

Building the Restorative City

Dr Marian Liebmann

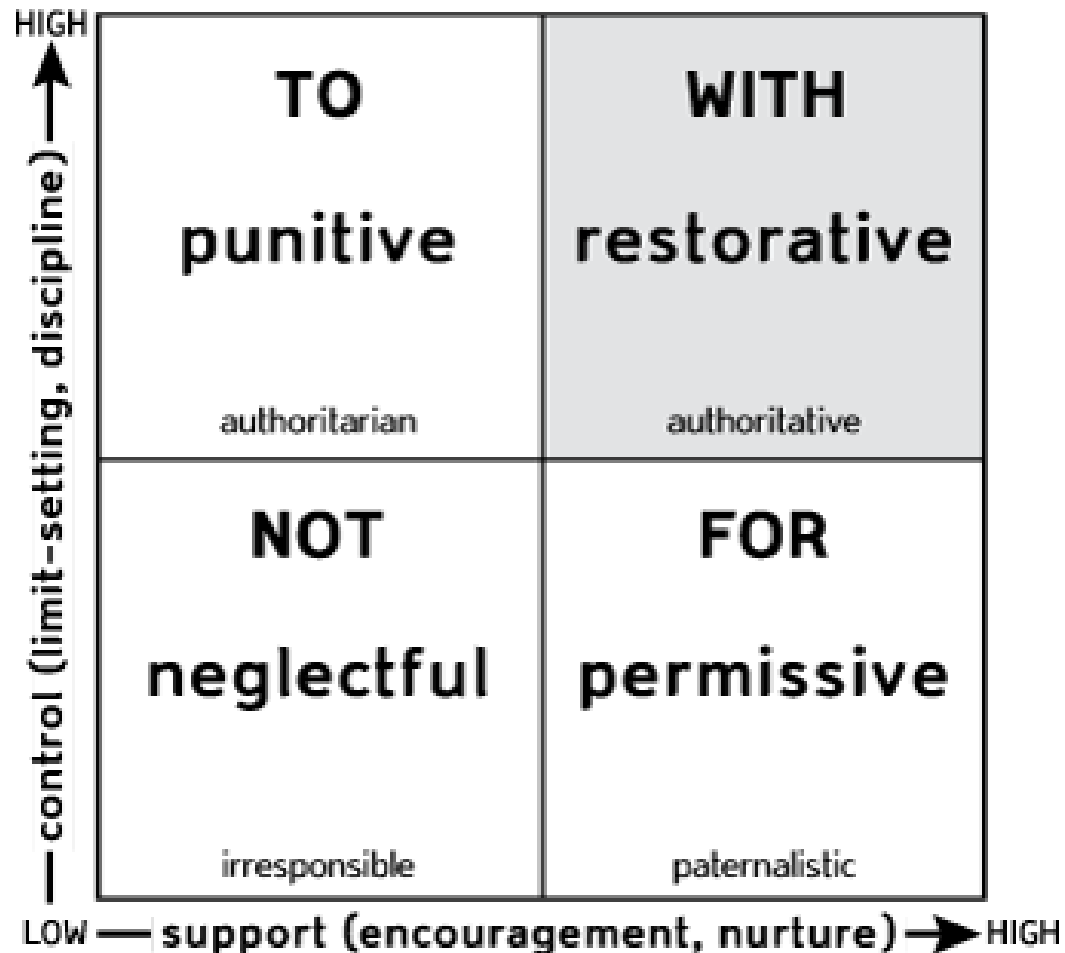
**9th International Conference of the European
Forum for Restorative Justice**

22-24 June 2016 – Leiden, The Netherlands

Values of Restorative Justice (Zehr)

- Does the model address harms, needs and causes?
- Is it adequately victim-oriented?
- Are offenders encouraged to take responsibility?
- Are all relevant stakeholders involved?
- Is there an opportunity for dialogue and participatory decision-making?
- Is the model respectful to all parties?

Social Discipline Window (Wachtel)



Restorative Practices

A 'family' of practices:

- Restorative conferencing
- Family Group Conferencing
- Victim-offender mediation
- Mediation for conflicts
- Restorative circles
- Sentencing circles
- Victim-offender groups
- Reparation

What is a Restorative City?

- A Restorative City is a city in which organisations and institutions are all trying to resolve conflict in a restorative rather than a punitive way, by using mediation and other restorative practices.

Dan van Ness – ‘RJ City’ design

- Assumed cities take responsibility for all crimes within their limits
- Local and national resources diverted to cities
- Focus groups in US, Canada, England & Wales, New Zealand
- Produced 70-page model in 2005

Hull – first UK Restorative City

- 2002-5 Primary school transformed
- 2005 Hull Centre for Restorative Practices
- 2005-2012 Training for schools, youth centres, children's homes, foster carers, family centres, hostels, hospitals, youth offending teams, police, probation, prisons, etc.

Leeds – Transforming Children’s Services

- History of victim-offender mediation in probation and restorative work in youth offending teams and prisons
- 2010 Director of Children’s Services came from Hull
- Emphasis on working with parents, using Social Discipline Window
- Use of circle decision-making in schools, Social Services, staff meetings
- 2015 Inspection: ‘Commitment to Restorative Practices is having a transformational impact on culture and professional practice’
- 2015: £4.8 million grant to transform children’s social care system, using restorative, family-centred model

Other Cities & Counties

Other restorative cities or counties in process:

- Bristol
- County Durham
- Norfolk
- Wokingham
- Stockport
- Swansea
- Cardiff (WRAP – Wales Restorative Approaches Partnership)

There may be others.

Bristol

- 2007 City Council conference: Bristol as a Restorative City
- 2010 Local group of RJ practitioners formed
- 2010-2012 Workshops held
- 2012 City Council set up Restorative Bristol Board & held big conference
- 2013 Project officer appointed: development of standards, membership, new projects, web site
- **‘Working together to resolve and repair harm’**

Bristol Restorative Services

Bristol Mediation	Bristol Youth Offending Team
Bristol Homeless Mediation	Neighbourhood Justice Team
Bristol Police RJ	Youth Hate Crime RJ Project
Probation RJ	Bristol Prison
Bristol Reparation Service	The Forgiveness Project
Nursery, Primary & Secondary Schools	Restorative Thinking Parenting Programme
Mediation at Work	Secure Unit for Young People
Salaam Shalom (work in schools)	Olas Arts

Recent & Current Projects

- Restorative Intergenerational Service
- Restorative work with young perpetrators and victims of sexual harm
- Hostels RJ project
- Restorative Road Sharing project
- Training package for City Council workers

Two routes

- Expanding training – good if starting from scratch
- Bringing projects together – good if some RJ projects already exist

What works in getting there?

Some of Hull's suggestions:

- Empower key decision makers to make collaborative decisions towards restorative change
- Allocate (maybe reallocate) resources
- Don't give up - embedding culture change takes time
- Be inclusive - engage individuals at all levels
- Measure impact

Conclusion

- Our goal will be reached when restorative approaches become the norm and simply ‘the way we do things round here’.
- Restorative Bristol: www.restorativebristol.co.uk

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