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## MONTHLY BULLETIN

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May 2021

Welcome to your May bulletin. I am delighted to start off by announcing that HMP Peterborough have become the first prison in the UK to achieve Registered Restorative Organisation status. You can read more about their journey [below](#). I have also been busy working in partnership with the Network of practitioners in Forensic Mental Health to organise their 5th annual gathering. We are excited to be co-hosting this event which will focus on exploring social justice restoratively in forensic mental health. We have secured an amazing group of speakers from across the UK and USA who I am sure will make this an insightful event. You can find more information [below](#).

I am pleased to announce that The Howard League has launched this year's Community Awards and are inviting projects to come forward and celebrate their work. You can read more about the awards and this year's entry criteria [below](#).

You may be aware that an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Restorative Justice has recently been established. I was invited to attend the inaugural meeting earlier this week where the APPG's work plan for the next year was shared. The APPG will provide us, and the wider restorative sector, the opportunity to raise the profile of restorative justice across the government. Over the coming weeks I will share more information about the APPG and the RJC's future involvement.

In this edition you will also find a round-up of the latest events, vacancies, training and continued professional development opportunities.

Best wishes and stay safe.

*Jim Simon*

Chief Executive Officer

# Latest News

## HMP Peterborough becomes first prison to achieve Registered Restorative Organisation status

We are pleased to announce that HMP Peterborough, operated by Sodexo, has become the first prison in the country to be awarded the Restorative Organisation Registration from the Restorative Justice Council. Restorative processes bring those who have been harmed by conflict into communication with those responsible for the harm – bringing together the perpetrator and the victim in a controlled, facilitated environment.



Taking a whole-prison approach, restorative processes have been implemented throughout the establishment to maximise the positive impact on a day-to-day basis. It enables everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

Within HMP Peterborough, both prisoners and staff are trained in the use of Restorative Approaches (RA) to resolve conflict, whether that is between prisoners or between prisoners and staff. Both staff and trained RA peer workers deliver restorative meetings, bringing together both the 'harmed' and the 'harmer' to resolve issues, creating a safer, more harmonious environment.

A male prisoner stated: "It helps to prevent issues escalating into violence. It can make landings happier places to be"

After facilitating an RA session between other prisoners, a female

RA peer worker said: "They explained their feelings and took responsibility, apologising to each other. They left happy and thanked me."

As well as working with individuals, the whole-prison approach includes Restorative Justice and Restorative Families.

Restorative Justice (RJ) is delivered in partnership with external community-based providers, empowering victims to hold their offender to account. It also provides an opportunity for offenders to make amends for the harm caused.

Over the past three years, there have been an average of 15 RA meetings held per month, plus 36 Restorative Justice conferences between victims and their offenders. We believe that the use of restorative approaches in the prison, along with a suite of other measures, has helped to reduce conflict in the prison and to make it a safer place to live and work.

Restorative Families helps to strengthen vital family ties. By engaging in the facilitated Restorative Families process, prisoners are able to reconnect with family members, resolve concerns or past conflict and rebuild their support network. Family links have been described as the 'golden thread' for rehabilitation; rebuilding those connections through Restorative Families helps to reduce the risk of reoffending.

### **Jim Simon, the RJC's chief executive said:**

"HMP Peterborough, operated by Sodexo, has embarked on a restorative journey to create a prison based on restorative principles. Over the past four years, prison leaders have embedded a restorative culture which impacts positively on many aspects of prison life. Leaders have worked closely with staff and resident practitioners to develop effective restorative responses to conflict which repair harm and contribute to creating a safer,

more harmonious environment. The award of Registered status by the RJC is well deserved and I would like to congratulate HMP Peterborough's leaders, staff and residents on their achievement."

**Damian Evans, Director said:**

"We are very proud to have been recognised by the Restorative Justice Council in awarding us this accolade. Adopting Restorative Approaches across the prison has been beneficial for both the prisoners and our staff. Understanding the impact and consequences of actions can be a very powerful tool in the rehabilitative journey, as well as re-building essential support networks."

To find out more about HMP Peterborough, visit their [website](#). You can also find further information about Sodexo Justice Services by [clicking here](#).

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## **FIND OUT MORE ABOUT REGISTRATION**

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Our Registration Frameworks have been designed to apply to all areas of restorative practice, including formal and informal processes in the workplace, education, care homes, health, the community, criminal justice and within families.

