

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to this month's bulletin. I trust you have all had a fantastic Restorative Justice Week; it has been amazing to see so much activity being showcased across social media. The RJC started the week by hosting our 4th Annual Conference. A conference special edition of our members' magazine, Resolution, will be published shortly! You can find out what else the RJC were up to throughout the week in our report [below](#).

Although RJ Week had many highlights, I was extremely disappointed with ITV's portrayal of a restorative process on their long running soap, Coronation Street. Although we hear that there is no such thing as bad publicity, ITV's irresponsible broadcasting certainly did nothing to raise the profile of high-quality, safe and effective restorative practice. You can read my response to the episode [here](#).

You may be aware that the RJC responded to the recent consultation about the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). Our aim was to make the case for the re-introduction of the questions on restorative justice which were dropped in 2020. David Smith, our Policy and Communications Officer, has written an update on the consultation response which you can read [below](#).

In other news, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Restorative Justice have published two new briefing papers focusing on 'Raising practitioner standards within the criminal justice sector' and 'Opening up universal access to restorative

justice in the criminal justice sector.' You can read more about these briefings and access the download links [here](#).

Two of our Registered Training Providers, Restorative Now and Restorative Engagement Forum are currently advertising practitioner training courses which are due to run in early 2023. You can find out more [below](#).

As always, I've also included a roundup of the latest [CPD and events](#) currently being promoted on the RJC's website.

On another note, as we approach the festive season, I want to remind you that the RJC offices will be closing on the **22 December 2022** and will reopen on **4th January 2023**. I will, of course, send out our final bulletin for the year before this date!

Don't forget, you can keep up to date with all the latest developments at the RJC by visiting our [website](#).

Best wishes,

Jim Simon

Chief Executive Officer

The RJC's CEO responds to the Coronation Street restorative justice story line

Followers, and others who have taken an interest in the recent restorative justice story line of ITV's Coronation Street, will be aware that last week's episode of the country's longest running soap featured 'Sam' meeting 'Harvey', the man who killed his mum, in the prison where he is serving his sentence.

During previous episodes, we had seen the lead-up to this point. The facilitator, 'Karis', has been shown meeting with Sam, his dad and current partner, something that resembled part of the preparation process for a possible meeting. In these early stages, there seemed to be some prospect of the restorative process being more accurately portrayed than is usual in the media. The facilitator was shown talking through his dad's concerns but ultimately backing Sam's right to see Harvey. However, those hopes were dashed in last week's episode.

The meeting between harmed and harmer bore no relation to what would have happened had a [RJC registered facilitator](#) been involved. For starters, the meeting took place in a busy prison visitors hall rather than a private space. From the outset, the facilitator made no attempt to structure or control the dialogue, confining her intervention to calling time out after the initial exchanges when 'Harvey' took full advantage of the situation to hurl abuse and threats at 'Sam'. There was no evidence of the facilitator having led the preparations for a meeting about such a serious crime – especially in respect of preparatory work with the offender. No member of prison or probation staff was present.

The RJC was approached by ITV in August to confirm whether we were aware of any 'real life' restorative facilitators who had the name 'Karis'. We pointed out that not all facilitators were registered with the RJC but within the confines of those who were, there wasn't anyone with that name. In our response, we asked what advice ITV had accessed about restorative justice,

highlighting the importance of ensuring the process was accurately portrayed. In their response, ITV told us that this was the responsibility of the 'Storyliners' and 'Researchers' and assured us that they would have ***“completed all the research necessary to represent the restorative justice process accurately”***.

However we were asked if our contact details could be passed on to programme researchers. We received no further contact from ITV.

In the episode, 'Sam' was very much depicted as in control. His questions clearly rattled 'Harvey', who abruptly ended the meeting and went back to his cell. The final moments of the episode depicted 'Harvey' wrecking his cell and in considerable distress. According to [The Sun newspaper article](#), viewers of the soap seem to have reacted quite positively to the storyline, whatever the inaccuracies from a restorative justice point of view.

It's more than disappointing that this prime time show, broadcast in the middle of International Restorative Justice week, so mis-represented the restorative process and especially the role of the facilitator. The RJC will be raising the issues involved directly with ITV.

For a more accurate portrayal, there is a short video - [About RJ](#) - on the RJC website.

We also maintain a list of [Registered Service Providers](#) and [Registered Practitioners](#) which are publicly available on the [RJC website](#).

Jim Simon
Chief Executive Officer

Out and about during Restorative Justice Week 2022

As if we were not busy enough delivering the RJC's own highly successful conference on Monday and Tuesday of RJ Week, Jim Simon, Aisa Shearing and David Smith, attended RJ Week events as far apart as Plymouth, Sheffield, London, Peterborough, and Cornwall.

Aisa started her RJ Week in Plymouth at the [Make Amends](#) Development Day, a chance for staff and volunteer practitioners to get together. There were talks from Janika Cartwright (an ambassador for Why Me?), a wellbeing and relaxation session, and an opportunity to review processes within the service.

