

Restorative Justice Action Plan

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023



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Executive Summary

The Scottish Government's vision for the [Restorative Justice Action Plan](#) is:

“Restorative Justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it, and at a time that is appropriate to the people and case involved. Approaches taken must be 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.”

The Scottish Government have worked collaboratively with key stakeholders over the past year on the priorities of the Restorative Justice (RJ) Action Plan.

What's the progress so far?

1

Restorative Justice is available across Scotland

- The official launch of the National Hub for RJ.
- Two groups formed to oversee, discuss and consult on the development work of the Initial Test project – the RJ Project Group and a multiagency Sheriffdom Lothian and Borders Development Group.
- Publication of a mapping exercise of the Sheriffdom – Lothian and Borders.
- CJS submitted a Sheriffdom Referral Pathways Proposal Paper to the Scottish Government and CYCJ published an information sheet in relation to the referral routes for RJ for children and young people.
- The Criminal Justice Board granted the extension of the RJ Action Plan's timescales and the development of the national policy and practice framework document. This will be published in late Summer 2023.
- Publication of the Children's Hearing System Redesign report with recommendations for RJ.
- The Children's Rights Impact Assessment completed and submitted to the RJ stakeholder group for sign off.
- CJS completed a number of consultations and interviews with experts by lived experience on RJ principles and how a trauma-informed service should look like. CYCJ facilitated parallel engagement projects with children on their perceptions of RJ.
- Publication of the consultation with individuals convicted of sexual offences on RJ – The Voices of Those Who Have Harmed.

2

High quality Restorative Justice services are delivered by trained facilitators

- Publication of the Strathclyde University's Training Needs Analysis, informing a Scottish model for training development.
- Publication of the RJ Risk and Mitigation Strategies research, informing risk and policy development.
- CJS completed an online RJ Learning Module for operational staff and the public. To be published in November 2023.

3

There is a public awareness and understanding of Restorative Justice across Scotland

- CJS published a Key Messages and Useful Links briefing – an easy read format aimed at making information on RJ more accessible.
- Various presentations on the RJ Action Plan have taken place across numerous local authorities, organisations as well as national and international events.
- CJS hosted a workshop on risk and strengths assessments and frameworks for partnerships and organisations working in Gender-Based Violence.
- CJS, CYCJ and TS collaborated during the RJ Awareness Week 2022, increasing social media engagement with both the public and stakeholders.
- Publication of the RJ Sheriffdom Lothian and Borders Stakeholder Awareness Needs Report.

What's the next steps?

The Scottish Government will continue to work with stakeholders Community Justice Scotland, Children and Young People's Centre for Justice and Thriving Survivors on the next steps of the action plan, which include:

- The continuation of the World Café Research Project and evaluation of its findings to inform the policy and practice framework document.
- The testing of RJ cases within the Sheriffdom in partnership with existing RJ providers and the Community Justice Partnerships as well as children services.
- The delivery of a paper identifying potential models for an RJ service and its advancement across Scotland to inform the Scottish Government's decision making.
- Published Communications Strategy to improve awareness and understanding of RJ in Scotland.
- Publication of an online RJ Learning module with access to both professionals and the public.
- Increased communication with the public via social media and delivered RJ awareness events.
- Supporting Community Justice Partnerships, Children's Services and

their stakeholders in developing restorative justice approaches and services across Scotland.

- Development of a programme of work in RJ which supports this as a transformational change workstream under the Vision for Justice in Scotland.

The Scottish Government's Vision of Restorative Justice

The Scottish Government's vision for the [Restorative Justice Action Plan](#) is:

“Restorative Justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it, and at a time that is appropriate to the people and case involved. 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.”

This report will provide an overview of the progress for the RJ Action Plan during the third year of delivery: April 2022 – March 2023. This will be detailed under a number of headings with relevance to the three outcomes of the RJ action plan, as detailed below. The report will conclude with the next steps for the RJ Action Plan, challenges and a summary.

1

Restorative Justice is available across Scotland

2

High quality Restorative Justice services are delivered by trained facilitators

3

There is a strong public awareness and understanding of Restorative Justice in Scotland

Progress of the Restorative Justice Action Plan

This section of the report will detail the progress of the RJ Action Plan under subject headings and consider how these activities have satisfied the outcomes of it.

1. Outcome One – Restorative Justice is Available Across Scotland

1.1. The National Hub for Restorative Justice

After a successful identification of the Sheriffdom – Lothian and Borders – for the Initial Test Project of the RJ Action Plan, three projects have been funded to oversee the Restorative Justice service nationally. The National Hub for Restorative Justice officially launched on the 30th and 31st of May 2022 and consists of the following: Community Justice Scotland (CJS) – responsible for overseeing, monitoring and evaluation of the service. Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ) – supporting the Initial Test Project by incorporating the needs and rights of children and young people. Thriving Survivors (TS) – developing a Restorative Justice sexual harm service.

