

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to this month's bulletin. April seems to have flown by especially with the extended break over the Easter period! Despite being a short month, it's been busy with most of my time being spent on planning for several upcoming events and delivering our first CPD symposium of the year. I've picked out a few of our current projects to update you on this month and Aisa, our Standards Officer, has included an update on the work she has been leading.

I hope you enjoy reading!

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN PRISONS: MAXIMISING OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE CHANGE

Registration is now open for our next Restorative Justice in Prisons event which we are hosting in collaboration with Dr Katherine Doolin from Auckland University. Following on from our event last year, we'll be exploring how to maximise opportunities to influence positive change within the prison system and encourage the implementation of restorative justice across the prison estate.

The event is being held in central London and aims to bring together those working in prisons, probation and the police. This one-day workshop will provide space for delegates to discuss how they can use their own personal sphere of influence to start creating a restorative culture

within prisons. This will also be a useful event for restorative practitioners, service providers and academics working restoratively across the criminal justice system.



We've secured a fantastic line-up of presenters to lead our discussions and it is certainly shaping up to be an amazing event. You can see the full programme and secure your place by visiting our event webpage [HERE](#). Places are limited so don't delay!

NEW REGISTRATION FRAMEWORKS BEING DEVELOPED FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

As the roll out of the Northern Ireland Adult Restorative strategy starts to gather momentum, we've been working behind the scenes to update our Registered Practitioner Framework to meet the requirements set out in

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the Department of Justice's updated Restorative Justice Protocol.

The first draft of our new Framework, which will be available to restorative practitioners working across Northern Ireland, is now complete. As always, we will now enter a period of consultation with our stakeholders, partners and practitioners working in this area. It is my intention to have our new Registered Restorative Practitioner (NI) framework ready to launch at our Belfast conference in September this year.

Alongside the Registered Practitioner Framework, we are also developing a new Registered Trainer Framework for those delivering restorative training in Northern Ireland. Unlike our existing Framework, the Northern Ireland model will be based on individual trainer registration rather than accrediting a training provider as a whole. Given we already have a number of Registered Training Providers in Northern Ireland, this change is slightly more challenging, however it is our intention to also launch this Framework in September.

There is a great deal of work for us to get to the launch stage and I'll keep you updated on our progress over the coming months.

RECOGNISING GOOD RESTORATIVE PRACTICE IN OUR SCHOOLS

For some time, the RJC has been asked to adapt our Registered Restorative Organisation Framework to make it more suitable for primary and secondary schools who are seeking recognition for their restorative work. Being from an educational background, I'm very supportive of this, but other priorities have delayed us in starting the process.

However, I'm delighted to announce that we have now started an initial consultation with school representatives thanks to the support of Molly Macleod, Restorative Practice Service Lead for Gloucestershire County Council.

During our initial consultation session, we reviewed our current Registered Restorative Organisation criteria and identified what revisions are needed to make them more relevant to a school setting. This is the start of what will be a lengthy process and we will, of course, be consulting with our wider membership in the coming months.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Molly and those who participated in this consultation session for their valuable input. We've made a great start and I look forward to seeing how this develops over the coming months.

COMING UP SOON!

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our next conference in Belfast on **Thursday 5th and Friday 6th September 2024**. More information about this event will be shared soon, but for now, keep an eye on the [RJC events webpage](#).

AND FINALLY

As we head into the May Bank Holiday, please remember that the RJC offices will be closed on **Monday 6th May**. For those of you who are taking some time off, I hope you have a lovely break and manage to find some time to restore.

Last but not least, remember that you can stay informed of the latest updates at the RJC by checking out our [website](#).

Jim Simon

Chief Executive Officer

UPDATE FROM OUR STANDARDS OFFICER

This last month has gone by so quickly. We have had Easter and some mini breaks to shorten the month, but I have still managed to get lots done.

The main event has been our fantastic weeklong CPD symposium. Here is a summary of the sessions and some of the valuable feedback they received:

On Monday 15th April we started the week off with Roisin Doran and Ann-Marie McFall from the Education Authority in Northern Ireland who delivered a colourful and exciting workshop on Restorative Practice in Education. Feedback included;

“Restorative Justice in schools is about transforming school culture to being-with, and not about fixing kids!”

“Motivational. Would love to get involved in restorative practices in Schools - definitely the way forward.”

Tuesday we were joined by Claire Armitage and David Palmer from Kirklees Council delivering a session on ‘How Kirklees Council is becoming a restorative organisation: our journey through circles’ This was a really informative session with some great working examples given for others to take back to their organisations.

“It was fantastic and I feel so inspired.”

“Real world experience of role modelling with all its challenges starting, despite a small team, is inspiring. Clare Armitage & David Palmer- both are so passionate and showcase a strong team and it is infectious.”

Our Midweek session, ‘Trauma-informed restorative practice: Working with young people affected by violence and exploitation’ was delivered by Gifford Sutherland from UpSkillU along with his guest speaker Cheri Curran. Cheri sadly lost her son Louis Ryan to knife crime in 2018 and now campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers of knives and the devastation they can cause.

Gifford and Cheri’s presentation was powerful and thought provoking and really left a mark on people as you can see from some of the feedback received.

“This has taken my understanding of trauma much further and deeper”

“It was all incredibly engaging - so much said, felt and learnt”

On Thursday we were joined by Marcia Walker from Westminster Youth Justice Service delivering her workshop on Working restoratively with parents. This interactive session gave a great insight into the participants’ opinions around parenting and really opened people’s eyes to the judgements that go on in day to day life around parenting roles.

“Aids reflection on my unconscious biases”

“Excellent work being done but more awareness and challenging biases needs to be encouraged”

“Increased awareness of the importance of being an inclusive practitioner”

Our final day included 2 sessions. The first ‘Working with Shame ‘ was delivered by Molly Macleod and Sarah Cairns from Gloucestershire County Council.

This session gave some really in-depth and interesting learning into this topic and lots of attendees gave feedback on how this workshop had made them think deeper about shame and how to work inclusively with people.

“I thought I was knowledgeable about shame and although a lot of the material I already use in my training, there were quite a few aspects/ statements that I can take away from this.”

“An excellent reflective session, it facilitated me to reflect on my relationship with shame and I feel sure it will support me to improve my restorative practice and personally.”

Jim and I closed the symposium with our final session on 'Anti-racist practice in action.' We heard from the attendees what they were delivering in their own practice to support equality, diversity and anti-racist practice. There were some fabulous examples given that others took away with them to explore the possibilities in their own organisations. The RJC pledged that this is an ongoing journey and we will feedback how things are progressing later in the year.

Thank you so much to all of our speakers and to everyone who booked a space on the Symposium. I hope you enjoyed it. We will be running another symposium later in the year so watch this space for more details. If anyone is interested in delivering one of the sessions in December, please get in touch with me for a chat: aisa.shearing@restorativejustice.org.uk

To round up the month, other work has included meeting with the Tools and Resources Exchange core group to talk about consent forms and best practice guidance and completing several renewals and new registrations. It is fantastic to see those coming in regularly.

May is just around the corner with even more exciting events happening, including our next Registered Practitioner Skills Sharing Session – details to follow.

Aisa Shearing

Standards Officer

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.

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