

Why should I consider taking part?

People affected by crime take part in RJ for many personal reasons. You may have questions and want to understand why the crime happened to you. You may have other concerns that only the young person can answer. RJ focuses on you as the victim, putting your needs and concerns foremost.

Many victims who have experienced RJ find it a powerful and empowering experience, reducing their fears and bringing a sense of closure. Some people say they don't feel like a victim anymore and are in control of their own life. National evidence shows 85% of victims who took part in RJ came away feeling satisfied because it helped them move on from what happened and reduced their fear of crime.

Our responsibilities to you

We will:

- Respect your views.
- Ensure confidentiality.
- Be supportive.
- Listen.
- Work to meet your needs.

Wigan Council Restorative Solutions Team are passionate and committed to supporting and empowering victims. We are all trained to explore restorative opportunities and the team is accredited with the Restorative Services Quality Mark.



Restorative Solutions
Team



Restorative Justice
Information for
victims



Restorative Solutions Team

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Find out more about Restorative Justice, the Restorative Justice Council and Restorative Service Quality Mark at www.restorativejustice.org.uk
www.wigan.gov.uk



Unfortunately you have been the victim of a crime committed by a young person. This can lead to a mixture of emotions and a sudden involvement with the criminal justice system. This can be complicated and cause confusion at what is potentially an upsetting time for you.

This leaflet attempts to offer support to you and others affected by the crime, as well as explaining what has happened to the young person who committed the crime.

You will be offered a visit by a trained Restorative Solutions Team Worker who will support you to explore the right way of addressing your needs at this time.

What have the Police or Court done?

It is likely that the young person will have received one of the following:

- Neighbourhood Resolution Panel. This is a restorative meeting facilitated by a trained member of the community.
- Youth Caution and Youth Conditional Caution. These are cautions given by the Police. A conditional caution has elements the young person must do or risk being returned to court.
- Referral Order. This is a restorative order, it can last 3-12 months and the victim of the crime can be involved.
- Youth Rehabilitation Order. This is a community order where requirements are added to address the risky behaviour and make amends to the community.
- Detention and Training Order. The young person will spend half their sentence in custody and the remainder in the community accessing support to reduce the risk of re-offending.

It may be that the young person is awaiting sentencing at court and a Pre-Sentence report has been requested which gathers evidence to help the court decide on an appropriate order.

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice (RJ) offers a voluntary opportunity to bring those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm into communication, allowing everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

What will I experience if I have contact with the young person?

With support, you will have the opportunity to:

- **Attend a Restorative Conference or a Neighbourhood Resolution Panel.** Following everyone's voluntary agreement, an assessment will be completed to check it is safe to have a conference or panel. At the conference you will be able to meet with the young person and have the opportunity to talk about what happened and the impact it had on you. You can have someone with you to offer support.



- **Attend a Referral Order Panel Meeting.** You will be invited to attend the Initial and any review Panel Meetings. This will be similar to the Restorative Conference but you will be able to ask for certain things, for example some reparation. If you do not want to attend we can read something out on your behalf.
- **Direct Reparation.** The young person can do some work, under supervision, that will benefit you.

What other options do I have if I don't want to see the young person?

We can work creatively to meet your needs, for example you can:

- Make a Victim Impact Statement and share this with the young person. Any response we can share with you if you want. You may use this to suggest something for the young person to do.
- Letter of Apology/Explanation. You might want to receive a letter from them answering any questions, explaining why they did what they did and receive an apology. You might want to write to them.
- Indirect Reparation. You may want the young person to do some work to benefit the community.
- Record your questions and play it to the young person, then record their response for you to hear.
- Ask that we keep you updated on the progress of the young person

These are just some ideas based on our experience, we are open to any other suggestions you might have.

You can change your mind about taking part in Restorative Justice at any time.