



Restorative Justice Case Studies



May 2022

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Introduction

The Scottish Government has a commitment to have Restorative Justice (RJ) services available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it, and at a time that is appropriate to the people involved in the case. Approaches taken are consistent, evidence-led, trauma informed and of a high standard. This seeks to ensure the needs of persons harmed and their voices are central, and supports a reduction in harmful behaviour across our communities. There are three outcomes detailed within the [Restorative Justice Action Plan](#) serving the purpose of achieving this vision. For an overview of RJ in a Scottish context, access this [animation](#).

This report incorporates RJ case studies from a number of locations: Scotland, England and Wales, Northern Ireland and New Zealand. This report only contains a small number of Scottish case studies due to the ongoing development of a consistent approach to RJ as described above. It is recognised that each country has different legal systems and approaches to RJ and this may not be directly replicated in Scotland. However, the purpose of this report is to provide a general overview of case studies to aid partners, agencies and local communities to learn about RJ.

Restorative Justice cases in Scotland

CYJ published a series of case studies of RJ from Scotland in September 2020. These case studies involve children and young people from a number of establishments, including education, youth service and local councils – they can be accessed [here](#).

CYJ also published a case study exploring RJ in cases with children and young people who experience speech, language and communication (SLCN) needs – this can be accessed [here](#).

This case (originally published by CYJ) is a case involving a foster child who stole from his foster parents. Restorative justice facilitators worked with the family who met in a restorative justice meeting, but also used the provision of arts as a means of portraying his remorse, relationship and gratitude to his foster parents – read the full case study [here](#).

This case involved four teenage boys who vandalised a man's caravan and fire engine. Two boys agreed to take part in a RJ meeting, one boy, who had learning difficulties was supported to write a letter and the fourth had already apologised.

This media article is a case involving young people who threw a shopping trolley on a busy motorway which hit a young man's car, causing him to be badly injured. The young people and the person harmed came together in a face to face RJ meeting – read the media article [here](#).

Cases involving childhood sexual abuse

England: Childhood sexual abuse case – this case involved a stepfather who sexually assaulted his two stepdaughters – read the full case study [here](#).

England: Childhood sexual abuse case – this case involved a father who sexually abused his daughter – the father denied the crime and had since passed away. The harmed person's mother refused to believe the abuse and a restorative process took place – read the full case study [here](#).

England: Childhood sexual abuse case – this case involved a father who sexually abused his daughter – 40 years after the crime – the daughter met her father in a restorative meeting – read the full case study [here](#).

Cases involving sexual violence

England: This case involved a woman who experienced sexual violence from a man she knew – the man was convicted and imprisoned – 6 years later a restorative meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#).

Ireland: This case involved a woman who experienced sexual violence from a stranger – the man was convicted and imprisoned – 9 years later a restorative meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#) and click [here](#) to watch a film of the restorative justice meeting, where the survivor plays herself.

England: This case involved a woman who experienced sexual violence by a man – it's unclear from the case study if the man was known to the woman. The man was convicted and imprisoned – 14 years later she met with her attacker in a restorative justice meeting – read the full case study [here](#).

Ireland: This case involved a woman who experienced sexual violence by a man. It is not clear in which context (e.g. by a stranger, someone she knew etc.) While the man was in custody a restorative meeting took place to allow the woman to ask questions about the crime and to show him that she was making steps to move on with her life – read the full case study [here](#).

Cases involving intimate partner violence

England: This case involved a woman who was violently attacked by her ex-partner, which left her seriously injured in hospital. Her ex-partner was convicted and imprisoned – 7 years after the attack, a restorative meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#). You can watch a short clip of her case [here](#).

England: This case involved a woman who was violently attacked by her ex-partner, leaving her seriously injured. Her ex-partner was convicted and remains imprisoned – a restorative meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#).

Cases involving hate crime

England: This case involves a woman with a learning disability who was subject to repeat harm by young people within the local community. Two young people responsible for the harm caused took part in a restorative meeting with the harmed person's mum and wrote apology letters to the woman with the learning disability – read the full case study [here](#).

England: These case studies do not involve a 'traditional restorative justice process', but show the benefits of [restorative approaches](#) and [restorative conversations](#) in relation to hate crime.

Cases involving murder

England: This case involved a man who was murdered as a result of a punch to the face on a night out. The person responsible received a custodial sentence, the parents of the man who was killed took part in a restorative justice meeting – read the case study from the person responsible [here](#) and from the perspective of the victim's mother [here](#).

England: This case involved two parents whose son was murdered by three young people involved in a gang. Young people responsible for the crime all received custodial sentences. 9 years after the crime, a restorative justice meeting took place with two of the people responsible and 3 years later, another meeting took place with the third person responsible – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This is a case of murder in the context of an intimate partner relationship. The stepdaughter of the man responsible for killing her mother requested a restorative justice meeting after he was released following a 12 year custodial sentence – read the full case study [here](#).

