

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COUNCIL

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Where are we now?

- * Evidence published alongside *Breaking the Cycle* (2010) – 14% reduction in reoffending, 85% victim satisfaction
- * Government commitment to ensure high quality RJ available across CJS
- * Joint Inspectorates' Report (Sept 2012) highlights wide variation in quality and availability of RJ across the CJS
- * MoJ RJ Action Plan (Nov 2012), legislation for pre-sentence RJ before Parliament
- * Independent Review of RJC (Dec 2012)

Key findings of the Independent Review

- * Support for and confidence in RJC
- * Key role – setting standards, ensuring quality
- * Recommendations to strengthen Standards and Accreditation Framework
- * RJC should remain independent, but build stronger Governance links with statutory partners
- * RJC should continue to support restorative practice across all sectors

Ministry of Justice Action Plan

- * Multi-agency Action Plan published November 2012
- * Four key areas: Building Access, Awareness, Capacity, and Evidence
- * RJ Implementation Board reporting to Ministers
- * Key Actions for RJC in the plan include:
 - National Standards
 - Restorative Service Quality Mark
 - Delivery of national Communications Plan with MoJ
 - Continuing to build Practitioner Database

Legislation for Pre-Sentence RJ

- * Restorative Justice at earliest opportunity
- * Courts can defer sentence for RJ to take place, with victim consent
- * Cross-Party support when introduced in Commons – now entering Committee Stage
- * Magistrates Training pack with Magistrates Association; liaison with Sentencing Council re Guidelines
- * 3 NOMS pathfinder areas
- * 10 Court pilots (Restorative Solutions/Victim Support)

Restorative Service Quality Mark

* Quality Mark working group Chaired by ACC Garry Shewan during 2012

* Key themes identified:

1. Leadership, vision and values
2. Quality Training
3. Practice Standards
4. Policy framework
5. Integration of restorative services
6. Inclusion and access
7. Monitoring and Evaluation

* Consultation document to follow shortly

Growing impact outside CJS

- * Evidence across five studies – RJ reduces bullying, exclusions, increases teacher confidence and attendance
- * Children's Commissioner's School Exclusions Report
- * Goldsmith's Study – Teachers rated RP as most effective approach to tackle bullying
- * Growing Local Authority-wide use of RP across Children's Services

What next?

- * Developing the evidence base – 5th February Seminar
- * Consultation Paper forthcoming
- * Continuing Professional Development Programme 2013 for practitioners just published
- * Working with partners to ensure implementation of legislation
- * Developing Communications baselines and strategy with Ministry of Justice to deliver Action Plan
- * Aim to work with all RJC Members, and Partner Organisations to grow capacity, quality, confidence and take up of restorative justice over next three years.

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