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RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS

ACC Garry Shewan
ACPO Lead on Restorative & Community Justice

Cheshire Constabulary
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Restorative Justice

"Restorative justice is a process whereby all the parties with a stake in a particular offence come together to resolve collectively how to deal with the aftermath of the offence and its implications for the future."

(Tony Marshall 1996)

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Restorative Justice – a new paradigm for community justice

- Healing the responses to crime and wrong-doing
- Aims to meet the needs of victims, offenders and communities – empowering communities
- Recognises that the real needs created by crime are different from revenge or payback

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Positioning Restorative Justice

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Restorative Justice & Policing

- Growing demand
- Youth Restorative Disposals
- Restorative Approaches in Neighbourhoods (RAiN)
- Shifting performance focus from hard targets to public confidence

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What can RJ contribute?

- RJ has been shown to reduce re-offending (e.g., reduces the frequency in re-offending).
- RJ has significant cost benefits, increases efficiency and use of resources.
- YRD/Instant RJ allows officers to spend more time on the street dealing with more serious crime and reduces bureaucracy.
- Attention to public concerns show a need to increase public satisfaction with the criminal justice system - rather than excluding public from the resolution of the incident, RJ seeks to improve satisfaction by directly engaging the affected parties in the disposal

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The emerging impact..

- Victim satisfaction rose from 67% to 92%
- 91% of participating victims would recommend it to a friend
- 78% felt it a better way of dealing with the crime
- Following RJ conference victims were considerably less traumatised and capable of putting incident behind them
- Victims felt less anger toward offender and no longer scared of them
- Victims felt safer in their community
- Very significant efficiency savings and impact upon detecting crime

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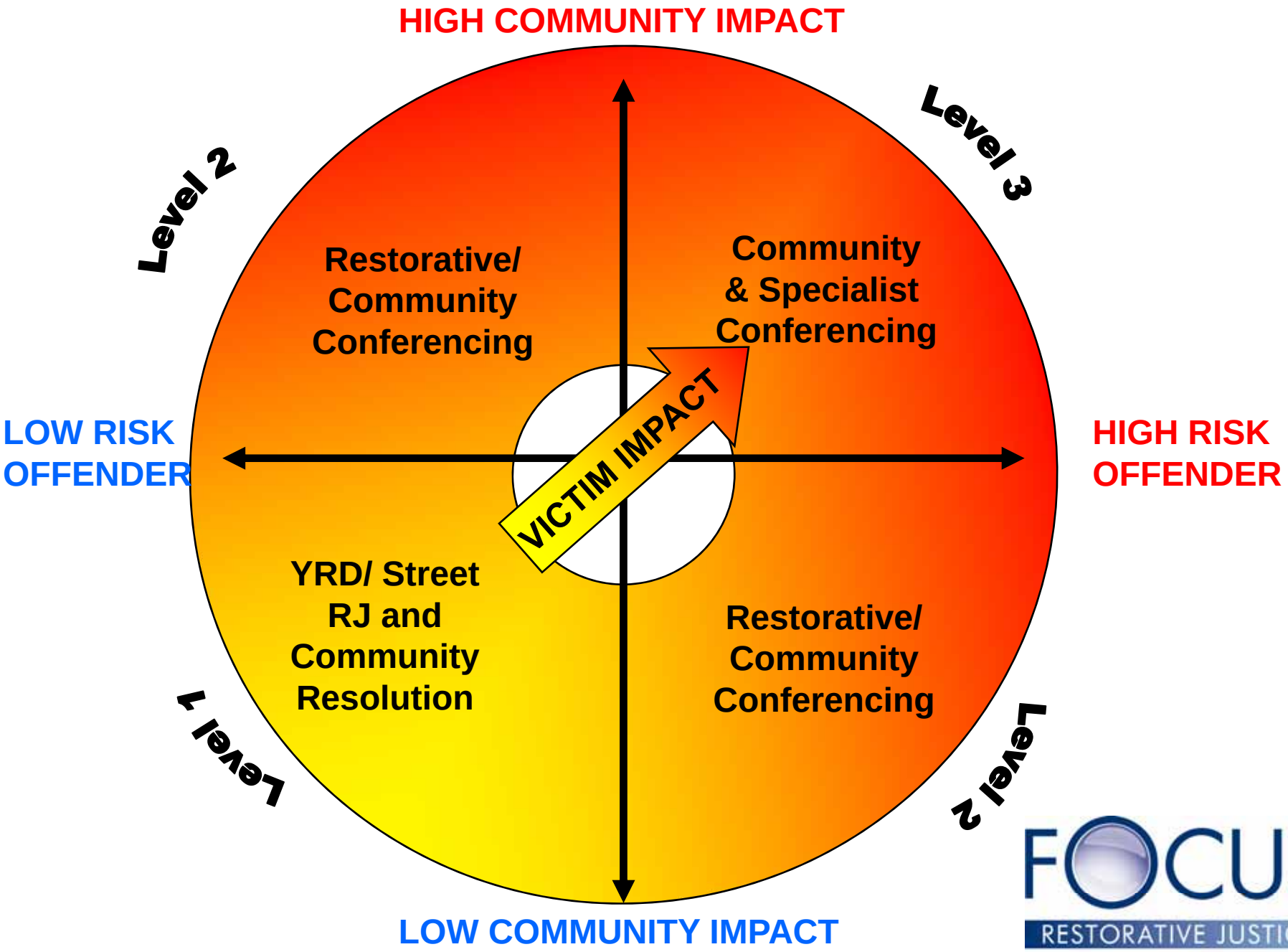

