



This is a presentation of the following unpublished document:

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Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange

02 – 04 April 2019



UNIVERSITY OF
GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Incore
International Conflict
Research Institute

The following slides

- The following slides reflect the material covered during the three day Knowledge Exchange event, organised by Ulster University and the University of Gloucestershire.
- Slides used during the event are on a plain background. Reflection slides that have been added after the event have a blue background (as with this slide). The reflection slides are drawn from group discussions and notes taken during the event.
- A final event report that provides more detail on the discussions and workshops will be completed and a link to that document provided in a revised version of these slides.

Dr Payne and Dr Hobson would like to thank the following for their help and support across the three day event

**Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange**
02-04 April, 2019

The organisations and individuals that participated, including:

- Community Restorative Justice Ireland; NI Alternatives; Restorative Gloucestershire and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire; Police Service of Northern Ireland; Gloucestershire Police; NI Prison Service; Probation Board NI; Probation Service Ireland; DOJ NI; Victim Support NI; Quaker Service NI; Restorative Practices Forum NI; Family Group Conference (NI); Home Group; Ulster University; University of Gloucestershire; Maynooth University; University of Sierra Leone.

For assisting with funding the event:

- INCORE and the School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences, Ulster University
- Environmental Dynamics and Governance and the School of Natural and Social Sciences, University of Gloucestershire

For support across the event:

- Richard Hester, Lecturer in Policing, and Dr Kenny Lynch, Reader in Geography, University of Gloucestershire
- Franki Grant, Restorative Gloucestershire
- Dawn Butler, Christina Butler, Orla Pickering, Criminology students, Ulster University



Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange

Day 1: Tuesday 02 April, 2019



Day 1: **Schedule**

**Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange**
02-04 April, 2019

11.00-11.30	Registration / tea & coffee
11.30-12.15	Introduction, Meet and Greet
12.15-14.00	Presentations and discussion with participating organisations
14.00-1500	Learning lunch
15.00	Close

Introduction, Meet and Greet

Day 1, 02 April

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Opportunity to learn from other
RJ practitioners and services

Chance to discuss key issues

Space to make contacts –
exchange details with people!

Post-event material

- **slides** will be updated with material across the three days and made available for everyone
- **Event report** brief write-up of the three days that focuses on the key issues
- **Academic reflections** on the issues to consider

Who we are...

Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange

02-04 April, 2019

Brian Payne



Jon Hobson



Presentations and discussion with participating organisations

Day 1, 02 April

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Restorative Gloucestershire

[Kabba Santigie Bangura & Kenny Lynch](#)

(University of Sierra Leone and University of Gloucestershire)

Practitioners and advocates from Belfast and Beyond Including:

- Tom Winston - NI Alternatives
- David Eagleson - NI Prison Service
- Roisin Leckey – Probation Board NI
- Geraldine Hanna - Victim Support NI
- Janette McKnight - Quaker Service NI

Day 1 brief reflections

Introduction from the groups on restorative approaches

- The restorative agencies and practitioners present spoke about their origins and the different models and practices they used. General consensus was that England & Wales have a top down (police led) approach to RJ, while Northern Ireland has both a bottom up (community led) approach and a top down (Youth Justice) approach. This reflected the different contexts of each jurisdiction: in NI community-based restorative justice grew as a response to paramilitary punishment violence and was at least partly a product of poor relationships between communities and statutory agencies, particularly the police, and enhanced community capacity as a direct result of the conflict. In Gloucestershire, restorative justice developed with support from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Domestic violence and Sexual violence

- Domestic violence emerged as area for discussion. The NI practitioners stated that RJ processes are not currently in place for domestic violence offences. Restorative Gloucestershire reported that they do deal with elements of DV cases, but there is a limited amount of work. Such responses generally take the form of post sentence work in Gloucestershire, as they don't tend to engage in pre-sentence DV work due to the complexity of such cases.

Sierra Leone project:

- The delegates present noted that this was a very interesting project, but asked if this work could be described as Restorative justice or is it a youth diversionary approach? A debate ensued around the restorative elements within this body of work including aspects such as empowerment and transformation. Discussions then evolved to consider how we could build links with these projects, in particular with respect to their post-conflict nature.

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange

Day 2: Wednesday 03 April, 2019



Day 2: **Schedule**

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange

02-04 April, 2019

- 9.00-9.30 Registration / tea & coffee
- 9.30-10.00 Introduction to day 2
- 10.00-10.45 Restorative Approaches survey results and responses
- 10.45-12.30 **Workshop**: Police-led and Community-led models of Restorative Services
- 12.30-13.15 Lunch
- 13.15-14.30 **Challenges & opportunities 1**: Council of Europe recommendations (Ian Marder); Adult RJ Strategy (Louise Cooper)
- 14.30-14.45 Tea & coffee
- 14.45-16.30 **Challenges & opportunities 2**: education, youth justice and young people; Prisons & housing; Communities & Multi Agency Working; Sexual violence and domestic abuse
- 16.30-17.00 Summary of the day

Introduction to day 2

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Opportunity to learn from other
RJ practitioners and services

Chance to discuss key issues

Space to make contacts –
exchange details with people!

