Restorative Practices Forum (NI) 25th Anniversary Conference
14-15 November 2019

Workshops - Brief summary of Action Steps.
Updated 21 1 20

For full detail please see individual reports from the 14 workshops

The conference report /recommendations will provide the basis for the ongoing work of the Restorative Practice Forum (NI) 2020-2022.

1. SOCIETY  In order to build a strong inclusive NI community, Restorative Practice (RP) approaches/principles should be more fully integrated into a range of issues/sectors. This should include community, education, training, justice, social work/care, health and government. The Forum and conference delegates will seek to use their influence as appropriate. In order to be transformative, RP requires more collaborative approaches across sectors and departments. Pilot projects, evaluations, research and the engagement of the public/volunteers in RP approaches should be utilised.

2. EDUCATION  In order to ensure stronger school communities and (for example) prevent school exclusions( when possible), the Education Department should integrate restorative values/approaches in primary and post primary sectors, including appropriate staff training and a consistent and evaluated approach. The RP Forum NI will host a discussion seminar in this respect.

3. FAMILY/PARENTING  Restorative approaches in parenting and family issues, including Family Group Conferencing should be integrated into Social Work and other relevant training and service delivery, in order to utilise working with service users, to build their capacity to successfully manage conflict and challenge in relationships. ACTION??

4. JUSTICE  RP should be made more available to support victims who should have more formal opportunity to instigate a restorative process. In Adult cases, RP should be prioritised for prevention/diversion in lower level issues/cases (in collaboration with Community and Third sectors). The Forum will continue to work with and lobby the DOJ to take forward the Centre for Restorative Excellence.

5. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE  The RP Forum(NI) will host a showing of ‘The Meeting’, followed by a panel discussion, in order to build on the Conference address by Marie Keenan on the possibilities of RP in respect of gender based violence.

Christine Hunter 16 01 2020