

How can Restorative Northamptonshire help me?

For many people who have been affected by crime, Restorative Justice enables them to explore why the crime has happened and why it has happened to them in particular.

Evidence suggests the vast majority of people who take part in restorative justice process feel satisfied that they had the opportunity to take part and come away feeling better because it has allowed them to have their say and able to move on.

You will have the opportunity to:

- have your say;
- explain to the person who harmed you what impact their behaviour has had on your life;
- get answers to any questions you may have about what happened;
- get some closure and move on with your life;
- help to prevent the same thing happening to someone else; and
- help offenders to understand the consequences of their actions.

What does Restorative Justice do for the offenders (harmer)?

Restorative Justice can be helpful for offenders, or those who have caused harm, because it enables them to understand the impact that their actions have had. It gives them the chance to listen and to answer any questions you might have.

They may apologise for what they have done and agree what they might do to make things better. This might include addressing the issues in their life that led them to commit the crime or harmful behaviour.

Offenders who have taken part in Restorative Justice have said that the experience helped them to understand how their actions affected others and to enable them to deal with feelings of guilt or remorse, and to feel that they have done something positive.

Does this affect any sentence the offender might receive?

If a case goes to court then it's always up to the Judge or Magistrate. There is no evidence to suggest that sentences are significantly impacted upon a successful completion of RJ having take place.

Contact Voice

Tel. 0300 303 1965 Option 4 **Visit.** voicenorthants.org

Email. Voice@northants.pnn.police.uk

Facebook. @voicenorthants **Twitter.** @voicenorthants



Have you been the victim of a crime, or experienced conflict or antisocial behaviour? Would you like help to find your voice?

When you're ready, Voice for a Restorative Northamptonshire can help



voicenorthants.org
0300 303 1965

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice offers victims of crime the opportunity to get answers and explanation from the offender in a safe & controlled process.

It gives you the victim the chance to have your say, explain how the offender's behaviour has affected you and for you to seek a direct explanation from the offender as to what they did, and why?

For many people Restorative Justice helps to gain closure following a potentially traumatic experience.

Victims who have participated in Restorative Justice, have reported that it has been an empowering experience; giving them a voice, repairing harm, regaining control of their lives and helping to prevent further crime.

Through this process, you may be able to influence the offender's behaviour, thereby helping reduce the potential of further crime and other people becoming victims.

How does it work?

Restorative Justice can only take place when the offender (or person who has caused the harm) admits his or her guilt and consents to being part of the restorative justice process.

You, as the victim, do not have to meet with the offender and many approaches can be considered, however if a meeting/conference is your preference, then both sides need to agree that they would like to go ahead.

Restorative Justice can happen at the time which is right for you irrespective of when or where the crime occurred.

The first step

A trained facilitator will contact you in the first instance to talk through what has happened and the impact this is having or has had on you and your life.

If following this, you feel you might like the opportunity to meet the offender, your facilitator can arrange this. If the offender admits his or her guilt, a meeting/conference can be organised.

Following this initial discussion and your desire to pursue a Restorative meeting/conference, the facilitator will then speak with the offender to determine his or her willingness to participate.

The Meeting

If you the victim, the offender and your facilitator agree that a meeting (sometimes referred to as a conference), is appropriate then it will go ahead. If another type of communication (for example a letter) is considered more suitable then your facilitator will discuss this with you.

You are welcome to bring a friend or family member with you to support you and the offender can do the same.

The meeting will be guided by your facilitator. It will be held in a neutral, safe place and usually lasts for about an hour and a half. During the meeting, everyone will have the opportunity to speak - the aim being to help you overcome the harm caused as a consequence of the criminal behaviour of the harmer.

The Facilitator

Your facilitator will be trained and experienced in providing Restorative Justice. The service is completely confidential and impartial; designed to make your experience as positive as possible.

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