Post-event material

- **slides** will be updated with material across the three days and made available for everyone
- **Event report** brief write-up of the three days that focuses on the key issues
- **Academic reflections** on the issues to consider

Restorative approaches: Survey results and responses

Day 2, 03 April

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

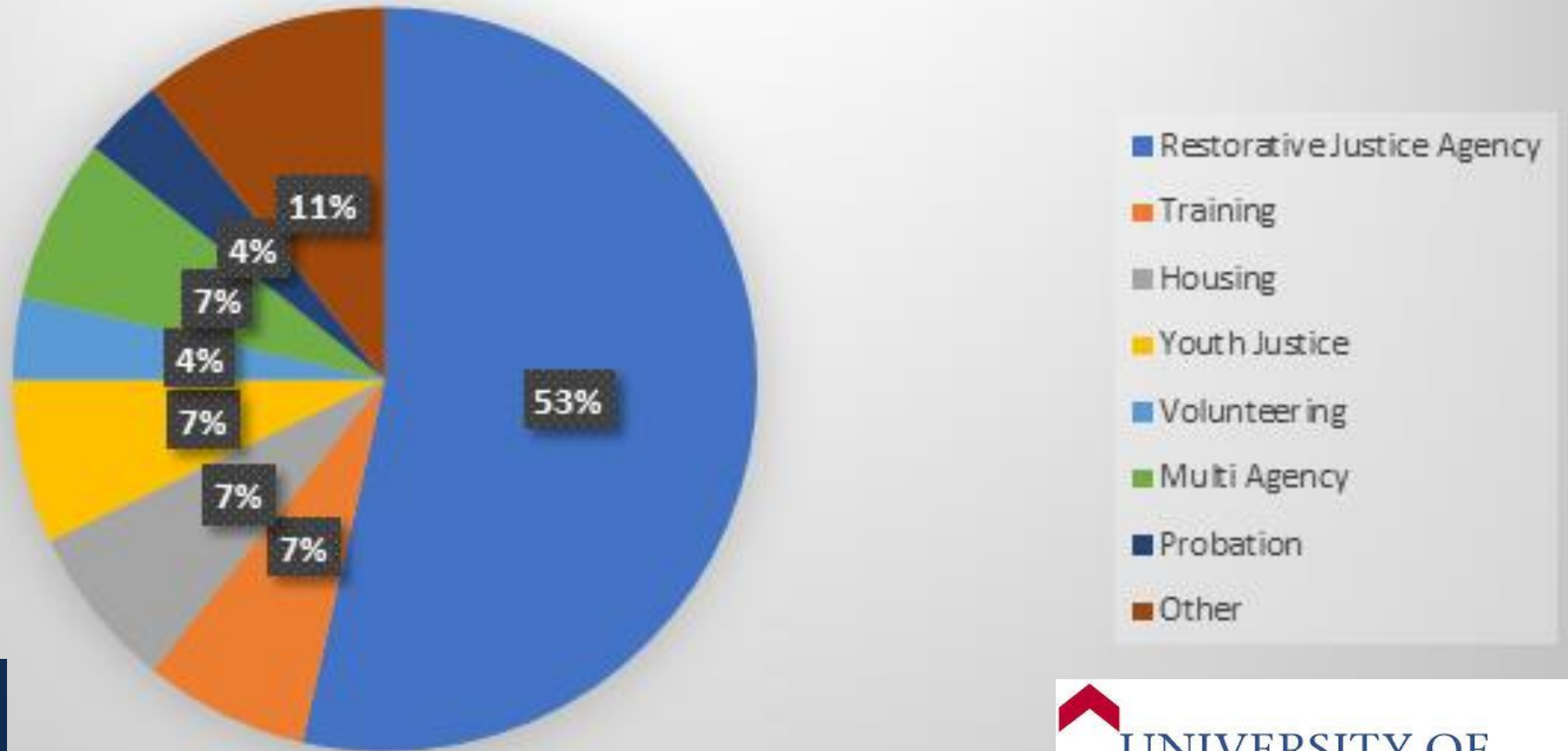
28 responses (so far!)

