, communities and the criminal justice system.

Restorative practice can involve both a proactive approach to preventing harm and conflict and activities that repair harm where conflicts have already arisen.

Where the latter is required, a facilitated restorative meeting can be held. This enables individuals and groups to work together to improve their mutual understanding of an issue and jointly reach the best solution. But in many cases a less formal approach, based on restorative principles, may be more appropriate.

Restorative practice supports people to recognize that all of their activities affect others and that people are responsible for their choices and actions and can be held accountable for them. It enables people to reflect on how they interact with each other and consider how best to prevent harm and conflict.

The Restorative Justice Council 2015