Cases involving death by dangerous driving

England: This case involved death by dangerous driving – the person responsible was convicted and received a custodial sentence – her mother requested a restorative justice meeting – read the full case [here](#).

Cases involving violence and assault outwith intimate partner violence

England: This case involved a violent assault resulting in serious head injuries and the man requiring lifelong 24-hour care. The wife of the man attacked took part in a restorative justice meeting to ask questions on the reasons this has happened to her husband – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a young person who was punched in school by another young person – the punch resulted in the young person suffering sudden death syndrome and almost lead to his death – the young person who was punched did not wish to meet with the person responsible, however, his mother did and the meeting focussed on showing the person responsible pictures of their son to demonstrate to him the impact of his behaviour. This resulted in the person responsible writing a letter to the young person harmed, and his family – read the full case [here](#).

England: This case involved a man who was violently assaulted by another man. The man who was assaulted experienced serious injuries that required facial reconstruction surgery. The man who was harmed requested restorative justice for a long time and was denied access – 4 years after the attack, he was permitted to send the man who attacked him a letter while he was in prison – several years later a restorative justice meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#). Access this [link](#) for the perspective of the RJ facilitator in the case.

Ireland: This case involved a teenager who was assaulted by another teenager in a nightclub resulting in an injury to the eye and subsequent time off work. The person responsible pled guilty to the crime. A restorative meeting took place and an agreement was reached that the person responsible would pay compensation and complete voluntary work in the community – read the full case study [here](#).

Cases involving burglary

England: This case involved a young person who broke into someone's house by smashing their window. The young person received a youth referral order and the house owner asked for a restorative justice meeting to explain the impact his behaviour had on them – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a woman who had her house burgled resulting in the theft of sentimental items, including jewellery. The person responsible received a custodial sentence and shortly after, a restorative justice meeting took place in prison – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a women whose home was burgled by a man – he received a custodial sentence for his crime. The police referred the woman to a restorative justice service and a face to face meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a young couple who had their flat burgled. At the pre-sentence stage of the justice process, the couple took part in a restorative justice meeting and were advised by the service that they could request that the judge did not take into account the outcome of the restorative

justice meeting when sentencing the person responsible. However, the young couple wanted the judge to know the details of the meeting – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a man who burgled a family home – he received a custodial sentence and while in prison, a restorative justice meeting took place. This case resulted in the person harmed and person responsible establishing the charity [Whyme?](#) which facilitates restorative justice – watch a short film on the case [here](#).

England: This case involved a man who had a long history of committing burglaries. While serving a 5 year prison sentence, he wanted to engage in restorative justice to face up to what he has done and the impact on the people he harmed. 5 people who he harmed agreed to meet in a restorative justice meeting – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a women who had her house burgled and her car, laptop and additional items stolen. The person responsible was a 14 year old boy who admitted to the crime. Shortly after, a restorative justice meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a women who was burgled and subsequently had her car stolen by a young person. The person responsible was managed by youth offending services and contacted the women to see if she would participate in restorative justice. Although she wanted a face to face meeting, the facilitator advised this would not be appropriate due to risk issues. However, another type of restorative justice took place (indirect contact) in the form of audio recordings between the person harmed and person responsible – read the full case study [here](#).

Cases involving theft

England: This case involved a older women in a wheelchair who had her handbag stolen by a young person. Her son was with her when the incident took place. The person responsible received a community sentence and although the direct person harmed did not wish to meet with the person responsible, her son did. A restorative justice meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a woman who had her bike stolen by a man, which resulted in him receiving a custodial sentence. After he completed his prison sentence, the woman was contacted by a restorative justice service and a meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a women who has her bag stolen and the man responsible received a custodial sentence. Shortly after, she was contacted by the police as the person responsible wanted to take part in restorative justice – the women agreed and a meeting took place – read the full case study [here](#).

England: This case involved a boy who was robbed by three boys who had been bullying him at school. One of the boys was found guilty of the crime and they met in a restorative justice meeting – read the full case study [here](#).

Media cases involving people wishing to pursue Restorative Justice

These cases are media articles from England and Wales involving people who have noted an interest in exploring RJ.

This [article](#) involves MP Stephen Timms who said he would meet the person who stabbed him and speaks about the need to forgive the person who harmed him.

This [article](#) is about a mother whose daughter was raped and murdered by a man who is now imprisoned for the crime. The mother wishes to ask the man questions about how her daughter died.

Miscellaneous

This [link](#) provides a number of RJ case studies from the West Midlands involving injury by dangerous driving, racially motivated assault, burglary and neighbourhood disputes.

The following cases provide accounts from the persons responsible for causing harm. These young people took part in restorative justice meetings in relation to addressing the harm they caused from theft – read the case studies here [case study 1](#) and [case study 2](#).

Access this [link](#) for case studies of restorative practice within forensic mental health settings.

Access this [link](#) for a number of video clips of people who have taken part in restorative justice.



First published May 2022

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