



Restorative Justice

An Introduction for Discussion and
Direction

Lambeth Community Police Consultative
Group

What is Restorative Justice?

- Restorative justice is a process which brings victims and their offenders into contact, either directly or indirectly, to decide how to deal with the aftermath of the offence and to agree on how the offender can make amends.

What is the Law on RJ?

- The use of RJ is not required, but is at the discretion of LCJBs and agencies ***and we think communities.***
- Criminal Justice Act 2003 makes clear that reparation is one of the purposes of sentencing, and provides for RJ processes to form part of an activity requirement of the Community Order
- More broadly, RJ approaches are consistent with the direction of policing reform towards “citizen focus”.
- In July 2004 the NCJB commissioned restorative justice (RJ) guidance to LCJBs, with the aim of encouraging further development of RJ in the adult Criminal Justice System.

New Rules for the CPS

- CPS responsible for charging (CJA 2003)
- CPS new rules talks about “diversion” (Code 2004)
- Alternative to prosecution could be RJ (s.8)

Where Can RJ Be Used?

- Pre-Charge
- Pre-Court
- As part of a community sentence
- As part of prison licence

Who would do it?

- Much would depend on where in the system it is carried out.
- Evidence suggests its down to trust and training.
- RJ processes can be delivered at any stage in the Criminal Justice process, and by any agency; so there is potentially scope for cross-agency co-operation and joint delivery

What are the disadvantages?

- Net Widening
- Competition rather than co-operation
- Conflicts with other priorities
- Time and Money

What are the advantages?

- There is strong evidence that restorative justice (RJ) can increase victim satisfaction and confidence in the CJS.

What Do We Think?

- Should the CPCG meet with agencies to discuss further?