

Restoring the Balance

The UK RJ Pilot for the EU Collaboration

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With the financial support from the Criminal Justice Programme of the European Union.

What are we doing?

- **Developing a service which starts with victims**
- **Victims can be referred by Victim Support, the Probation Victim Liaison Unit and can refer themselves**
- **Most cases will be post-sentence**
- **Our aim is to focus on the victim's needs and to focus on the benefits of communication between victim and offender**

Why are we doing victim initiated RJ?

- For ten years most of our work came from approaching offenders first**
- We realised that victims did not have an agency who they could go to if they want RJ**
- Sari's story of going from pillar to post demonstrated the problem**
- The European collaboration gave us the opportunity to pilot an approach to helping victims access RJ**

What are we doing?

- Developing a process
- Informing referral agencies
- Promoting our service
- Working with a small number of victims
- Learning as we go

How are we doing it?

- Training for staff
- Meetings with referrers: Victim Support, Probation VLU, Police FLOs & case admin
- Taking referrals and 'extracting' cases
- Meetings with victims, meetings with offenders, working towards face to face meetings
- Planning alternative restorative approaches
- Planning and participating in a conference like this to learn from others

What are we hoping to achieve?

- Victims who feel their needs have been met
- To have developed a healing circle approach
- To contribute to a manual of best practice in Europe
- To have developed a service which will continue
- To have developed and delivered a training pack for others to carry on this work

What happens next?

- Our approach will be researched
- We will contribute to the relevant training and publications
- Our cases will work towards successful conclusions
- We will obtain (modest) funding to enable the work to continue
- Other areas in the UK will adopt (and adapt) our model