

“Restorative Justice is a compass, not a map.”

Howard Zehr- Little Book of Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice promotes values and principles that use inclusive, collaborative approaches for being in community. These approaches validate the experiences and needs of everyone within the community, particularly those who have been marginalized, oppressed or harmed. These approaches allow us to act and respond in ways that are healing rather than alienating or coercive. (Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Judy H. Mullet)

Restorative Justice is a process where all stakeholders affected by an injustice have an opportunity to discuss how they have been affected by the injustice and to decide what should be done to repair the harm. With crime, restorative justice is about the idea that because crime hurts, justice should heal. It follows that conversations with those who have been hurt and with those who have inflicted the harm must be central to the process. (John Braithwaite)

1. How are we taking the time and space to build relationships with the young people in our care?
2. How does our engagement respect and value the relationships that are important to young people?
3. How are we engaging, understanding, and addressing the harm and needs of all stakeholders?
4. How are we centering the primary stakeholders in the decision-making processes?
5. How are we supporting youth to experience success in meeting their obligations to victims, families, communities, and themselves?
6. How are we reflecting upon and taking responsibility for the potential harms that we are causing to young people, families, and communities?