Gloucestershire ; Belfast ; across NI ;
Sierra Leone

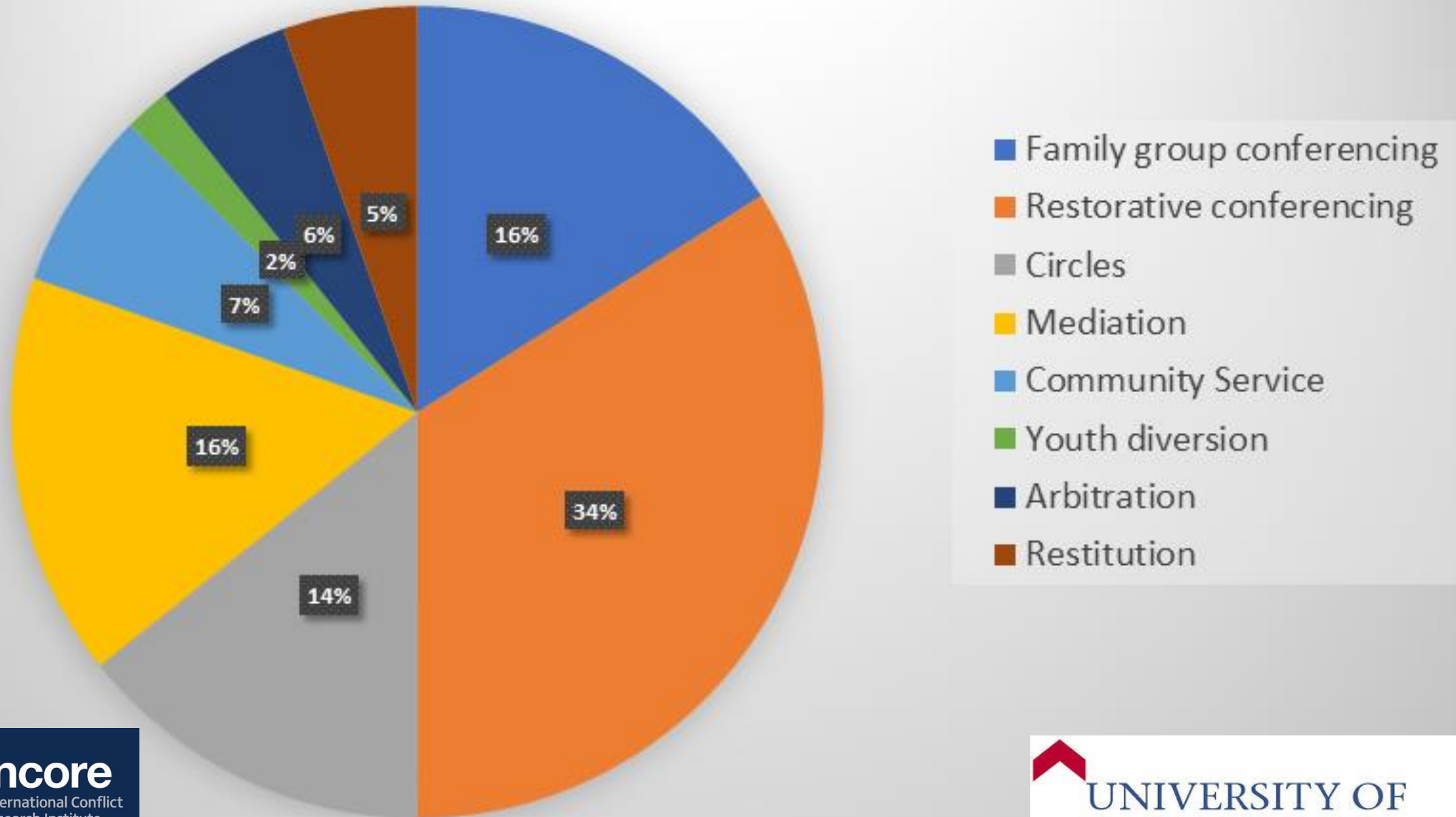
Survey still open:

<https://goo.gl/forms/i5EgNOt3QDLMPrmb2>

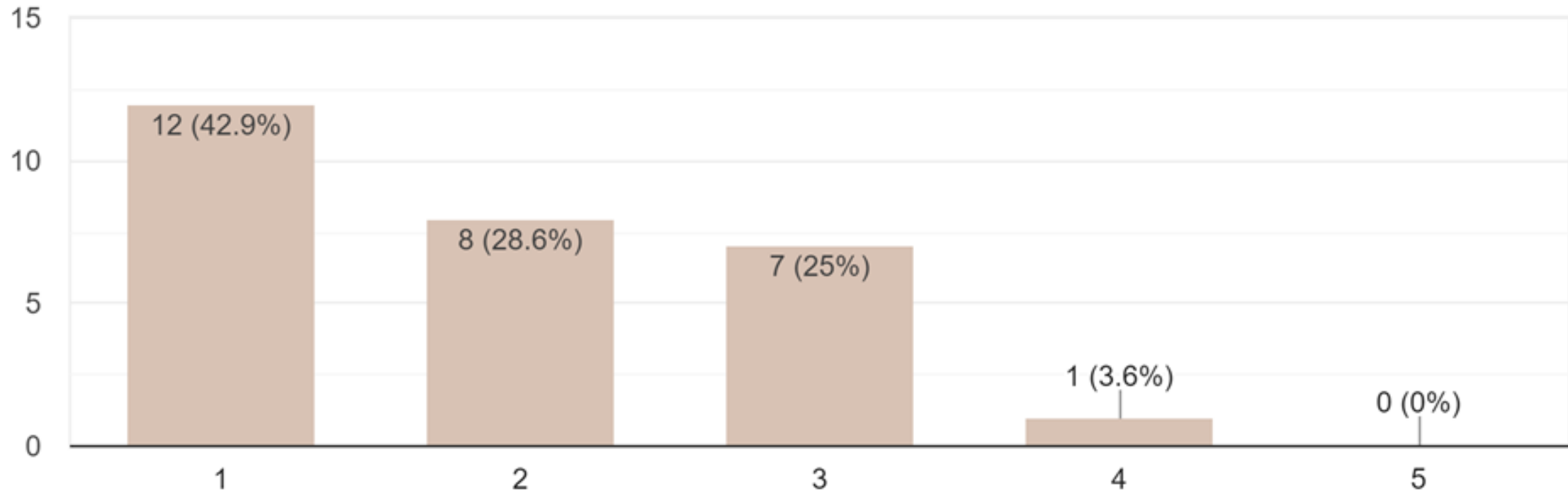
How would you describe your restorative organisation/project and the work that you do?



What type(s) of restorative process(es) do you most commonly use?



Do you feel that your organisation/project is taken seriously as a valid response to crime or conflict?



Very few or no agencies or organisations we work with view our service as a valid response to crime or conflict



Every agency or organisation we work with views our service as a valid response to crime or conflict

What do you feel are the benefits / impacts of the restorative practices / services you provide?

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- Empowering individuals and families to find their strengths
- More connected and healthier communities
- Improving victim engagement and experiences to provide closure / reduce fear
- Mending relationships
- Providing community responses to community problems
- Space for communication / Allowing people to express their feelings
- Promoting emotional responses such as empathy
- Showing a different way
- Repairing harm and reintegrating offenders

What are the biggest challenges you face when attempting to improve the services you provide?