On Wednesday, David attended [Remedi's](#) Showcase event in Sheffield – appropriately held in a cinema. This brought together staff and Board members to celebrate the work undertaken by Remedi's services across the whole of England. Service users - both those labelled "victims" and "offenders" – took centre stage to talk about their experiences. Some spoke directly from the stage, others featured prominently in short video clips talking about the difference the work of Remedi's staff had made to their lives. Over the course of the day there were a wide range of powerful testimonies about the potential of restorative justice to transform lives. It concluded with the presentation of awards recognising the achievements of both individuals and teams in the organisation.

On Thursday, Aisa was off to Redruth in Cornwall where she spent the day with the team from [RJ Working](#). She learned about the projects they are running, including how they are using restorative approaches to tackle environmental harm, one of the most damaging challenges facing young people and future generations at this time. This drives an increase in inequalities and so they are using restorative approaches in creative ways to support young people to feel confident enough to stand up for their beliefs. Much of the work is being done collaboratively with schools, colleges, and universities – and, most importantly,

communities themselves - to help develop and grow the skills and knowledge of the young people with whom they are working.

On Friday, Jim was in Peterborough for the Youth Offending Institution and Prison's Restorative Prison Awareness Day. It was attended by all the partners who have worked together to renew registration with the RJC as a restorative organisation – Sedoxo Justice Services, St Giles, Bedfordshire Police, and staff from other prisons all attended. The event also heard direct from residents who have either trained as restorative facilitators or had direct experience of using it to resolve issues and conflicts they have had whilst in prison. In the words of one participant, "it really was an amazing day."

The same day, David was in London for [Restorative Justice for All's](#) 2nd Annual International Conference. This in-person event was held in the august surroundings of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, on the banks of the Thames. The event was led by the organisation's Director Theo Gavrielides and Nick Johnson, chair of the Board and a leading councillor in the London Borough of Southwark. Sir Bob Neil MP, the chair of the House of Commons Justice Select Committee, gave a keynote speech outlining its work on the Victims Bill, but the day was dominated by the diverse voices and perspectives of a huge range of speakers such as Seher Subra from Rooks Heath School in Harrow who talked about decolonizing the curriculum. RJ4ALL's European partners in Erasmus Programmes provided a wealth of fascinating perspectives from Germany, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, and Belgium amongst others.

We appreciate that this represents a small proportion of all the fantastic activity undertaken during RJ Week, by RJC members and others. Thanks are due to all of you who worked so hard to get the message across during RJ Week 2022. Please send any publicity you managed to get to david.smith@restorativejustice.org.uk

David Smith
Policy and Communications Officer

Outcome of consultation about the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

Earlier this year, the Office for National Statistics undertook a consultation about the future of the CSEW. This survey is widely regarded as giving the most accurate picture of crime available. The response to the consultation was published on 7 November.

The Restorative Justice Council took part in the ONS consultation to make the case for the re-introduction of the questions on restorative justice which were dropped in 2020. The last set of results for these questions indicated that just over 5% of victims could recall being offered RJ – a concerning figure.

There are of course significant issues about adding to the number of questions in what is already a long survey from the point of view of respondents and it was clear from the outset that the RJC, and others seeking additional questions on a variety of topics, would face an uphill struggle to get the result they wanted.

The outcome of the consultation reinforced that, with the ONS concluding that “we are deferring making any decisions about the inclusion of these topics in the survey as it currently stands.” The RJC also raised this issue in a letter to the former Victims Minister Tom Pursglove MP and received a similar response.

The fact remains that reliable data is in short supply and the ONS decision to drop the RJ questions from the CSEW was a backward step, unfortunately reflecting the absence of any proactive cross-Government strategy on restorative justice since the failure to refresh the 2014 - 2018 national action plan as identified in the [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Restorative Justice Initial Inquiry Report](#).

However, it is well worth keeping up to date with developments regarding the CSEW. It is an especially important source of data about crime. Even at its best, Police data only includes those

crimes reported to the Police. Under-reporting, especially in communities with lower levels of confidence in the Police, is a huge problem. His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have also raised many concerning issues about the variations in Police recording practices which make comparisons between different Police force data impossible. As [HMICFRS note](#), Police referrals to victims services is a very significant aspect of their overall performance on data.

The CSEW relates only to England and Wales, the links below take you to the relevant surveys in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

[2019/20 Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey](#)

[Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2019/20](#)

The latest publications from these surveys do not mention restorative justice – a gap for those jurisdictions’ respective restorative justice action plans to consider.

David Smith

Policy and Communications Officer

IN OTHER NEWS

The Daily Mirror is seeking restorative case studies for a feature article

The RJC has recently been contacted by Sanjeeta Bains, a journalist at the Daily Mirror. She is looking for individuals who are willing to be named and pictured to talk about their experiences of making contact with their offender. Specifically, she would like to feature people who have contacted offenders convicted of manslaughter or murder.

The reason for her stress on homicide and manslaughter is the recent publicity in relation to the Libby Squires case and her mother's desire to meet the offender. It has recently been reported that in this case the offender has withdrawn his consent to a meeting.

Sanjeeta is keen to stress that she recognises the sensitivities involved and will read back the interview to all case studies before publication.