We have been careful to ensure that they do not constrain practice or hamper practitioner creativity and the need for practitioners and/or services to develop and exercise their professional judgement.

The Frameworks have been designed to be flexible so that they apply across different types of restorative practice without being overly prescriptive.



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## **Howard League Community Awards Launched**

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**T**he Howard League has launched this year's Community Awards and are inviting projects to come forward and celebrate their work. Every year they hear about the most amazing schemes that are successfully preventing crime, keeping people out of the criminal justice system and supporting victims.

These annual awards celebrate best practice in diversionary work and champion work in the community that challenges and changes people for the better – be it with children, women, mental health programmes or restorative approaches. The awards recognise projects and organisations whose work and practice is delivered above and beyond normal service delivery.

The awards include categories for work which seeks to prevent the criminalisation of children in residential care and arrest the entry of women into the criminal justice system.

The winners of the Community Awards will be announced at an awards ceremony on 19 October 2021.

The deadline for nominations is **Thursday 15 July**.

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## **FIND OUT MORE**

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# LATEST VACANCIES

**Employer** | Remedi

**Position** | Administrator

**Location** | Across Cumbria

**Closing Date** | 28 May 2021

Pathways is an exciting new project with the goal of reducing reoffending in Cumbria. A person going through the Pathways project can expect support, structure and to be held accountable for their actions. In partnership with the Cumbria Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Remedi are recruiting a part-time administrator to support this work with offenders.

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[\*\*READ MORE AND APPLY\*\*](#)

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**Employer** | Why Me?

**Position** | Communications Internship

**Location** | UK

**Closing Date** | 21 June 2021

Why Me? are seeking a Communications Intern to support and promote their work. They are looking for someone reliable, willing to learn and enthusiastic about Why me?'s mission.

In return, the post-holder will get experience working in communications at an organisation working hard to transform the criminal justice system. They hope that this experience will help them to pursue a career in a related field.

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[\*\*READ MORE AND APPLY\*\*](#)

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**Employer** | Why Me?

**Position** | Chair of Trustees

**Location** | UK

**Closing Date** | 21 June 2021

Do you want to help change the lives of people affected by crime? Are you inspired by Restorative Justice? Have you previously worked as part of a committee or Board of Trustees where you were reliable and enthusiastic with strong interpersonal skills?

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[\*\*READ MORE AND APPLY\*\*](#)

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**Employer** | Calm Mediation

**Position** | Volunteer Restorative Justice Practitioner

**Location** | London

**Closing Date** | Ongoing recruitment

As a key partner of the London Victim & Witness Service, Calm Mediation are the commissioned Restorative Justice service for London.

They are seeking [\*\*Intermediate\*\*](#) and [\*\*Advanced\*\*](#) Restorative Justice Practitioners to join the pan-London RJ team.

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[\*\*READ MORE AND APPLY\*\*](#)

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[\*\*All Current Vacancies\*\*](#)

# RJC APPROVED COURSES



Whether you are just starting your restorative practitioner career or you are an experienced practitioner seeking continued professional development opportunities, selecting the right course is vital to ensuring high quality practice. You can be confident that by opting for an Approved Course, delivered by our [Registered Training Providers](#), your course meets our practice standards.

## Restorative Practice Facilitation Skills for Education Settings

Delivered by | [Restorative Now](#)

Start Date | 8 June 2021



This training takes an in depth look at the restorative approach, equipping participants with the skills to manage a range of situations and to think about how their organisation can incorporate this highly effective approach to promote change. It is delivered over ten, 90 minute modules. and is suitable for people of all experience levels.

[READ MORE](#)

## Restorative Practice Facilitation Skills for General Settings

Delivered by | [Restorative Now](#)

Start Date | 21 June 2021



This training takes an in depth look at the restorative approach, equipping participants with the skills to manage a range of situations and to think about how their organisation can incorporate this highly effective approach to promote change. It is delivered over ten, 90 minute modules and is suitable for people of all experience levels.

[READ MORE](#)

View our  
[Approved Course Register](#)

# “Exploring Social Justice Restoratively in Forensic Mental Health.”

6 July 2021 - 1pm - 5pm



Join us for our annual gathering where we come together to explore, deepen our understanding and introduce themes to cultivate meaningful restorative work in forensic mental health settings. This year we are exploring the impact of race and power in restorative work and, through our continued collaborative approach, champion access to restorative processes for victims of mental health offences. Thus, the focus of the 5th Annual Meeting of the Restorative Network in Forensic Mental Health is ‘Exploring social justice restoratively in Forensic Mental Health’.