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Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

- Perceptions that RJ is a soft option / not a valid process for justice
- Popularity of punitive / violent responses to harm / wrongdoing
- Reluctance by some organisations to take risks / challenge existing practices
- Difficulty getting all colleagues to accept RP / share responsibility
- Insufficient or insecure funding / resourcing
- Difficulty selling RP when separate victim and offender not always there
- Fear that taking on controversial cases may jeopardise funding
- Finding the time to do RP / suitable venues
- Recruiting volunteers / building experience and confidence / accessing training

What are the biggest opportunities for developing your practices or services going forward?

- Community self-referral / raising awareness for addressing issues through RP
- Training young people and organisations to utilise RP Skills
- Building RP in schools as a 'whole child' pastoral approach rather than a limited focus on academic achievement or behaviour
- Widening the stakeholder group / Gov Departments involved
- Gaining experience / Growing capacity / sharing positive restorative outcomes
- Re-imagining criminal justice and harm / Giving voice to victims
- Using RP in prisons to address offending behaviour / give people the opportunity to change
- Embedding RJ as standard element of probation practice across the entire service

Brief reflections on the Survey

- All of the practitioners and agencies present agreed that the survey findings reflected many of the most common issues that they faced in their work. In particular, they agreed that whilst more organisations are taking restorative approaches seriously, there is still a long way to go before it finds full acceptance as an approach to justice.
- Despite these challenges, the practitioners and agencies in the room expressed a continued belief in restorative justice and restorative approaches as a method of providing better support to victims of crime, offenders and strengthening local communities and felt that its use would continue to grow.

Workshop: Police-led and Community-led models of Restorative Services

Day 2, 03 April

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

Table 1: Police-led (or top-down)

What is it?

What are the
challenges?

What do we need to
make this work?

Table 2: Community-led (or bottom-up)

What is it?

What are the
challenges?

What do we need to
make this work?

Ideas Café rules

Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange

02-04 April, 2019

Focus on what matters
Contribute your thinking
Speak your mind and heart
Listen to understand
Link and connect ideas
Listen together for insights & deeper questions
Play, doodle, draw
Have fun!



Table 1: Police-led (or top-down)

What is it?

What are the challenges?

What do we need to make this work?

WHAT IS IT

- Legal requirement to do it
- Pressure to do it e.g. children first panel
- Police led comes back to what community wants
- Lack of options for offenders where statutory agencies involved

CHALLENGES

- Not voluntary all the time - offenders 'in hand' to engage
- Can lead to 'criminal reward' if disposed of outside court
- Offender taking ownership can lead to reprimand, but not for others who may as CPS didn't pursue
- Fear of speaking to the police leads to record. Don't want to incriminate themselves
- Officers sceptical - regard RS as 'pink fluffy'
- Officers may find criminal CS process easier than RS
- Competition between different agencies over limited funding - leads to politics between agencies
- Safe to stay with cautionary practices
- Assumption that police/agencies know what the community wants.
- Community led can be more distinctive + tailored to communities, whereas statutory agencies can't always do this.
- Reluctance of some offenders to be used as success stories.
- Illusion that it is voluntary for offenders
- Police don't have a stick to get offenders to engage - RS
- Terminology - insufficient support to navigate legal system - RS - like to manage / handle

WHAT DO WE NEED TO MAKE IT WORK

- Need carrot + stick for offenders
- Good quality information is required to be effective
- 2007 protocol needs revisiting
- Police support for community RS agencies
- Young people + police initiative - breaks down barriers
- Showcasing of work - proud success
- Has to be tailored to needs, there is no off the shelf model
- Needs to be greater awareness to get victims to engage in a RS approach
- Reduce access to criminal networks by diverting from prison etc.
- If it is genuinely voluntary it will be more effective for the offender
- Bringing it as a choice for offenders - informed consent
- If not engaging with police RS - referral to community RS



WHAT IS IT?

- PSNI - more accountability
 - Community pressure to do RS
 - Issues getting officers to do/refr to RS
 - Seen as soft option by some in PSNI
 - Need to empower community to do this themselves
- Officers being trained by community groups
- Police need to be involved, but not leading the process
- Seeking community views in best intervention
- Geog Level 1 - volume crime - dealt with by officers
- Level 2 - community/relationship building - dealt with by RS
- multi agency panel for under 18s

CHALLENGES

- Need right people to do it - police may not be this, community members needed instead.
- Community don't want a voice - want police to fix it for people.
- Police trying to be all things to everybody
- Police role merging into remit of other agencies.
- Police visibility not always welcome in communities
- Police officers not believing in RS - soft option / not part of core role
- Nervousness around using non statutory agencies.
- Community Impact Assessments required

WHAT DO WE NEED TO MAKE IT WORK

- Community need to be the dominant voice
- Police empower community to do this.
- Responsibility + ownership transferred to community / right agencies.
- Take 6 PACE - less likely to arrest leads to looking for alternatives.
- Referrals to Level 2 for more serious offenders.
- Need to break cycle for more serious offenders.
- Extra resources/funding to do intervention work



Table 2: community-led (or bottom-up)

What is it?

What are the challenges?

What do we need to make this work?



Lunch

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Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Challenges & Opportunities 1

Day 2, 03 April

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Exploring the Future: the opportunity to introduce a Centre of Restorative Excellence in Northern Ireland

Council of Europe Recommendations
(Dr Ian Marder, Maynooth University)

Adult RJ Strategy
(Louise Cooper, Department of Justice)

Questions...

