

Towards a Restorative Society

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Northern Ireland

- Population 1.5m
- Emerging from 30 years of violent civil conflict













AN EYE 4 AN EYE
BACK 2 WAR ⊕







Key themes in the peace process

- Centrality of justice based upon human rights
- Equality of esteem
- Inclusive democracy
- Willingness to forego revenge
- Acknowledging and repairing the hurt of the past

A restorative society is one where people find ways to create safer environments, good relationships and greater control over their lives.

The role of the University of Ulster

- Learning and practice development
- Organisational capacity building
- Civic society - Supporting a restorative network
- Research and development

Learning and practice development

The Youth Conference Service

Northern Ireland and Restorative Justice

Community system

- Community restorative justice Ireland
- Alternatives NI

State system

- Low risk – Police restorative cautioning
- Medium risk – Public Prosecution Service referral for diversionary conference by Youth Conference Service
- High risk – Youth Court referral by Youth Conference Service
- Priority young offenders programme
- Prison Service – rehabilitation and resettlement

Outcomes for Youth Conferences

- Number of youth conferences 6000 +
- Over 30.000 people have participated in a youth conference

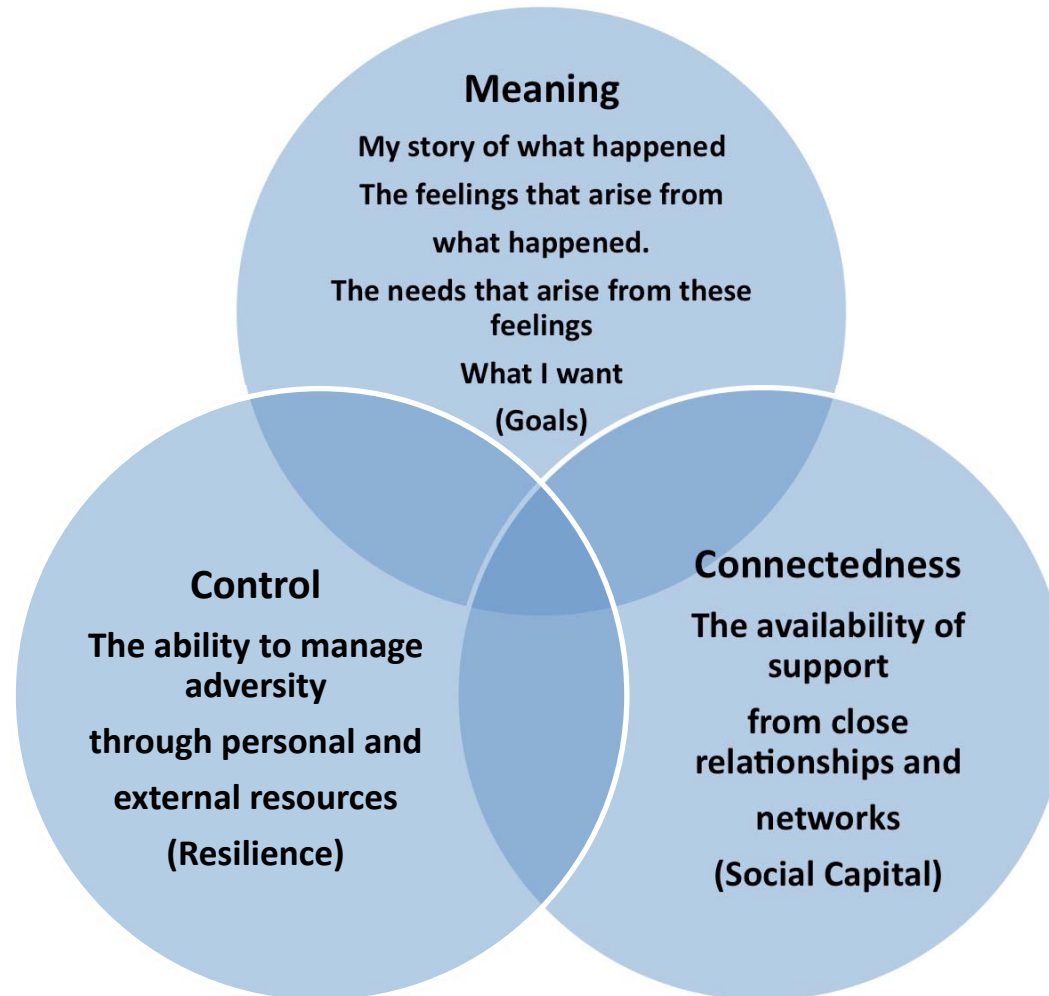
- Victim attendance; 61%
- Victim and young person satisfaction ; 90% and 95%
- 9 out of 10 victims prefer the youth conference to the traditional court process

- 94% successful completion of plans
- Reoffending 37.7 %
- Reoffending for all community disposals 52.1%

The Balanced Model

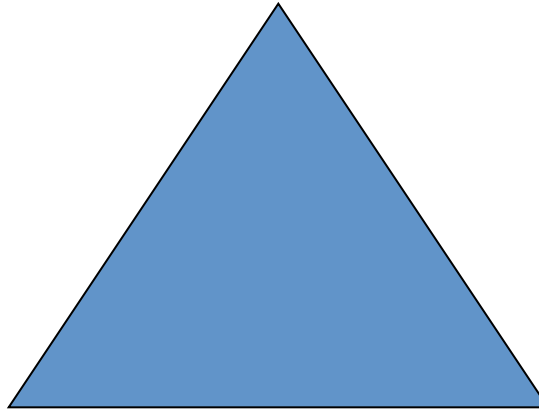


Systems of recovery



The Restorative Practices

Storytelling



Expression of emotion

Dialogue

Dialogue

- A conversation with a centre not sides
- Mutual understanding and agreement through exchange of meaning
- Skilled neutral facilitation

University Programmes

- Undergraduate level Certificate – three modules
- Postgraduate Certificate – three modules
- Postgraduate Diploma – six modules
- Masters – dissertation or taught
- Short courses

Courses

- Open Course 23 students
- Youth Conference Service 50 students
- Police Service 80 + students
- Community Restorative Justice 32 students
- Prison Service 18 Students
- Youth Justice Agency 18 Students
- Priority Young Offenders Programme 12 Students
- Family Group Conferences 30 Students

Original modules

- Foundation skills
- Reflective approaches to RP
- Harm, Loss and Grief
- Young people and adults who harm others
- History, theory and research of RP
- Developing skills
- Research methods
- Research project

New programme

- Foundation skills
- Reflecting on RP
- Responding restoratively to people who have been harmed
- Responding restoratively to people responsible for harm
- Enhancing restorative skills
- Family group conference practice and processes
- Promoting a restorative society
- Restorative responses to sexual harm
- Restorative responses to serious and persistent harmful behaviour
- The restorative prison
- The restorative school
- The restorative community
- The restorative organisation
- The restorative children's home
- Restorative practices and faith organisations

Organisational capacity building

The Prison Service

The Prison Service

- Engagement
- First cohort
- Inspection reports
- Robert McCrie visit
- Prison Officer Association
- Round table conversation
- Programme development
- Research
- Training

The future challenges

- Civic society - Creating a restorative network
- Research and development

Anthem by Leonard Cohen

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.

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