1.2. Restorative Justice Project Group

The representatives from the Scottish Government, CJS, CYCJ, Thriving Survivors and Police Scotland formed a working project group to deliver the outcomes of the [Restorative Justice Action Plan 2019-2023](#) and continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the reporting period. Two development days were designed for the key partners of this group and took place in August 2022 and January 2023. The first one aimed to clarify the roles and responsibilities as well as enhance collaborative working. A plan of work was developed, which specifically outlined the responsibilities of the project group members. This was then followed by another development day which allowed the attendees to reflect on the work done so far and decide the priorities moving forward, as well as clarify the communication both internally and externally. It was agreed to have changes to the frequency and set up of the RJ Project Group meetings which are currently being trialled.

1.3. Sheriffdom Lothian and Borders Mapping Exercise

The initial test project began with a mapping exercise of the Sheriffdom area to provide more information regarding current service provision, identifying gaps and ascertain the local need and resource provision required to expand

RJ services. It took place from the 26th of April to the 17th of June 2022 and was done in survey format and online consultations. CJS published the [Sheriffdom Lothian and Borders Mapping Outcomes Report](#) in August 2022 and presented it to the key stakeholders of the Sheriffdom. The report has also been provided to Scottish Government and will influence work to identify sustainable models for RJ delivery to be completed in 2023/24.

1.4. Sheriffdom Lothian and Borders Development Group

Following the survey mapping exercise and additional online consultations in the Sheriffdom Lothian and Borders, it emerged that a Restorative Justice Development Group would be helpful as a stepping stone to enable a more formal, multiagency Sheriffdom group to coordinate the delivery of Restorative Justice in line with the vision provided by the RJ Action Plan. The Group has been established in August 2022 and has over 60 members to-date.

CJS hosted three meetings so far. Meeting one focused on the progress of the funded projects – the Lothian and Borders Mapping Exercise Report, the outcomes of the Training Needs Analysis and the development of the Restorative Justice Sexual Harm Service by Thriving Survivors. The second meeting focused on the Restorative Justice risk and mitigation to inform good practice and the third meeting on Restorative Justice and trauma informed approaches as well as related policy and strategy matters. Full meetings' minutes can be accessed [here](#).

The group aims to provide on-going discussion, consultation and development work in relation to the Initial Test Project however further meetings have been postponed until clarification on future funding and project's timescales are provided by the Scottish Government. Further sub-groups were formed too to support information sharing and a trauma informed risk and strengths RJ framework however due to the postponed submission of the policy proposal paper to the Criminal Justice Board the scheduled sessions were cancelled and will be re-scheduled.

1.5. National Policy and Practice Framework

As outlined in the Annual Report 2021-2022, the collaborative work on the Code of Practice highlighted a gap in policy related to a number of key areas across the establishment of RJ in Scotland. These include the expectation on services in relation to RJ, the operation in RJ in parallel to the criminal justice system, and further clarity on resource to support the implementation of the Gloucestershire Model in Scotland. In April 2022, Community Justice Scotland and the Scottish Government presented to the Criminal Justice

Board on Restorative Justice, international models and the challenges and opportunities presented for Scotland in offering this nationally.

To inform the national policy and resource decision-making, CJS submitted a Sheriffdom Referral Pathways Proposal Paper to the Scottish Government in December 2022, which informed the Government on challenges and opportunities presented through differing referral pathways across a range of organisations. CYCJ published an [information sheet](#) in relation to the referral routes for RJ for children and young people in November 2022.

In January 2023, the Scottish Government and CJS presented a paper to the Criminal Justice Board advising on the progress to date in RJ development, opportunities for further engagement and outlining the need for a national RJ policy for Scotland as well as an extension to existing 2019-2023 timescales. CYCJ have contributed to the policy and practice proposal paper, ensuring the rights and needs of children and young people are incorporated. Both recommendations – the extension of timescales and the development of the policy and practice framework document have been signed off by the Criminal Justice Board. The policy document is currently underway, co-produced by the Scottish Government, Community Justice Scotland, stakeholders and those with lived experience of harm, and will be published in Summer 2023.

To ensure a joint-up approach, CYCJ also presented their RJ work to the Scottish Government's Youth Justice Team and met with the Victims and Witnesses Team in relation to the CYCJ work plan and how it may complement that of the RJ Action Plan.

1.6. Restorative Justice and Children's Hearing System

As part of the review of the Children's Hearing system, the CYCJ team met with the Children's Hearing System working group in November 2022 to discuss the synergies between Restorative Justice and family group decision making, and how RJ may fit with future changes to the Hearing System. This was followed by a report written by CYCJ and shared with the wider Hearing System working group for consideration. [The Children's Hearing System Redesign report](#) was published in May 2023 with a recommendation that Restorative Justice should be consistently available across Scotland.