-
- What would success look like if this function was operating well?
 - What would be the first step in making this happen (success factors needed)?
 - What strengths are in place to build on?
 - What barriers need to be overcome (and suggested approaches to overcome same)?
 - Is there anything missing (function/what needs to be done)?

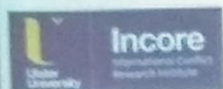
Challenges & Opportunities 1

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Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

Exploring the Future: the opportunity to introduce a
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Link to the Council of Europe recommendations and commentary

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Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

[Promoting more humane and socially effective penal sanctions; Adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\) 8 concerning restorative justice in criminal matters](#)

More detailed reflection on the discussion will be provided in the post-event report.

Tea and coffee

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Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Challenges & Opportunities 2

Day 2, 03 April

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Education, youth justice and young people

(Geraldine McCorry, Youth Justice Agency)

Prisons & housing

(David Eagleson, NI Prison Service ; Chris Pattinson, Stonham housing)

Communities and multi agency working

(almost everyone!)

Domestic violence and sexual abuse

(a key theme from yesterdays discussion!)

Education, youth justice and young people

How can we realise the potential of restorative practices in youth justice and for young people more broadly?

Prisons & housing

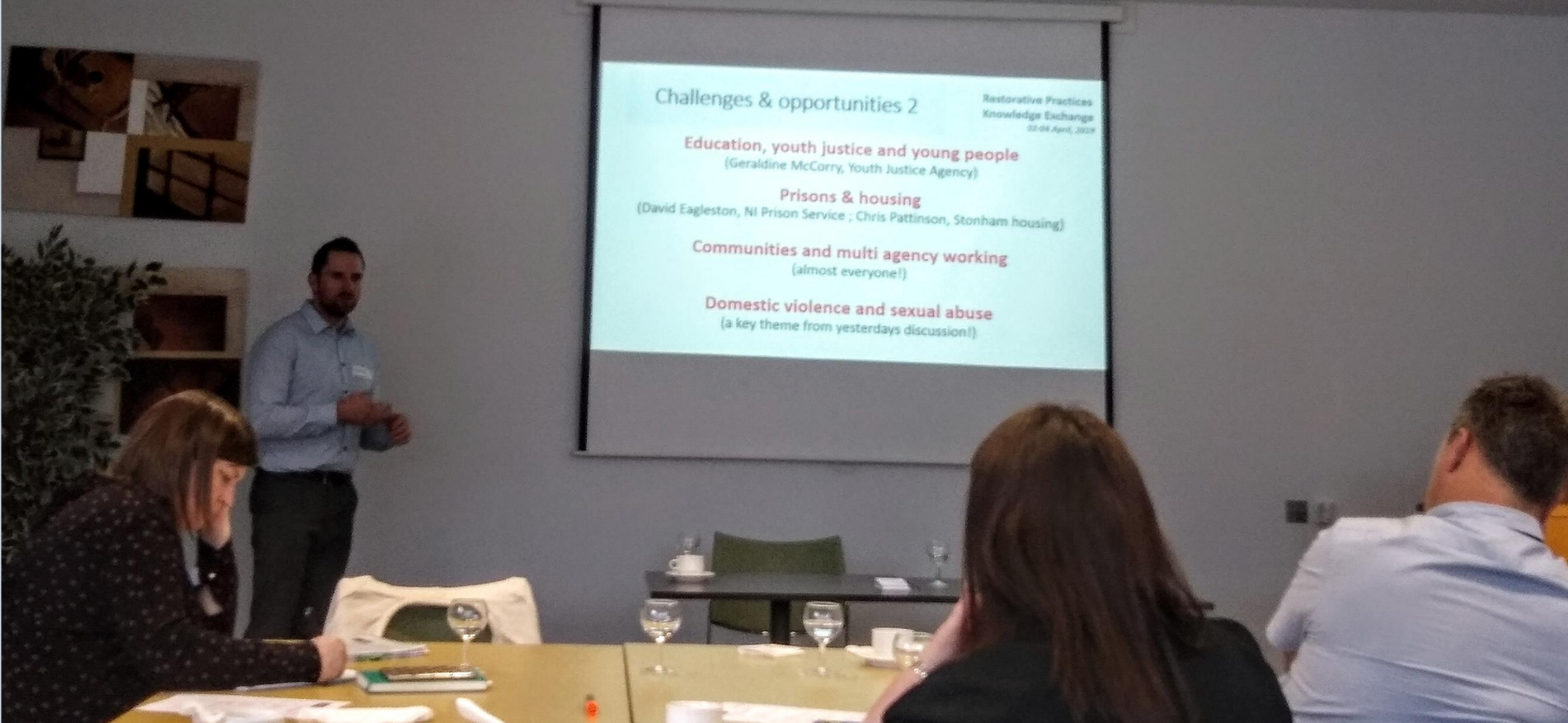
What strategies can be deployed in prisons, probation and housing that work?

Communities & Multi Agency Working

How do we get agencies working together?

Domestic violence and sexual abuse

How can we (should we?) be using Restorative approaches for DV and SV?



Challenges & opportunities 2

Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

Education, youth justice and young people
(Geraldine McCorry, Youth Justice Agency)

Prisons & housing
(David Eagleston, NI Prison Service ; Chris Pattinson, Stonham housing)

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Communities & Multi Agency Working

How do we get agencies working together?

Domestic violence and sexual abuse

How can we (should we?) be using Restorative approaches for DV and SV?

The following slides show the group discussions on each topic.