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Community Justice

- Against tide of individualism and declining community life – seeking connectiveness and public safety
- Initiatives to empower and build social capital has great appeal – collective efficacy and active citizenship
- Mobilise informal social controls and connect people to prevent crime and offending
- RJ cannot be done to stakeholders and cannot be done for stakeholders
- Seek to turn conflict into co-operation leading to real and lasting resolutions

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Restorative Policing

- Value-driven policing
- Equipping officers with the mediation and facilitation skills
- Engaging communities in crime prevention and control
- Operating and responsive to the micro-community

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Matthew Buckley with founder of Middlewich Clean Team founder Janet Chisholm

Top, Matthew Buckley listens to what the group, pictured above, has to say

Restorative justice

Graffitist comes clean with people who have been affected by his vandalism

BY DAVID MORGAN

A GRAFFITI artist has been brought face-to-face with the people from Middlewich he had affected.

Matthew Buckley, a first-time offender, was confronted by 13 members of the community, including residents, town councillors, the Middlewich Clean Team, shopkeepers and housing associations to give him the chance to repair the damage he had done.

The police initiative, known as restorative justice, was held in Westfields, Sandbach, and gave participants the chance to get some answers, while Matthew got to avoid a criminal record.

Matthew, 24, from Middlewich, who kept apologising throughout the session, said: "I'm so sorry. It's really sinking in now."

Janet Chisholm, of Middlewich Clean Team, attended because of how upset she was over offensive graffiti on Middlewich's bus stop.

She said: "The clean team has gone one step forward and two steps back.

"You can't just walk away from this today and forget about it. You can make a real difference for us in the future."

Cllr Mike Parsons, of Middlewich Town Council, added: "I spend all my time making Middlewich a nice place and then someone like you comes along.

"Some think it's art and others think it's vandalism. I'm somewhere in the middle but it's causing a lot of heartache.

"As tax payers, we are all paying to repair what you have done. But it takes a lot of guts to do what you're doing today."

The community leaders agreed that Matthew's talents could be put to better use.

Resident and shopkeeper Frances Cooper suggested the 24-year-old could create a constantly changing art exhibition in the St Michael's Way underpass.

She said: "A weed is only a weed because it's a flower in the wrong place."

Cllr Simon McGrory, of Middlewich Town Council added: "It's gone beyond art and has become an eyesore. But Matthew has been very brave and can do something positive now in the community."

According to Home Office research, 80 per cent of offenders who take part in restorative justice are less likely to re-offend.

Reflecting on his experience, Matthew said: "There are people who go out on a Friday night, get drunk and smash someone's face in.

"I don't think I'm a criminal but I know what I've done is wrong."

Matthew Buckley

Cheshire Constabulary

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Matthew: "I think it would have been easier to go to court instead of doing this"

"There are people who go out on a Friday night and smash someone's' face in. I don't think I am a criminal but I now know what I have done is wrong. I am truly sorry for offending you the public and I would like to assure you that this will NOT happen ever again"

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