1.7. The Children's Rights Impact Assessment

The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice completed The Children's Rights Impact Assessment in relation to the Restorative Justice Action Plan in late 2022. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) articles which impacted include:

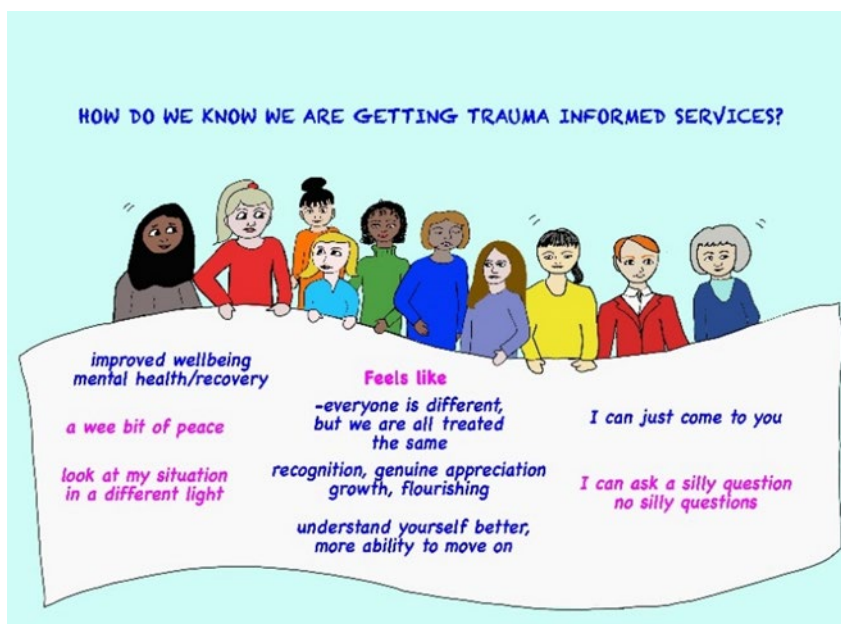
- Article 1 – (definition of a child)
- Article 2 – (non-discrimination)
- Article 3 – (best interests of the child)
- Article 5 – (parental guidance and a child’s evolving capacities)
- Article 12 – (respect for the views of the child)
- Article 23 – (children with a disability)
- Article 40 - (juvenile justice)

The document has been circulated to stakeholders working in Children’s Rights for feedback and is awaiting publication.

1.8. Restorative Justice World Café Research Project

Community Justice Scotland has published a paper in support of the development of a trauma informed risk and strengths framework. It introduces a model of the framework’s principles which fuses trauma informed principles with those of Restorative Justice and will be used in the RJ Policy and Practice Framework document. CJS aims to complete a series of consultations on these principles with experts by lived and professional experience.

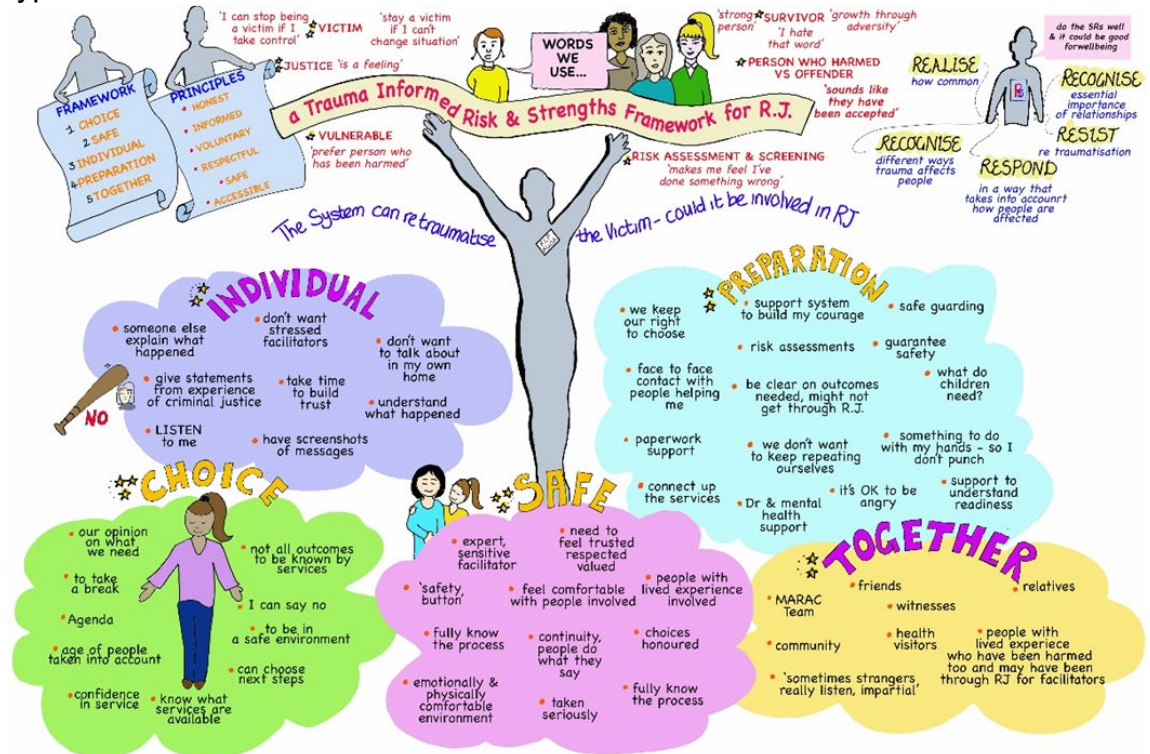
Two consultations, in the format of World Cafés, took place in March 2023 with individuals who have experienced harm. Both carefully considered what people need in an RJ service that respects choice, safety, preparation, togetherness and individuality. The conversations have been captured by notes, audio recordings and live graphic illustrations.