The images are high resolution so you can zoom-in to read the content on each

EDUCATION & YOUTH JUSTICE

HOW CAN WE REALISE THE POTENTIAL OF RP IN YOUTH JUSTICE AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE MORE BROADLY?

- DE-ESCALATING SANCTIONS AT PRE CONVICTION STAGE
 - PREVENTING CRIMINALISATION
 - OR POTENTIAL FOR A YOUTH CONFERENCE AS AN OPTION AS A SANCTION AT COURT
- IN NI PUBLIC SUPPORTIVE OF DIVERSIONARY SANCTIONS
- SCHOOLS POTENTIALLY TAKE A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH, WHICH NEEDS CHANGING - ALL ISSUES, NOT JUST CRIMINAL
 - e.g. bullying
- GREATER FOCUS ON SOCIAL ISSUES, BEFORE THEY BECOME CRIMINAL ISSUES
- BETTER TRAINING FOR PEOPLE WORKING IN SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION
 - DEESCALATION
- SOCIAL WORK FOCUS ON RELATIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE + PARENTS
- BETTER CO-ORDINATION OF AGENCIES
 - FOR ALL, NOT JUST THOSE OF GREATEST NEEDS. E.G. PARENTAL REFERRAL
- RESTORATIVE PARENTING COURSES - THROUGHOUT THE LIFECOURSE
 - E.G. HEALTH VISITORS
- FACE TO FACE PARENTAL SUPPORT NETWORKS

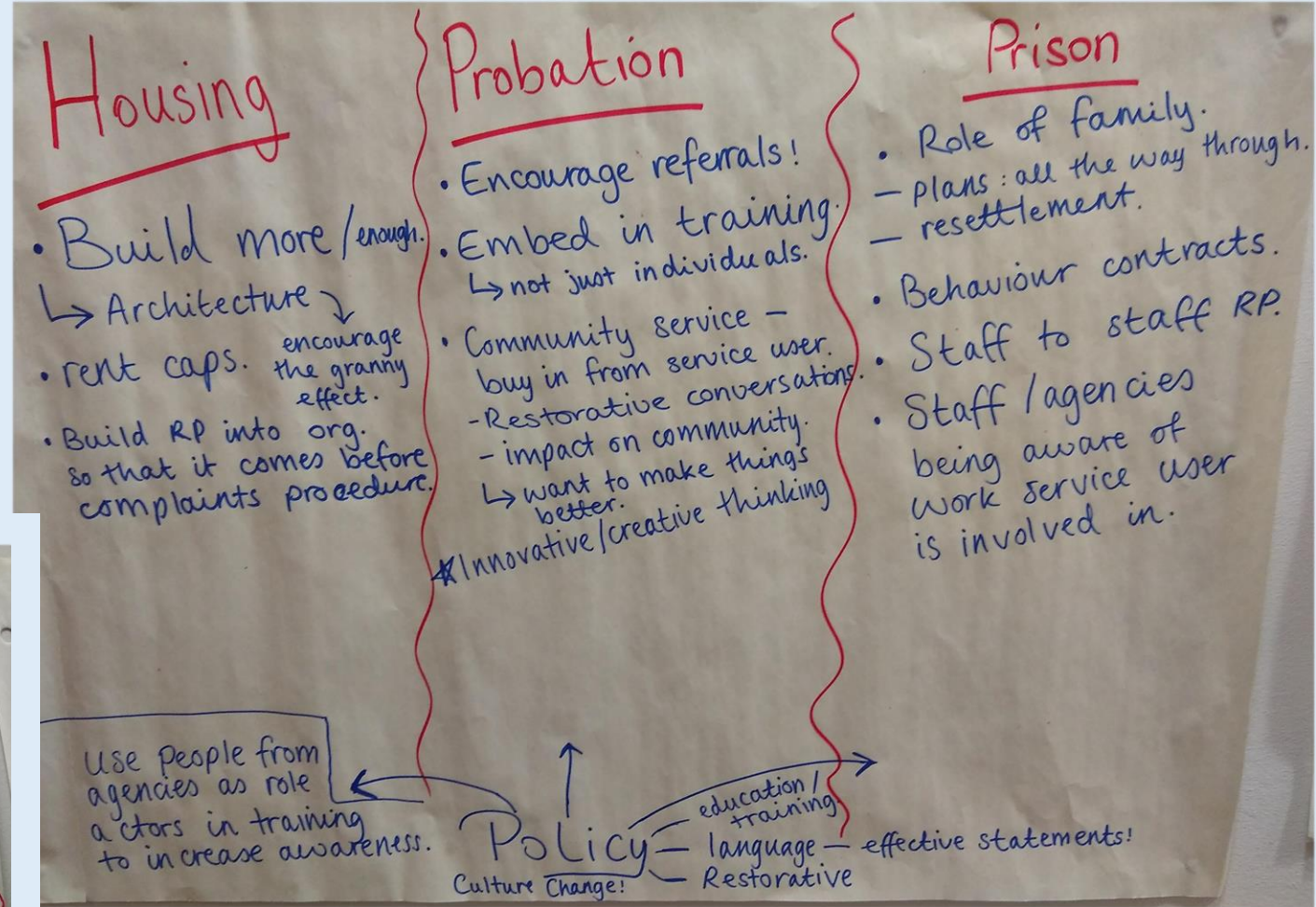
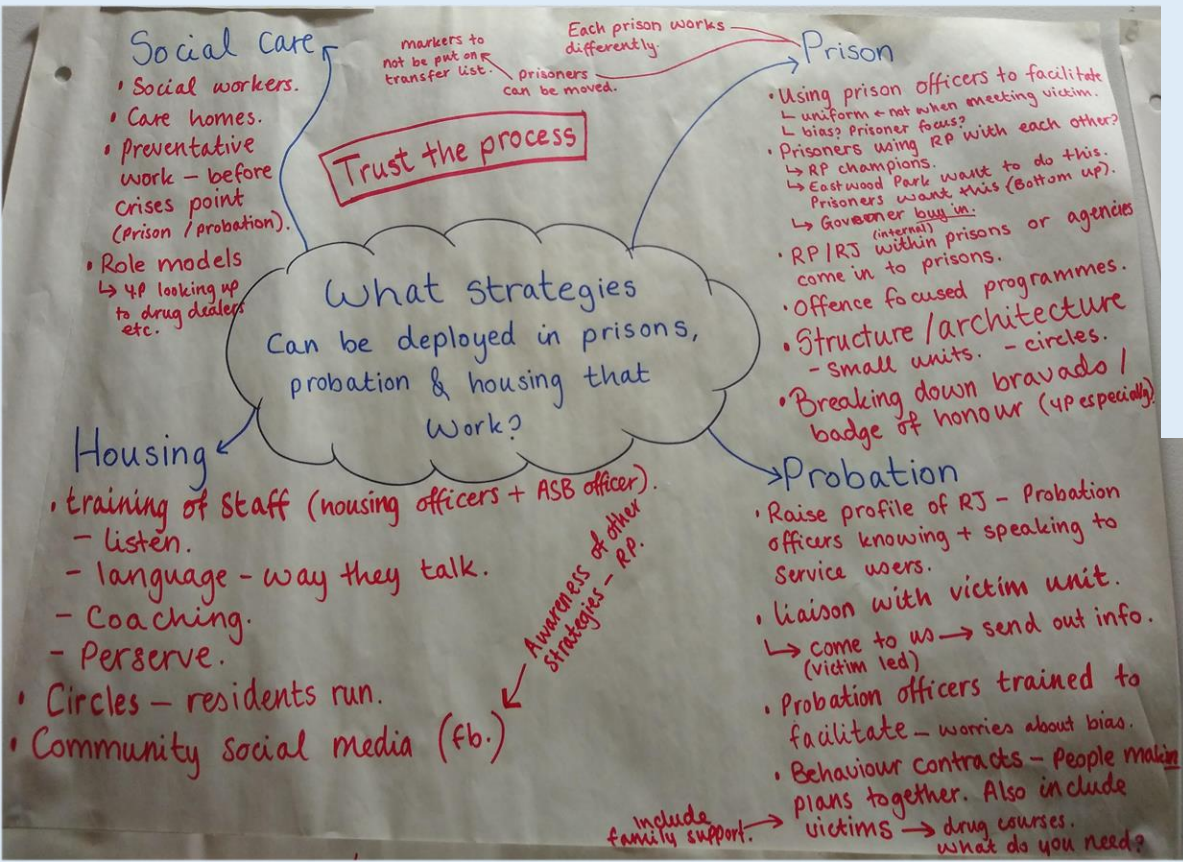
Education, youth justice and young people:

