

Our aim

We aim to help both victims and young people move on from crime, and help to repair the harm caused. We aim to provide victims with a safe and supportive place to explain the impact an offence has had on them. We give young people the opportunity to accept responsibility for their offending and make amends for the harm they have caused.

How to get in touch

For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact 01223 507220 and ask to speak to a member of the Restorative Justice Team.

If no one is available, please leave a message with the Admin Service and we will return your call as soon as possible.

For more information about the Youth Justice System and Restorative Justice, go to <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/yjb/> or <http://www.restorativejustice.org.uk>

Restorative Justice Team

Cambridgeshire Youth Offending Service

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If you would like a copy of the text of this leaflet in large print, Braille, audio tape, CD or in another language, please call 01223 507220 or email YOS.

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Restorative Justice Services

Cambridgeshire Youth Offending
Service (YOS)



What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a way of dealing with an offence which involves the victim and the young person.

It allows those who have been affected by the offence to have a voice in the justice process. It enables them to look at how best the harm can be repaired and what steps can be taken to help them to move forward.

It gives victims the chance to have their say – to tell the young person how they have been affected by the offence. It also gives them the chance to ask questions, which for many, provides a sense of closure that can help them move on with their lives.

“ **It helped me to know how my mum and brother felt** ” **young person**

Restorative Justice allows the young person to take responsibility for what they've done – it helps them understand the real impact of their behaviour and gives them the chance to repair the harm they've caused.

“ **Hearing how the incident affected each other in different ways** ” **victim**

What does this mean for me?

Once the young person has received their Court Order, you will be contacted by a member of the Restorative Justice Team.

A Restorative Justice Officer will arrange a convenient time to come out and meet you either at your home address or another suitable place.

“ **It gave me the chance to understand why he did it – I got my answers** ” **victim**

The purpose of the meeting is to listen to you – to hear what happened, how it affected you and what you feel you need in order to move on from the offence.

The Restorative Justice Officer will also talk through the options that are available to you through the Restorative Justice Team.

“ **I could put my point across instead of it coming from other people** ” **young person**

Different Restorative Justice Processes

There is the potential for any one, or combination of the following to happen under the guidance of professionals:

- A face-to-face meeting between the victim and young person.
- The sharing of information between the victim and young person (for example, particular questions the victim may need/want answering)
- A letter of explanation (your address will never be disclosed to a young person and any letter will be passed via our team).
- Direct or indirect reparation – some kind of practical amends carried out by the young person to repair the harm caused (e.g. repainting a wall with graffiti on, helping to replace a broken window etc.) which would be supervised by a Youth Offending Service Officer.

A face-to-face meeting with the victim and young person will only take place if, and when, it is suitable, and will be facilitated by a trained Restorative Justice Officer. It is a voluntary process and will only go ahead if all parties involved agree to take part.