On the 18th of March, Safe Lives hosted the RJ National team in Dundee to facilitate a World Café with those who have specifically experienced domestic abuse:



On the 31st of March, Resilience Learning Partnership hosted the team in Alloa for a World Café with those who have experienced a range of harm types:



Further World Café consultations are planned to take place in the coming months, with a focus on those who have caused harm and professionals. A one-to-one interview format is also offered as an alternative for those who do not wish to participate in a group setting. Output from the World Cafés and the interviews will be analysed and used to directly inform the development of a person-centred policy, RJ screening tools and service development.

In parallel to the World Cafés carried out by CJS, Children and Young People's Centre for Justice completed three separate engagement projects for children aged over 12 to gain a deeper understanding of their perceptions on Restorative Justice. The participation worker and RJ coordinator engaged with children with justice experience in a school setting, children with additional support needs also in a school setting, and children in a local youth group. The projects ran over a 5-week period, finishing in May 2023. The information gathered will be collated to reflect on how RJ is presented to young people, and how to break down barriers to participating in Restorative Justice. In addition, further projects will be delivered for children under the age of criminal responsibility, engagement with parent's/carer's and for professionals working with children and young people.

1.9. Restorative Justice and Sexual Harm: The Voices of Those Who Have Harmed

Midlothian Community Justice Partnership in collaboration with CJS completed a consultation with individuals convicted of sexual offences on RJ, aimed at understanding motivational factors of taking part in the Restorative Justice process from the perspective of an individual who has caused harm. The voices captured provide a contribution to knowledge in shaping service and policy design, ensuring RJ processes are safe, appropriate, evidence-led and trauma informed for all parties that wish to engage with them.

44 male adults convicted of a sexual offence(s) and in custody were interviewed during the qualitative study, with their responses forming a comparative study to [The National Consultation: Survivors Voices](#), published by Thriving Survivors in 2021, which captured the views of survivors of sexual and domestic abuse on Restorative Justice.

[The Voices of Those Who Have Harmed](#) research paper was published in March 2023. Being one of few studies examining RJ from the person's responsible for harm perspective, this work was recognised at the Scottish Social Services Awards ceremony in 2022, winning the Excellence in Justice Services Award for its innovation.

2. Outcome Two – High Quality RJ Services are Delivered by Trained Facilitators

2.1. Strathclyde University – Training Development

Strathclyde University completed a national [Training Needs Analysis](#) (TNA) to inform RJ training requirements necessary against the ambition of the RJ Action Plan. This included a series of consultations with stakeholders identified as providing awareness, facilitation and support. The TNA also included a review of existing training programmes and providers, a consultation exercise on what they can offer, and an accompanying estimation of who is currently trained in RJ. The research has been published and the key themes presented to the stakeholders of the Sheriffdom Lothian and Borders in August 2022. The aim is to produce a programme of training requirements and include a knowledge and competency framework, standards of practice and evaluation measurements.

Included in the proposal are a series of phases that follow on from the TNA, these include:

- Phase 2 – an accessible RJ training package, which will be accredited at postgraduate level by The University of Strathclyde
- Phase 3 – a curriculum of modules designed to qualify practitioners in different levels of RJ
- Phase 4 – a comprehensive accredited training programme offering an independent qualification to practice in RJ in Scotland

Phase 2-4 require further funding, and this will be considered by the Scottish Government in consultation with the RJ Stakeholder Group.

2.2. Migration and Risk in Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice academics from the University of Sheffield, University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Napier University completed research into research risk mitigation strategies utilised by experienced Restorative Justice facilitators for participation in a Restorative Justice process. The research aimed to highlight how these facilitators identify risks (including specialist and complex cases), what instruments they use, and their experience of the effectiveness of the risk mitigation measures.

The academics undertook 28 interviews with a total of 30 experienced facilitators (one interview was with a group of three interviewees from one provider) from Scotland, England and Wales, Northern Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Republic of Ireland, France, Austria and Estonia

to inform the policy and practice development for the Scottish Government's Restorative Justice Action Plan. The report was published in August 2022 and can be accessed [here](#).