We have an extremely exciting list of confirmed speakers that are sure to stimulate debate and discussion in our effort to provide insight into how we might build stronger and more just societies together.



RJC Approved CPD

**FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER TODAY**

# London Restorative Justice Forum 24 June 2021 - 2pm - 4pm



We are delighted to be hosting the next London Restorative Justice Forum in conjunction with CALM Mediation.

These meetings are an excellent opportunity to share best practice, discuss national and regional restorative justice work, and network with organisations working in the field of restorative justice.

**Free**

Registration is open to practitioners, service providers or those with an interest in restorative justice from across London.

**REGISTER TODAY**

If you would like to present at one of our future forum events please contact

[enquiries@restorativejustice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@restorativejustice.org.uk)

For more information

## COMING UP IN JUNE

### **Restorative Just Culture: the story of Mersey Care NHS Trust**

**Delivered by** | The Mint House

**Start Date** | 9 June 2021

Amanda Oates (Executive Director of Workforce, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust) and Dr Kristina Brown (Senior Lecturer, Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University) will be speaking on the story of the Restorative Just and Learning Culture at Mersey Care NHS Trust and how the Trust has undergone a radical shift in workplace culture and organisational procedures due to embedding restorative justice.

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[\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)

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### **Restorative Approaches in Schools - Free Taster Session**

**Delivered by** | Restorative Justice 4 Schools

**Start Date** | 15 June 2021

This 1-hour taster session looks at the principles of RJ and how positive shaming can bring about both accountability and behavioural change.

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[\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)

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### **RJC Annual General Meeting - 2021**

**Delivered by** | Restorative Justice Council

**Start Date** | 18 June 2021

Members are invited to join us online for our Annual General Meeting on the Friday 18th June starting at 10.00am.

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[\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)

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### **Knife crime training**

**Delivered by** | Youth Resilience UK CIC

**Start Date** | 29 June 2021

This training is for staff working with students and young people to prepare them to have appropriate, change affecting conversations around knife crime. The course aims to develop the skills, information, confidence and resources to challenge and safeguard those involved in low level knife crime.

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[\*\*READ MORE\*\*](#)

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[\*\*View all course and events\*\*](#)

# SUPPORTING THE RJC

## Donate via AmazonSmile

**You can now support the RJC every time you shop!**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support us by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and selecting the Restorative Justice Council as your preferred charity.

**[REGISTER WITH AMAZONSMILE](#)**

## Make a Donation

Your support will help us to campaign for the widespread use of restorative justice, raise the profile of restorative justice in the media and with the public and enable victims to access restorative justice wherever and whenever they need it.

You can make a one-off donation or become a regular supporter from as little as £3.00 per month.

**[MAKE A DONATION](#)**

## Become a Member

Anyone can become a member of the Restorative Justice Council. We are the independent, national voice for restorative justice in the United Kingdom. Our constitutional objectives are to promote restorative justice for the public benefit as a means of resolving conflict and promoting reconciliation by:

- A. Promoting the use of restorative justice in the criminal justice system, in schools, in the workplace and elsewhere in the community in situations where conflict may arise
- B. Developing and promoting agreed standards and principles for evaluating and guiding restorative practice
- C. Advancing education and research on restorative justice and the publication of the useful results of that research

Membership brings along with it many benefits including:

- Access to the RJC's quarterly publication *Resolution* and an opportunity to promote your own work within it
- Networking opportunities with academics, researchers and practitioners from the UK and beyond
- Reduced fees for RJC conferences and seminars
- Ability to nominate for the RJC Annual Award for exceptional contribution to the field
- Exclusive access to the member's section of the website
- A voice in the decision-making of the RJC

**[BECOME A MEMBER](#)**

# About us

## About the RJC

The Restorative Justice Council (RJC) is the independent third sector membership body for the field of restorative practice. It provides quality assurance and a national voice advocating the widespread use of all forms of restorative practice, including restorative justice. The RJC's vision is of a restorative society where everyone has access to safe, high quality restorative practice wherever and whenever it is needed.

### Restorative Justice Council

Rouen House, Rouen Road Norwich, NR1 1RB

E: [enquiries@restorativejustice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@restorativejustice.org.uk)

[www.restorativejustice.org.uk](http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk)

Patron: HRH the Princess Royal

Company no 4199237

Charity no 1097969

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