

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to this month's bulletin. Can you believe that we're already on our way to March? It's so heartwarming to spot some hints of spring coming our way!

As we say goodbye to February, it's safe to say it was a jam-packed and successful month for the RJC team. We kicked off new projects, started planning several exciting events and continued to work with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Restorative Justice. I hope the information I am sharing below will give you a taste of all the hard work we've been putting in.

ROADS POLICING SEMINAR

I was delighted to be invited to join the Road Policing Seminar earlier in the month, where an insightful panel discussion focused on implementing victim-centred approaches in road policing. Thanks to the sponsorship of Slater and Gordon Lawyers, the discussion covered various areas, including the increasing workload on Roads Policing and Family Liaison Officers, the involvement of charities in supporting victims and their families after devastating road collisions, as well as the potential for restorative justice to aid in repairing the harm caused to those affected.

The panel was headed by Brian Booth who serves as the Roads Policing Lead for the Police Federation of England and Wales. Other members included myself, Andy Cox, a Detective Chief Superintendent at the Metropolitan Police, Richard Crabtree, a Principal Lawyer with

expertise in Serious Injury at Slater and Gordon, Raymond Williams, who holds the role of Police Relationship Manager at Slater and Gordon, and

Ross Moorlock, the CEO of Brake, a respected road safety charity.

In the panel discussion, we were given two questions to consider:

1. As the workload for Roads Policing and Family Liaison Officers continues to grow, is there a decrease in the support offered to victims and their families?
2. How do we define justice after a fatal road crash or when facing a life-altering injury?

During the event, I was able to share the RJC's insights on the intersection of roads policing and restorative justice. I was glad to receive a very positive reception from both my fellow panelists and the participants in attendance. The response was truly heartening and greatly appreciated.

You can read a summary of my discussion points on our website [HERE](#).

LIVING EXPERIENCE ADVISORY PANEL UPDATE

You may recall from the last bulletin, the RJC was looking for candidates who have experience with restorative justice and are interested in joining our Living Experience Advisory Panel. I am pleased to share that we

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have received a great number of applications and are happy to announce that we have selected six individuals to join our group.

We have our initial official meeting planned for 18th March, during which we will outline our goals for the upcoming year. Our aim is to empower this panel to have a say in the development of the RJC's policy positions and practice standards. I am looking forward to collaborating with this group to help shape the future of restorative justice in the UK.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our members and supporters for their help in spreading the word about this exciting new project.

ANTI-RACISM ACTION PLAN

It has been a while since the RJC first published our [anti-racism statement](#) in which we committed to publishing our supporting anti-racism action plan outlining how we would move towards being an anti-racist organisation that inspires the wider restorative sector and places our organisation as a national anti-racism leader.

I understand that this is going to be a lengthy journey, but every step of the way holds significance. I am thrilled to announce that our initial action plan, phase one, has been released and is available for viewing online [HERE](#).

Our proposed strategy outlines the actions we will be taking in the upcoming 4 months. This includes shifting our attention towards the following areas:

- Building a diverse, inclusive and unified workforce
- Incorporating an anti-racism agenda into our Practitioner, Service Provider, Restorative Organisation and Training Provider registration processes
- Providing opportunities for learning which challenge beliefs, habits, complacency and comfort zones or that maintain the status quo

Consider this as our initial plan, as we aim to release our second phase 3-year plan in July 2024.

I am aware that this journey cannot be undertaken alone, which is why I am collaborating with a group of important partners who will provide us with assistance throughout. This includes our esteemed colleagues from the Black Restorative Network.

I will make sure to keep you informed about our progress towards implementing our first phase plan in the upcoming months.

UPDATE ON THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

I was delighted to be appointed once again to serve as the Chair of the Advisory Board for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Restorative Justice. This marks my fourth year in this role, and is a role that I take great pride in holding.

I'm looking forward to working with this year's Advisory Board for the upcoming year and fulfilling our ambitious work plan. This is a crucial moment for the APPG and the restorative sector, especially since it is an election year. It is my privilege to amplify the voices of our members at a national level and during a time when we have the opportunity to make a real difference.

There's still an opportunity for others to become part of the Advisory Board. Find out all the details on how you can join and download the application form from the APPG [website](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST REGISTERED RESTORATIVE CASE SUPERVISORS

This week marks the conclusion of our successful pilot programme for Registered Restorative Case Supervisors, and I am thrilled to

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announce that we have granted the first Registered Status awards under this new program.