2.3. Restorative Justice Online Learning Module

In response to a consultation on how to improve RJ knowledge and communication with stakeholders in November 2022, the Community Justice Scotland National team commissioned the development of an online learning module for operational staff and wider public on RJ. This is a basic introduction to the topic, explaining what it is, how the approach can work, its benefits and common misconceptions. The resource includes links and videos to aid learning, and also offers a certificate on completion of a short knowledge check. The module takes around 20-30 minutes to complete and will be accessible to both stakeholder services and the public via the [CJS Restorative Justice learning hub](#). Testing and refining the draft version is currently underway, with further testing across stakeholders to follow. The publication is scheduled for the end of November 2023.

3. Outcome Three – Raising Awareness and Understanding of Restorative Justice

This section of the report will detail communication and awareness raising with both the public and stakeholders/services.

3.1. Key Messages and Publications

The concept of Restorative Justice comes in many formats and looks different for everyone involved thus can be complicated to explain and understand. Community Justice Scotland has published a [Key Messages and Useful Links](#) briefing in August 2022. Its easy read format is aimed at making information more accessible, giving the basic information on what Restorative Justice means and what the process involves as well as providing useful links to further reading materials.

CYCJ continues to update on an annual basis, the Restorative Justice Chapter within '[Children and young people in conflict with the law: policy, practice and legislation](#)'. This chapter encapsulates all the relevant policy, research and practice for those working with children in conflict with the law. The most recent version can be found [here](#).

In November 2022 CYCJ published an information sheet on '[How Children Can Access Restorative Justice](#)'. This information sheet links the current referral routes with the Whole System Approach and highlights the importance of ensuring processes are underpinned by Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

3.2. Restorative Justice Presentations and Events

Community Justice Scotland and Children and Young People's Centre for Justice participated and provided various inputs and needs-led discussions on the RJ Action Plan across numerous local authorities and organisations as well as attended national and international events.

The delivered presentations and events that have taken place throughout the reporting period of the RJ Action Plan are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

These aimed to raise awareness and understanding of RJ among 'referring practitioners,' defined as individuals who come in contact with people harmed, people responsible and other relevant parties (e.g. family members). The inputs were modified to suit particular agencies and involved both face to face and/or online meetings, covered information relating, but not limited to, an overview of RJ, involving a definition, principles, the vision of RJ in Scotland and the progress of the Action Plan.

3.3. Gender Based Violence and Restorative Justice

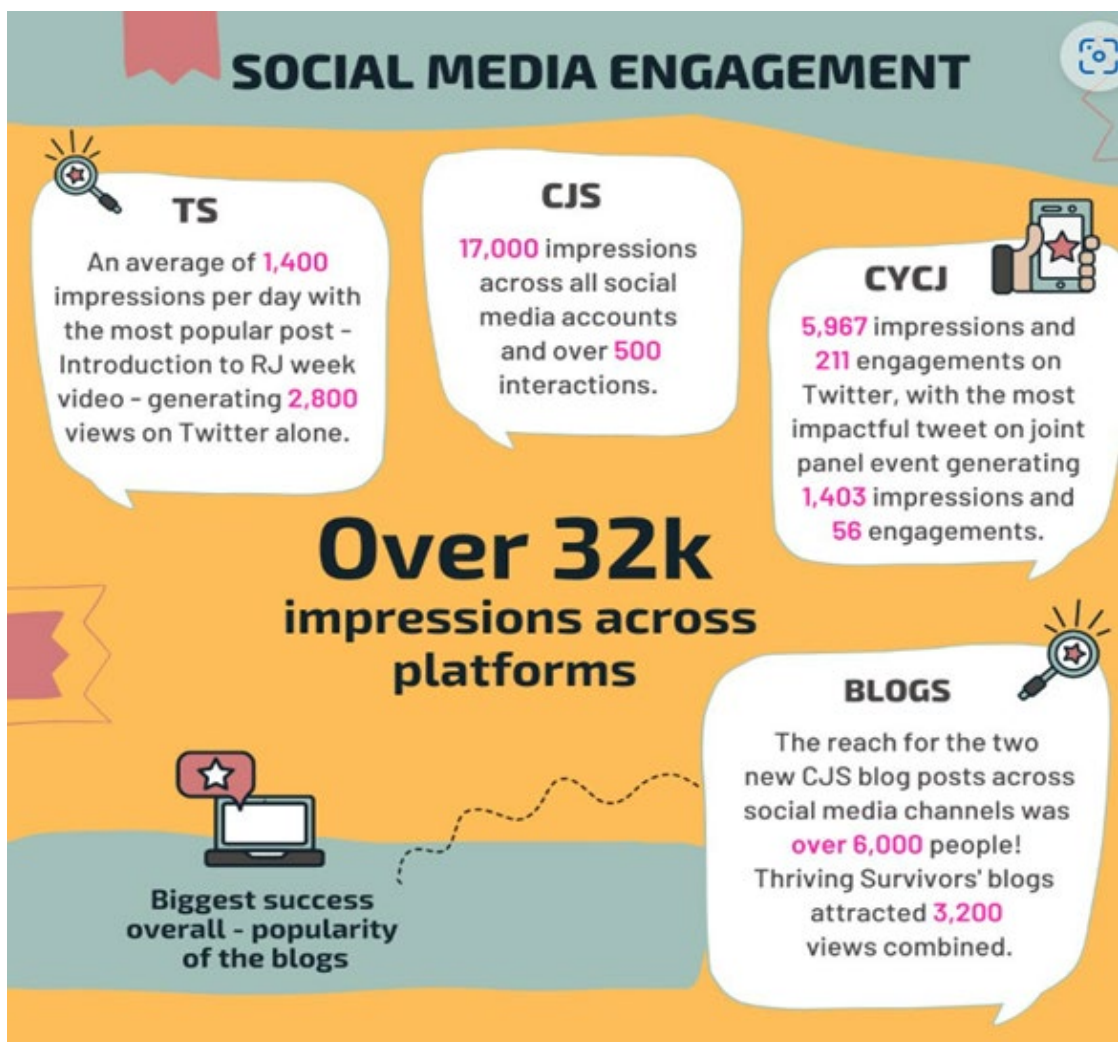
Community Justice Scotland continues to engage with the VAW sector: it holds a mailing list with over 60 members with whom shares the latest updates on the progress of the RJ Action Plan and other relevant information.

