

Youth Offending Team & Restorative Practice



YORK Youth Support Services

The Trouble with Words

- Restorative Justice
- Restorative Practice
- Reparation
- Community Payback
- Community Service
- Victim Support

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YorkYOT

- Statutory **partnership** service established under 1998 Crime & Disorder Act
- Local Authority is lead partner
- Straddles multiple social policy and operational areas:
 - Children & Young People
 - Criminal Justice
 - Community Safety

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Partnership Resourcing

- Local Authority
- Police (now P&CC)
- Health
- Probation
- Youth Justice Board for England & Wales
- Combination of staffing, services and revenue

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Multiprofessional

- Youth Justice Officers
- Social Workers
- Probation Officer
- Police Officer
- Mental Health Nurse
- Lifeline (substance misuse)

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Outcomes and Performance

5 Justice for young people and communities
Fewer young people will get into trouble with the law, because they get help at the earliest opportunity. Those who do will be challenged, have underlying problems addressed and be helped to return to law-abiding lives. They will be supported in putting things right: communities and victims of youth crime will feel justice has been done. Communities will be protected from serious harm.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Influence and Operational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – First Time Offenders – Reoffending – Use of custody – NEET rates – Use of Secure Remands

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Statement of Purpose

York YOT

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

reducing youth crime improving lives protecting the public

Helping make York a safer, better place for everyone:

- Changing the outlook and behaviour of individuals we supervise
- Reducing youth crime by working in partnership to ensure that young people get the support and direction they need
- Ensuring that the voice of victims is heard
- Working with families and the community to help them promote positive change in young people
- Protecting the public through rigorous enforcement of sentences imposed by the court

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24

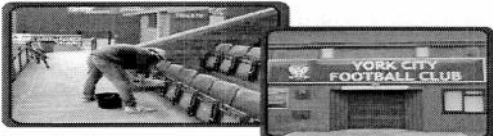
Youth Restorative Justice

- Out of Court Disposals -
Local Police
- Referral Orders -
Community Panel
- Youth Rehabilitation Orders -
YOT Officers
- Community Payback -
Probation Service

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Restorative Justice and re-integration

- Young people convicted of football related offences
- Working for the groundkeeper they learn another point of view
- And earn the lifting of their bans



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YOT RJ Services

- Victim contact
- Full restorative conferencing
- Exchange of communication, written, verbal
- Direct Reparation
- Indirect Reparation
- Community Payback
- Letter of Apology
- Victim Awareness interventions

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Restorative Justice: making amends... and more besides

- Reparation – a positive contribution to the life of the City
- Accredited skills and workplace experience
- Learning from the company of adults



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A partnership made possible with York Archaeological Trust


YOT RJ issues

- Victim is primary beneficiary
- But does have research-proven impact on reoffending rates
- RJ works if there is positive learning, not if simple punishment or tokenistic
- Most victims just want to move on
- Commercial sector is biggest problem
- Looked After Children have particular needs
- To make a **lasting** difference young offenders have to be treated as children first

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Restorative Justice: for victims of crime

- Giving victims the chance to influence things
- Reassurance: dealing with fear and anger
- Ensuring young offenders confront the real impact they have on others' lives
- Building confidence in communities
- Challenging the myth of 'victimless crime'



- We must make sure we reach victims who are also children and young people
- And those from the most deprived communities and backgrounds

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Broader Issues

- YOT RJ is a very small and narrow element of the whole picture
- RJ is slowly becoming mainstream in Policing
- RJ has slowly been taken on as Government social/ criminal justice policy
- Formal Criminal Justice system has been dragged into accepting RJ
- A very small number of Local Authorities have made systematic commitment to RP

Where does it take us?

- RP is mainstream in youth justice and has a toe-hold in education
- RP is well-established in adult justice
- The general public are much more sympathetic to RP than politicians believe but that is probably fragile
- RP gains momentum and effectiveness with scale and systemic commitment

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Leeds City Council and RP

- Restorative practice is about building, maintaining and repairing relationships with the fundamental premise that people are happier, more co-operative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes when those in authority do things with them, rather than to them or for them. Helping people find creative solutions to issues that are affecting them that avoid blame, retribution and punishment. It can help to build social capital and a sense of community in all settings, from schools, children's homes, police, social care, partnerships and communities. In Leeds we are using RP strategies across the organisation, to improve the way we communicate and engage with each other as well as with children, young people and families.

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