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Space2face, Shetland's award winning restorative justice and arts project, has been granted independent charitable status as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The project is being launched in its new form to celebrate International Restorative Justice Week (20 - 27 November 2016). In April of this year, space2face won the Criminal Justice category of the Restorative Practices UK Awards at an award ceremony in London.

Its new independent status means that the project is now able to apply for funding in its own right which, the co-founders and trustees hope, will make its future more sustainable. The space2face project is unique in the UK in using gifts of artwork and creativity as part of restorative justice work.

Co-founders Clair Aldington and Alyson Halcrow, both accredited Restorative Practitioners, will continue to manage the project. In addition, there are three local founding trustees for the new charity. Donald Anderson, trustee and chair of space2face said,

"It is a privilege and very exciting to have the opportunity to work so closely with this creative and dynamic project, and to be a founder member of a new SCIO. I know that there is a huge potential here to really support people in making an enormous difference, to individuals, families and the communities they live in. I look forward to working with the staff and trustees in order to develop and grow a groundbreaking approach to restorative justice practice."

Hilde Bardell, trustee and treasurer for the project, is also a former client of space2face. She says of her family's experience,

"The whole process was more helpful than we could have imagined; restorative and just for both persons harmed and person responsible. The gift that was made for us through space2face was particularly appropriate, and is still in use and valued today."

Pat Ash, the former depute head of Sandwick School, is the third founding trustee and holds the role of secretary. Ana Arnett and Amy Fisher, local artists who have been trained by the project to work restoratively, continue to work with space2face.

Restorative Justice is a voluntary process which has gained an increasing profile in the media over the last decade and can involve people harmed (victims) choosing to meet with the person responsible for causing that harm (offenders). Restorative ways of working aim to include everyone involved in a situation of harm or conflict in making decisions about the future. A popular misconception is that it is about reconciliation

and forgiveness. Reconciliation and forgiveness may happen as a result of a restorative justice process, but they are not the aim. The aim is to enable all involved to reach an agreement on how best to move on in a safer way from a situation of conflict or harm.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

space2face was co-founded by Alyson Halcrow and Clair Aldington in 2008 and was formerly run as a partnership project between Shetland Arts and the Community Mediation Team. Space2face has been presented at international conferences on restorative practices in the USA and in Hungary in 2012 and 2015 and to the Scottish National Forum for Restorative Justice at the end of last year. Clair and Alyson continue to jointly manage the project. Space2face is part funded by Shetland Arts and has been additionally funded, in different years, by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, BBC Children in Need and Creative Scotland. Other local funders have included the Rotary Club, Boys' Brigade, Community Safety Board and Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group.

Restorative Justice Week is an annual event celebrated by a variety of groups and individuals worldwide during the month of November. **The main purpose** of Restorative Justice Week is to raise public awareness about restorative justice and to challenge governments to implement this proven model of justice.

The European Forum on Restorative Justice is hosting a series of events, including creative stories about people's experiences of Restorative Justice **#RJWeek** during RJ Week in 2016.

<http://www.euforumrj.org/about-the-forum/rj-week-2015/>

Clair Aldington and space2face trustees are available for interview.

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Shetland *arts*