CJS and the Improvement Service hosted a workshop on the 8th of June 2022 with the VAW partnership, national VAW contacts and the Caledonian system to discuss risk, strengths and mitigation of the RJ risk assessment tools used in other countries for sexual violence and domestic abuse cases. The workshop invited discussion from partners in attendance on how these might be replicated, improved and/or disregarded in favour of a process more reflective of Scottish needs. The outcome of this consultation proved a further discussion was needed on risk assessment and mitigation in specific harm types. To support this, CJS will conduct further research with people who have caused and experienced harm and present the findings to professionals for more directed interactions in 2023/24.

CJS national team has also completed the inputs on RJ at East Ayrshire VAW Partnership, Women's Aid East and Midlothian, Rape Crisis Edinburgh in this reporting period.

3.4. Restorative Justice Awareness Week 2022

Community Justice Scotland, Children and Young People's Centre for Justice and Thriving Survivors collaborated on the content of communications during the RJ week in November 2022, raising awareness amongst the public and decision makers, promoting RJ to existing and new audiences in the UK and globally. Spreading the word about the transformative effect RJ can have on the lives of people affected by crime, the three organisations shared appropriate messages and documents relevant to the RJ development in Scotland, using the hashtags #RJWeek2022, #RestorativeScotland, resulting in increased social media engagement with both the public and stakeholders. The posts gathered over 32k impressions across all platforms.



The week culminated with a live panel and Q&A partnership event on the 25th of November, hosted by Thriving Survivors and joined by CJS, CYCJ and the Scottish Government as panel speakers to discuss what a well-functioning national RJ service will look like in Scotland. The event was a great success with an engaged audience and received positive feedback.

3.5. Stakeholder Communication and RJ Awareness Needs Consultation

As part of the Restorative Justice Initial test project within the Lothian and Borders Sheriffdom area, the Community Justice Scotland RJ national team is tasked with delivering awareness raising events/ publications to ensure that stakeholders have as much information about RJ as is necessary for their role. A consultation within the Lothian and Borders Sheriffdom has been conducted by CJS to identify the stakeholder communication needs around RJ themes, with a view to replicating this across Scotland as RJ rolls out over time. A mixed methods anonymous survey has been circulated to 60 recipients and a total of 19 responses were received. A [Restorative Justice Sheriffdom Lothian and Borders Stakeholder Awareness Needs Report](#) was published in February 2023.

The survey demonstrated that 18 respondents were aware of the test project, and the majority had 'limited' or 'fair' knowledge of RJ. All respondents agreed that training on RJ would be beneficial and indicated the elements and format preferred, with almost all stakeholders noting an interest in some specific thematic training.

Chart 1: Respondents Perception of Usefulness of RJ Training



Table 2: Thematic Training Requirements of Respondents

General RJ	6
Restorative approaches / practices	9
RJ and gender-based violence	8
RJ and domestic abuse	8
RJ and sexual abuse	7
RJ and children / young people	8
RJ for specialist and complex cases	7
RJ and risk assessment / mitigation strategies	8
RJ and the Justice system in Scotland	6
Lived experience of RJ	6
Supporting people who have been harmed through the RJ process	6
Supporting people who have caused harm through the RJ process	6
Information sharing	7
Other (not stated)	2

The survey also highlighted the following two communication routes: newsletters were the most popular medium for stakeholders to receive updates from the RJ Project Group, and a feedback form from stakeholders to the Project team was the desirable approach to share ideas on a scheduled or ad-hoc basis. The themes identified have been shared with the Scottish Government and CJS is working on a response for stakeholders.