How can we realise the potential of restorative practices in youth justice and for young people more broadly?

- ACTIVITIES AS PART OF DIVERSIONARY TACTICS
- PARENTAL SUPPORT FOR ADOPTING PARENTS
 - SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL + LINKED TO SCHOOLS/COMMUNITIES
 - COACHING + MENTORING PROCESS - PARENTS + YOUNG PEOPLE
- GETTING IT RIGHT IN SCHOOLS HAS BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITIES
- BETTER SUPPORT FOR FOSTER CARE SYSTEM - NOT JUST RELOCATING
- RECONSIDERING SCHOOL EXPULSIONS - DEALING WITH THE ISSUES NOT RELOCATING IT
 - TARGET DRIVEN CULTURE IN PUBLIC SECTOR CAUSING ISSUES FOR THIS
- BETTER PUBLIC INFORMATION TO PARENTS + YOUNG PEOPLE

Prisons & housing:

What strategies can be deployed in prisons, probation and housing that work?



Communities & Multi Agency Working:

How do we get agencies working together?

THE RELATIONAL ASPECT

IS CRUCIAL

- MORE OPEN / MORE APPROACHABLE
- CONFLICT EVENTS AND OUTREACH
- FIND THE RIGHT PEOPLE.
- DROP IN CENTRES.

OPENNESS

IS VITAL

- ENGAGEMENT
- INFO SHARING
- SHARING RESOURCES
- YOU HAVE SOME, YOU GET SOME.
- TRAINING
- EXPERTISE
- ADVICE
- SHARING TRAINING (CO-TRAINING)

• CAN YOU MAKE TRAINING RELEVANT TO MY WORK?

How DO WE GET

AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER?

• GIVE THEM THE WEN (WHO HAS PRIMACY) (WHO GETS CREDIT)

• SHARING THE LOAD.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

- POST CONFLICT MESSAGE TRUST NEEDS TO BE OVERCOME
- WHO WOULD APPOINT THE BOARD?
- HOW WOULD THE COMMUNITIES VOICE BE HEARD?
- Partners and Post-Relational Work.
- Evolution F.C.K. (CART)

EXAMPLE 1

• QUAKERS
FGC + PASSER FELLOWSHIP.

