

Information on Restorative Justice for victims of crime



If you are a victim of youth crime in the borough you will be offered the opportunity to become involved in **restorative justice**. This can provide you with the chance to become **directly or indirectly involved** with the young person who committed the crime. You can have your loss or harm acknowledged, **questions answered and amends** made where possible.

How does it work?

There are many different forms of restorative justice designed to suit different cases and varying needs. It can be used for a wide range of incidents from minor anti-social behaviour, like graffiti, to more serious crimes such as assault and robbery. It is voluntary for all parties and each case is carefully risk-assessed before people take part.

The most common forms are:

A restorative meeting

You can meet face-to-face with the young offender at a restorative meeting in the presence of a specially trained facilitator. Every meeting is carefully planned and organised and enables direct communication between all parties. It can help victims ask questions and hear directly from the young person. If appropriate, they can work together on an agreement describing what they will do to address the harm done and discuss any supervised programme they will do to address the causes of offending. This could include direct or indirect reparation.

Shuttle mediation

You can have contact with the young person without meeting face-to-face through shuttle mediation. The restorative justice facilitator can talk to both parties separately, ensure your views are put across and seek to find out answers to any questions by passing information between the parties. If you wish to hear direct, then audio equipment can also be used.

Written communication

If you wish to receive a letter of apology or receive another form of supervised written communication, then this can be arranged. You can also write a letter about the impact of the offence on you that can be read to the young person.

Regular updates

The Youth Offending Team (YOT) can keep you informed of the young offender's sentence and progress.



www.richmond.gov.uk/youth_offending
richmondyot@richmond.gov.uk
020 8891 7105

Restorative Justice

How can it help?

- Restorative justice can provide a safe environment to express the effects of the harm done and its consequences
- It can help overcome any fears or feelings of intimidation that the offence may have caused
- It enables victims to contribute to what happens next
- It encourages an open exchange of views
- It provides an opportunity to ask questions
- Evidence shows that it reduces re-offending by 27%

Research shows that victim satisfaction is high from a restorative justice process.



What will happen?

An independent facilitator will talk to you about taking part in a restorative justice process to see if everyone involved is interested in taking part. If all parties are interested then preparation meetings are arranged. If all meetings are successful then a restorative process is organised.

It's your choice

Taking part in a restorative justice process is voluntary and the YOT will respect your wishes. All names, address and telephone numbers are kept confidential.

For further information

Alison Carey
Restorative Justice
Richmond Youth Offending Team
020 8487 5373
email a.carey@richmond.gov.uk

Richmond Youth Offending Team
42 York Street
Twickenham
TW1 3BW
020 8891 7050

Other useful information

Victim Supportline – 0845 30 30 900
www.victimsupport.org.uk

Restorative Justice Council
www.restorativejustice.org.uk

www.direct.gov.uk/en/CrimeJusticeAndTheLaw/VictimsOfCrime

Please contact us if you need this leaflet in Braille,
large print, on audio tape or in another language.
Phone 08456 122660, Minicom 020 8831 6001