Next Steps

Significant progress has been highlighted across all outcomes of the RJ Action Plan within 2022- 23, however this has not been without identifying risks, challenges and learning throughout the period in order to fuel continuous improvement across approaches taken.

Risk, Challenges and Learning

Table 2: Risk, Challenges and accompanying Learning and Mitigation

Risk/Challenge	Learning/Mitigation
<p>Timescales:</p> <p>COVID-19 has resulted in significant delays across the justice system, and competing pressures on services. The 2023 deadline originally provided for the RJ Vision in Scotland has been significantly impacted and stakeholders report an inability to resource RJ within existing services,</p>	<p>CJS, CYCJ, Scottish Government and stakeholders remain committed to the delivery plan, however the priority remains a safe, appropriate and sufficiently resourced RJ model for Scotland over a challenging timescale commitment. The 2023 deadline has been extended and the delivery</p>

<p>placing a requirement on Scottish Government to consider additional resource/funding for this purpose.</p>	<p>timescales will remain continuously revisited to ensure this, and Scottish Government are aware and open to discussion from all stakeholders on additional time periods required to support improved partnership working in this area.</p>
<p>Funding and Resource:</p> <p>Increased pressures of the wider economic context have impacted on national deliberations on funding and/or resource required to develop and roll out a national RJ service.</p>	<p>In order to support Scottish Government in their consideration to ongoing RJ resource which meets the vision set out in the action plan, CJS will trial RJ cases within the Sheriffdom, in partnership with existing RJ providers and Community Justice Partnerships. Learning from this across clear test criteria will inform an options appraisal paper for Scottish Government to be published in Autumn 2023.</p>
<p>Clarity on how the service operates:</p> <p>Clarity is required from criminal justice stakeholders on how RJ in Scotland will operate in parallel to the criminal and community justice system, in a manner which supports transparency, safety and fairness. This includes where cases remain 'live' in the system, where RJ cases are not reported to Police and where child and/or adult protection concerns may exist.</p>	<p>Criminal Justice Board and Scottish Government approved a Policy Framework for RJ which will seek to provide greater clarity on the issues outlined. This will require close partnership working and involvement of those who have both caused and experienced harm in Scotland. This will ensure a considered approach is taken so we can build the foundations for trauma-responsive and inclusive RJ provision across Scotland as a safe, inclusive and parallel process to the criminal justice system.</p>
<p>Improving buy-in, engagement and understanding in RJ:</p> <p>As a result of the delays to action plan delivery, uncertain funding and resource for RJ and the ongoing development of policy, reinvigorating stakeholder buy-in to the project has been increasingly more necessary.</p> <p>Awareness and understanding in RJ remains patchy across services and communities. Mixed messaging, compounded by the media and international practices have impacted on this.</p>	<p>In order to support stakeholders in their understanding and support to the delivery of the RJ vision, a stakeholder survey was completed to inform innovative and effective engagement across a range of communication needs. As a result, CJS will develop a communications strategy for 2023/24, an RJ learning module to support operation staff in their developed understanding of RJ, and also key messages, briefings and inputs to a range of partnerships and organisations.</p> <p>CJS will also seek to work across Community Justice Partnerships and as a</p>

	workstream under the Vision for Justice in Scotland to best understand local engagement needs and design appropriate activity to address these.
<p>Need for further partnership working with Gender-Based Violence Sector</p> <p>Organisations working to address VAWG and GBV have communicated the need for Scotland’s RJ provision to be responsive to the needs of those affected by GBV and for RJ providers to have a thorough understanding of the unique risks, challenges and complexities in cases involving GBV. There is a need for further partnership working with GBV and VAWG organisations to develop robust risk assessment processes in order to ensure that Scotland’s RJ provision is safe, trauma-responsive and available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it.</p>	<p>Timescales will now be extended beyond 2023 as outlined above. Ministers have reiterated that the priority is to take the time to get things right and develop robust and safe services. Further engagement is planned to ensure robust development of practice and a meeting will take place between the Ministers and representatives from the sector in early 2023.</p>
<p>Increasing demand for accessible RJ across Scotland</p> <p>As a result of increased media interest and the ongoing development of RJ resource and awareness raising across Scotland, people who have both caused and experienced harm are actively seeking to explore RJ without the national resource to do so currently.</p>	<p>CJS will support the testing of RJ cases within the Sheriffdom, which are identified by stakeholders and/or achieved through tests in self-referral pathways. This will generate case studies and learning to inform Scottish Government on the resource and capacity needed to support more individuals to access RJ in the Sheriffdom, and thereafter across Scotland. The model identified will require flexibility and consideration to equality impact and the needs of rural and island communities.</p>

Conclusion

Despite delays, the COVID-19 pandemic has not halted the considerable achievements made within all three priority areas of the RJ Action Plan. This includes the publication of documents and research papers that will play a key role in informing the development of safe, trauma-informed restorative justice service in Scotland, the development of specialist RJ training tools and frameworks, and continued engagement with key stakeholders within the Sheriffdom area and wider engagement with Community Justice Partnerships. It is essential that this momentum is maintained, and the RJ stakeholder group continue to play a crucial role in ensuring the commitment, participation and engagement of stakeholders, both at a national and local level. To prudently meet the aims and vision of the RJ Action Plan, the Scottish Government have also granted the extension of the project's timescales and the development of the national policy and practice framework document.