If you are aware of cases that fit the requirements, and are willing to work with Sanjeeta on this, please contact her direct at sanjeeta.bains@mirror.co.uk

She is hoping the feature will appear before Christmas so please get in touch with her as soon as possible if you are interested.

David Smith

Policy and Communications Officer

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Restorative Justice publish two new briefing papers

After a year of dedicated hard work, the Restorative Justice All-Party Parliamentary Group has recently published two new briefing papers focusing on 'Raising practitioner standards within the criminal justice sector' and 'Opening up universal access to restorative justice in the criminal justice sector.'

The group received an unprecedented level of engagement from the restorative community who have contributed both written and oral evidence over the past 12 months.

The first paper summarises the findings of the work undertaken in Work-stream 1, led by Jim Simon and Tony Walker. The focus was on raising standards in respect of sensitive and complex cases (SCCs).

[Read the full briefing and key recommendations](#)

The second briefing paper examines some of the key issues highlighted in the APPG's Initial Inquiry Report. The Advisory Board undertook further work examining the current delivery of both adult and youth RJ in the criminal justice sector (CJS).

[Read the full briefing and key recommendations](#)

A further two briefing papers will be published in early 2023 which focus on 'Implementing restorative practices in education, health and social care' and developing the 'Evidence Base for recording, evaluation'

Jim Simon

Chief Executive Officer

[VISIT RESOLUTION ONLINE](#)

Consultation on the development of the National Disparity Protocol for the Youth Justice Board

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) and Magistrates Association are working with over 60 stakeholders to draft a National Disparity Protocol with an aim of addressing disproportionality within the Youth Justice System. The Protocol will cover all aspects of youth justice and contain annexes where best practice, practical tools, research evidence and reading lists, etc. can be located.

The Protocol will be catered to partners working throughout the Youth Justice System and it will be embedded as mandatory training for anyone working in the youth justice sector. The YJB will be building in a monitoring and evaluation framework.

One of the chapters in the Protocol will be on Restorative Justice. Peter Wallis, Oxfordshire Youth Justice Service, and Why me? are holding a restorative consultation to identify what professionals working in the restorative youth sector would like to see included in the chapter content.

Peter will be hosting an online consultation event on Friday 9th December at 2pm (via MS Teams). You can register to attend this event using the link below.

[REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT](#)

If you would like to contribute your opinion but are unable to attend the Forum, please contact either Leah or Pete at leah.robinson@why-me.org or peter.wallis@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Jim Simon
Chief Executive Officer

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 General Settings

Location: Online

Provider: Restorative Now

Start Date: 10 January 2023

[APPROVED COURSE DETAILS](#)

Restorative Justice Facilitator (L2)

Location: Online

Provider: Restorative Engagement Forum

Start Date: 11 January 2023

[APPROVED COURSE DETAILS](#)

Restorative Justice Facilitator (L1)

Location: Online

Provider: Restorative Engagement Forum

Start Date: 16 January 2023

[APPROVED COURSE DETAILS](#)

Restorative Practice Facilitation Skills for Education Settings

Location: Online

Provider: Restorative Now

Start Date: 17 January 2023

[APPROVED COURSE DETAILS](#)

Restorative Justice Level 4 - Complex and Sensitive

Location: Online

Provider: Restorative Engagement Forum

Start Date: 26 January 2023

[APPROVED COURSE DETAILS](#)

OTHER EVENTS AND COURSES

Empathy and Restorative Justice

Location: Online

Provider: The Mint House

Start Date: 6 December 2022

[READ MORE](#)

Youth Justice: Exploring Good Practice

Location: Online

Provider: Why me?

Start Date: 7 December 2022

[READ MORE](#)

Restorative Practice Training and Implementation

Location: In-person

Provider: Conexus Conflict Consultancy

Start Date: 18 January 2023

[READ MORE](#)

Restorative Conference Facilitation Training 3 day Course

Location: In-person

Provider: Restorative Approaches

Start Date: 19 January 2023

[READ MORE](#)

1 Day Introduction to Restorative Practice for schools & community settings

Location: In-person

Provider: Peacemakers

Start Date: 6 February 2023

[READ MORE](#)

Sensitive and Complex Case Training

Location: In Person

Provider: Remedi

Start Date: 8 February 2023

[READ MORE](#)

Restorative Practice and Domestic Abuse

Location: In Person

Provider: Remedi

Start Date: 6 March 2023

[READ MORE](#)

[VIEW ALL UPCOMING COURSES & 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 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:

- Monthly RJC bulletins
- Access to, and opportunity to, promote your own work in the RJC's publication: Resolution
- Networking opportunities with academics, researchers and practitioners from the UK and beyond
- Access to our quarterly practitioners network
- Reduced fees for the annual RJC conference
- Reduced fees for RJC Connect CPD activities and other RJC events
- Ability to nominate for the RJC Annual Award for significant contribution to the field
- Exclusive access to the member's section of the website
- Access to our standards for practice registration
- A voice in the decision-making of the RJC
- Opportunities to participate in RJC working groups

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

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING THE RJC

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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