I would like to congratulate Tony Walker, Jude Perez, Anneliese Vickers, Karen Holgate and Anna Hill who were all successful in their assessments and become the first to hold our Registered Case Supervisor status.

I'd also like to express my gratitude to Aisa Shearing, the RJC's Restorative Standards Officer. She has played a crucial role in creating this new award and has been incredibly supportive in guiding our initial applicants through the assessment process.

After successfully completing the pilot programme, we are planning to make some small adjustments to the process and aim to officially launch this award for all applicants towards the end of March 2024.

COMING UP SOON!

I have some really exciting events planned for the upcoming months that I can't wait to share with you!

Registration for our next CPD Symposium is now open! Places are filling up quickly so head over to our [Symposium event page](#) to read the full programme and secure your spot. Our past events have received amazing feedback and I can guarantee that this one will be just as amazing so don't miss out!

We have successfully arranged the dates for our upcoming RJC conferences to be held in Wales and Northern Ireland! Mark your calendars because we'll be in **Cardiff on Thursday 16th May 2024** and in **Belfast on Thursday 5th September 2024**. More information about these events will be shared soon, but for now, make sure to keep an eye on the [RJC events webpage](#).

Also, don't forget to mark your calendar for our upcoming Annual General Meeting on the **21 June 2024** between **10am-12pm**. This must-attend event will be held online and will feature the launch of our eagerly awaited 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. Stay tuned for registration details, but for now, save the date in your diary!

AND FINALLY

I would like to remind you that we are currently searching for two passionate individuals to join the RJC Board as Membership Trustees starting in June 2024.

The Board of Trustees serves as the governing body of the RJC and plays a critical role in ensuring the organisation's corporate governance. Together, they set goals and work towards efficiently achieving them for the benefit of the public. Our Trustees are essential in providing guidance and support in our mission.

Why not consider joining our Board, led by Debbie Watters OBE, for an incredible opportunity to actively contribute to the growth of our organisation during an exciting period of expansion.

Don't forget to download the nomination forms from our website [HERE](#) and make sure to submit your completed form by 5pm on 29th March 2024!

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

Well, what a busy start to the year it's been for me so far! Recently, I have been working on several exciting new projects such as organising the CPD symposium scheduled for April, planning our Annual Restorative Leaders' Summit and finalising the first document developed by our RJC-Connect Tools and Resources project team which will go out for consultation shortly.

I recently hosted our initial Service Manager Network gathering of the year. At the event, we had the honour of welcoming Restorative CEO, Chris Twyman, as our guest speaker. He shared with us a fascinating presentation on the incredible restorative software that his company has created.

I was fortunate to participate in the fantastic Shame Competence training, organised by Devon and Cornwall Police at Exeter University and facilitated by Professor Luna Dolezal and Dr Haley Peckham, as part of my continuous professional development. It provided valuable insights on identifying our personal shame and collaborating effectively with others experiencing shame.

Towards the end of January, I had the opportunity to visit London for our RJC Board meeting, where we discussed our strategic plan for the upcoming three years. It was a wonderful experience to reconnect with fellow colleagues and our trustees.

In February, I had the opportunity to lead a tour in Gloucestershire for a wonderful group of teachers and education leaders from South Korea. Thanks to the helpful support of Gloucestershire County Council and Archway School, we were able to offer a full day of presentations and engaging learning activities for them.

Continuing from this, I was deeply privileged to receive an invitation to attend a restorative celebration event at HMP Forest Bank where I had the opportunity to witness firsthand the incredible efforts being carried out. During the event, I had the pleasure of formally presenting them with their Registered Restorative Organisation certificate.

I was delighted to make my next stop in Dorset, where I had the pleasure of giving a brief talk about the RJC at the annual celebration and development event for the RJ Dorset volunteer team. Meeting everyone was a delight, and I was grateful to see that some partner agencies were also in attendance. It was wonderful to see such collaboration!

Over the past few weeks, my focus has been on assessing the five applicants for our Registered Case Supervisors pilot program. I wholeheartedly agree with Jim's remarks and would like to extend my warmest congratulations to our initial group of Registered Case Supervisors. It was a delight to support you all during the pilot program.

And finally, I am incredibly grateful for the surge of renewals and new registrations that have been pouring in over the past few months. It is truly heartwarming to witness so many of you embarking on or continuing your registration process with us. I must say, the caliber of applications and the sustained evidence you have been providing has left me thoroughly impressed. I cannot thank you enough for your unwavering support.

Aisa Shearing

Restorative 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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