While challenges undoubtedly exist on the path to RJ service development in Scotland, the stakeholders will be better placed to meet them by remaining focused on the shared goals and continuing to work together. Partnership and collaboration within and beyond the sector are vital to ensure that impact and opportunities are enhanced through sharing resources, expertise, and best practice. The engagement of those with lived experiences of harm, as facilitated by CJS and CYCJ, remains pivotal in the ongoing development of the test project. Organisations keen to engage and lend support are encouraged to reach out to the authors of this report. Increased partnership working will also serve to raise RJ's profile among a broader spectrum of stakeholders and the public, driving forward this transformative initiative.

Appendix 1: Restorative Justice Action Plan Inputs, Participation in National and International Events

Stakeholders		Engagement
Local authorities (CJS)	<p>CJPs: Perth and Kinross Fife and Ayrshire East Dunbartonshire Aberdeenshire Dumfries and Galloway North Lanarkshire Justice Social Work</p> <p>VAWG Partnerships: East Ayrshire East Lothian social work and VAW lead Edinburgh Equally Safe</p>	<p>RJ Action Plan presentation and feedback from stakeholders on activity to date</p> <p>Awareness raising, development of partnership support to local project planning in RJ</p>
Local authorities (CYCJ)	<p>South Lanarkshire x 2 Clackmannanshire East Ayrshire x 2</p> <p>Edinburgh Dundee x 2 North Lanarkshire West Dunbartonshire East Lothian Glasgow</p>	<p>RJ Action Plan presentation and feedback from stakeholders on activity to date</p> <p>Awareness raising, development of partnership support to local project planning in RJ</p>
Third Sector (CJS)	<p>Women's Aid East and Midlothian Rape Crisis Edinburgh Shakti Women's Aid (Edinburgh) Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum</p>	<p>RJ Action Plan presentation and feedback from stakeholders on activity to date</p> <p>Awareness raising, development of partnership support to local project planning in RJ</p>
Third Sector (CYCJ)	<p>SACRO Action for Children Includem Youthlink Scotland</p>	<p>RJ Action Plan presentation and feedback from stakeholders on activity to date</p> <p>Awareness raising, development of partnership support to local project planning in RJ</p> <p>Discussion with the organisations on how they can be supported to set up their own RJ service (Action for Children, Includem)</p>

Other (CJS)	<p>Meeting with Dutch Delegates (Pedagogy) at CJS</p> <p>Workshops to George Watsons College</p> <p>RJ week panel event in Glasgow</p> <p>Glasgow Law Symposium for RJ</p> <p>RJ Conference in Prague, Czech Republic</p> <p>SG trauma-informed Peer Learning Support Workshop</p> <p>Trauma Informed Lawyers</p> <p>Violence Reduction Unit</p> <p>HMP Edinburgh</p>	<p>Improving knowledge and awareness of RJ, progress in Scotland and the next steps in progressing the RJ Action Plan</p> <p>Support to school age children in understanding RJ, its benefits and limitations</p> <p>Participation in expert panels on RJ for students, academics and professionals</p> <p>Discussing RJ as a trauma-responsive practice, which can be utilised within justice settings as part of the achievement of the Vision for Justice in Scotland</p> <p>Developing relationships between organisations in order to develop new pathways for RJ and restorative practice trials</p>
Other (CYCJ)	<p>EEL (the Early and Effective Intervention) forum</p> <p>Glasgow Law Symposium for RJ</p> <p>EGG (Executive Governance Group)</p> <p>The Promise Scotland</p> <p>Chief Inspector of Prisons</p> <p>SPS – Governor of Polmont</p> <p>Scottish Government Youth justice team</p> <p>RJ week panel event in Glasgow</p> <p>Meeting with Dutch Delegates (Pedagogy) at CJS</p>	<p>Give an update on the RJ action plan</p> <p>Provide an overview of RJ, benefits and barriers and update the current position in Scotland</p> <p>Provide an update and how this may fit the review of the Children’s Hearing Review.</p> <p>Update on the RJ action plan</p> <p>Find out about the current RJ services in Polmont and offer support to enhance these.</p> <p>Provide information on how the RJ and youth justice priorities can work in partnership</p> <p>Raise awareness</p> <p>Update on the current RJ work in Scotland</p>



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