

# **Restorative Cities – a UK Perspective**

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**10<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European  
Forum for Restorative Justice**

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# What is a Restorative City?

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- 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.

# Hull – first UK Restorative City

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- 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

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- 2010 Director of Children’s Services came from Hull
- Emphasis on working **with** parents to keep children at home
- 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’

# Bristol

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- 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 – Neighbour Mediation	Bristol Youth Offending Team
Homelessness Mediation	Restorative Approaches Avon & Somerset
Bristol Police RJ	Hate Crime 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)	Restorative Approach to Sex Offending within Families

# Recent & Current Projects

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

# Bristol's Restorative Justice Week

## 20-24 Nov 2017

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- All week – social media updates, and information stand at City Hall
- Restorative Roadsharing Project– event to thank participants
- Restorative approaches school assemblies
- Conflict resolution workshop for schools
- Restorative approaches with young people – evening event with several speakers
- Engaging with Conflict – workshop for adults
- Resilience documentary film
- European Forum film



# Brighton & Hove

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## **From Resolution (Restorative Justice Council) Autumn 2017:**

- All to be offered a restorative service
- Restorative practices development officer for 1 year
- Project steering group & restorative champions network
- Support from Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner
- Sussex Restorative Justice Partnership (probation, police, victim support, youth offending service, city council, independent mediation service)
- Co-facilitation, training, referrals, recording restorative interventions
- Hate crime service

# Brighton – next steps

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- How restorative approaches can help with economic uncertainty
- Social work in children's services
- Adult social care
- Educational settings
- Mental health services & supported accommodation projects
- Restorative circles in staff reflective practice
- Involving universities – management/ research
- Quality mark & accredited training provider
- Embedding restorative approaches at the heart of services

# Southampton's Restorative Charter

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## **From Resolution (Restorative Justice Council) Spring 2018:**

- Vision for a child-friendly city
- Restorative practice to support this aim
- Restorative Practice in Schools Project
- Restorative Practice Conference 24.11.17
- Launch of Restorative Practice Charter
- 2018: Deliver restorative message across city services and voluntary partners

# Two routes

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

# Challenges for Restorative Cities

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- Funding austerity leading to loss of staff, and overburdened staff who remain
- New policies can undermine restorative work
- Retreat to minimum legal requirements
- Lower standards become acceptable
- No longer 'new and exciting'
- Lost in the turmoil

# What works in getting there?

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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

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- 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](http://www.restorativebristol.co.uk)

# Contact Details

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