

**Facilitation:** The facilitator is specially trained and will provide you with other restorative options if needed. He or she will ensure actions are taken to maintain safety. Additionally, there will be a co-facilitator to provide support if needed.

**Advice:** Ask the facilitator for more information. He or she may describe other similar conferences for you. The facilitator has a number of options to assist you.

**Time & Location:** The meeting will take place generally at a time and in a place convenient to all participants. However, if the person who harmed you is still in prison, the conference will take place there and will usually have to be between 9-12 and 14-16 on a weekday due to prison regime.

### More on Conferences

- Meetings are safe. Of course people express themselves and say what they feel but throughout the world, there has been no violence in a conference.
- Everyone gets to have their say.
- It depends on the circumstances but each conference last for about 1 hour.
- The meeting is not formal and everyone will get their turn to speak.

### Feedback from participants:

*"It gave a good insight into what he felt. I felt that what he was saying was coming from the heart rather than hearing what he would say in court. I could hear about what he actually felt about the situation and also we managed to get our point of view across to him about what we felt about the situation."*

*"I would do it again. The fact that she said sorry and explained how it happened was good. She seemed to want to get better and it was good to meet her."*

*"I thought he appeared to be very affected by the impact of his actions. Perhaps it was the first time that he had actually seen one of his victims and appreciated what he had done...I wholeheartedly support it going forward!"*

#### Contact:

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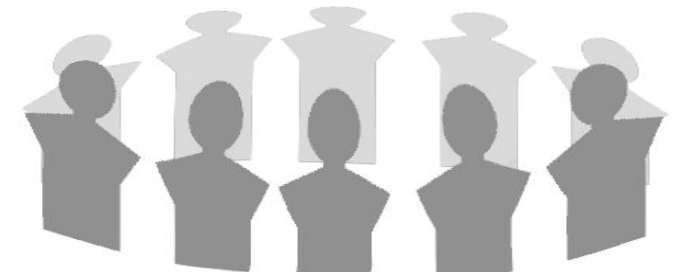
#### Useful websites:

[www.restorativesolutions.org.uk](http://www.restorativesolutions.org.uk)  
[www.why-me.org](http://www.why-me.org)

# HMP Gloucester

## Restorative Justice Conference

### Information leaflet



If you are involved in a situation where an incident has resulted in harm caused to someone by another you may be interested in restorative approaches to resolve the issues.

Restorative practice works by bringing all the parties in a specific incident together to collectively deal with the aftermath of an incident and the implications for the future.

The uses can range from the most minor dispute in a school playground or workplace, neighbour disputes, low level offending to grave and serious crimes.

Imagine that the other party involved in your incident is with you now... What do you want to say to them? What will they say in reply? What would your family wish to say to them?

In a restorative meeting the people affected by an incident would safely meet each other in a room with a facilitator. Each party can have supporters and that is encouraged to promote the sense of safety and community in the room.

Now ask yourself, what would make things better for you personally?

If the incident is one of many or you have concerns about repercussions this may be one way of resolving the matter.

## What is a restorative conference?

Restorative practice is a harm reduction process. Unlike other interventions this activity sets out to neutrally focus on the incident itself, the effects and the future.

Restorative Justice will not make the offender's sentence easier or have any impact on when they are released.

Safely and with attention to risks it intends to empower the people involved in the incident to understand each other and build their own resolution.

Restorative justice will give victims of crime a voice, the opportunity to ask questions and to say how they have been harmed. Evidence shows there is 85% victim satisfaction following a restorative conference. Research has shown that the process helps reduce fear and, in some cases, post-traumatic stress.

Restorative justice will give offenders the opportunity to respond and to answer these questions. Evidence shows a restorative conference gives offenders a real understanding of the impacts of their offending behaviour and reduces reoffending by 33%.

All our conferences have four stages:

### Facts

The person who caused the harm describes the incident. He or she may explain what led up to the behaviour and what happened afterwards. Persons harmed often ask questions like, "Why me?" or, "What happened to the property?"

### Affect

The person harmed then describes how they were affected by what happened. This may be the only time the one who caused the harm ever gets an opportunity to hear the true consequences of his or her actions. Then the supporters get their chance to talk about the incident or the people concerned.

### Implications for the future

This is where everyone present agrees on what should be done to make things better. Sometimes there is an Outcome Agreement from this stage.

### Reintegration

This is an opportunity for those present to speak completely informally if they wish. Often the stage where the incident ceases to be 'faceless'.