- BUDGET RELATIONSHIPS BASED ON SHARED VALUES
- DIFFERENT WAY OF WORKING TOGETHER?
- INTERNAL RELATIONSHIP BASED ON COMPATIBILITY AND WHAT THEY CAN ADD TO YOUR OWN WORK

• ONCE THE MINISTER SAYS IT IS DONE:

- LEADERSHIP
- APTITUDE STANDARDS (SELF-REFER)
- TOP DOWN TARGETS.

CYNICISM

- Why should we change?
- SURE IT WORKS?
- We have always done it that way

INTELLIGENCE EXAMPLE

- WHENEVER ELSE HAS WORKED SO WE WILL JUST TALK IT OVER

How do we get agencies working together?

• SILO MENTALITY

- R.P. NOT IN KEY POSITIONS
- ONLY EMBRACED IF IT DIRECTLY RELATES TO A PARTICULAR AREA

EVIDENCE RELATIONSHIP NOT ALWAYS EFFECTIVE STORY TELLING MUCH BETTER.

UNIVERSAL APPROACHES FOR EDUCATION ETC?

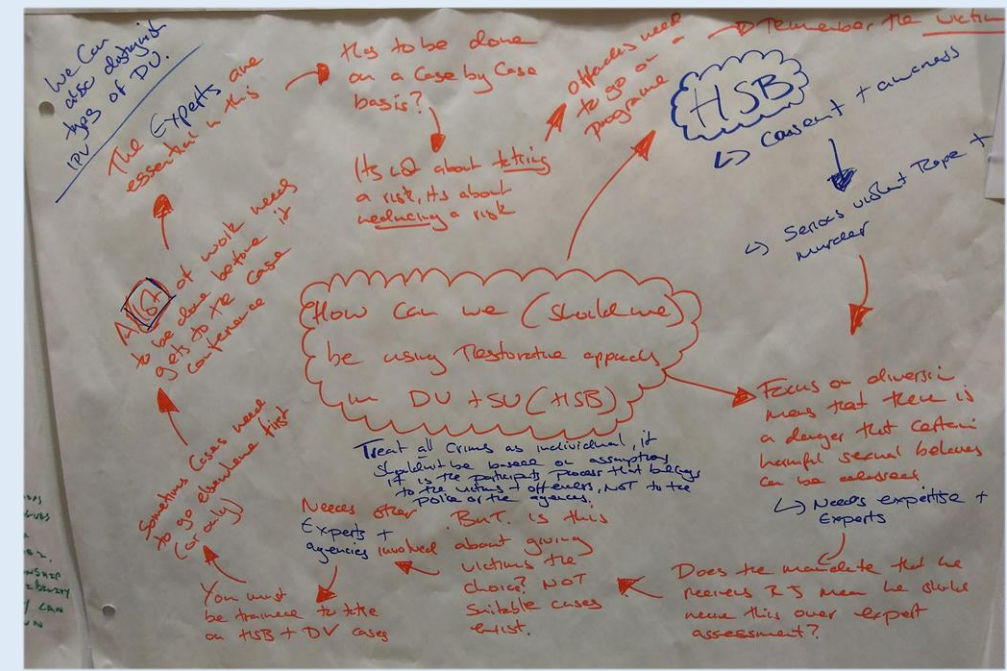
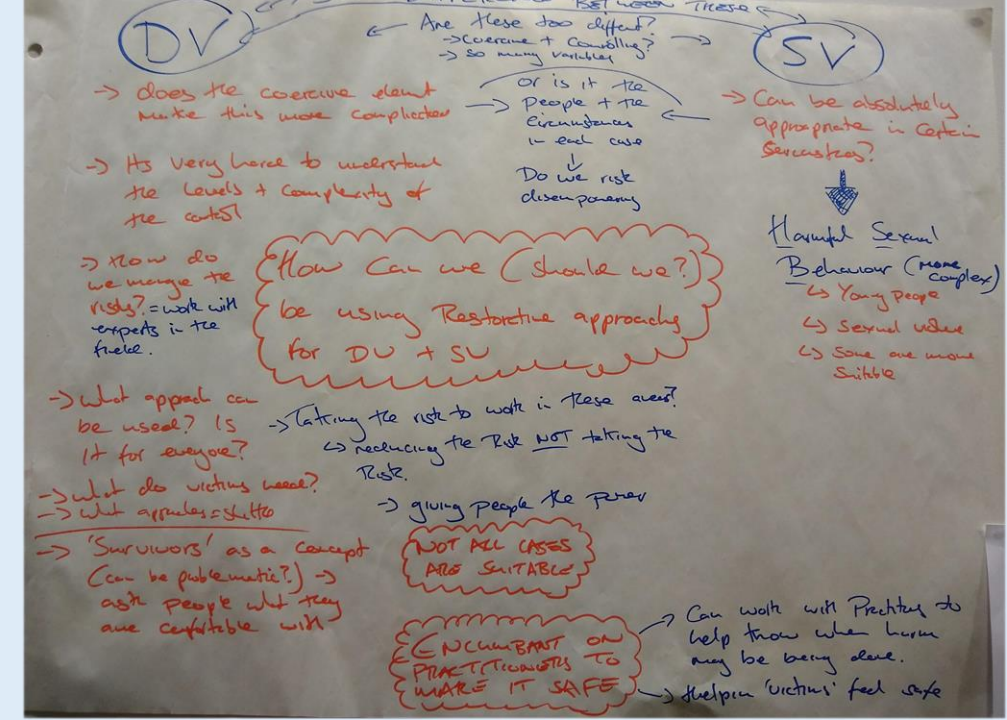
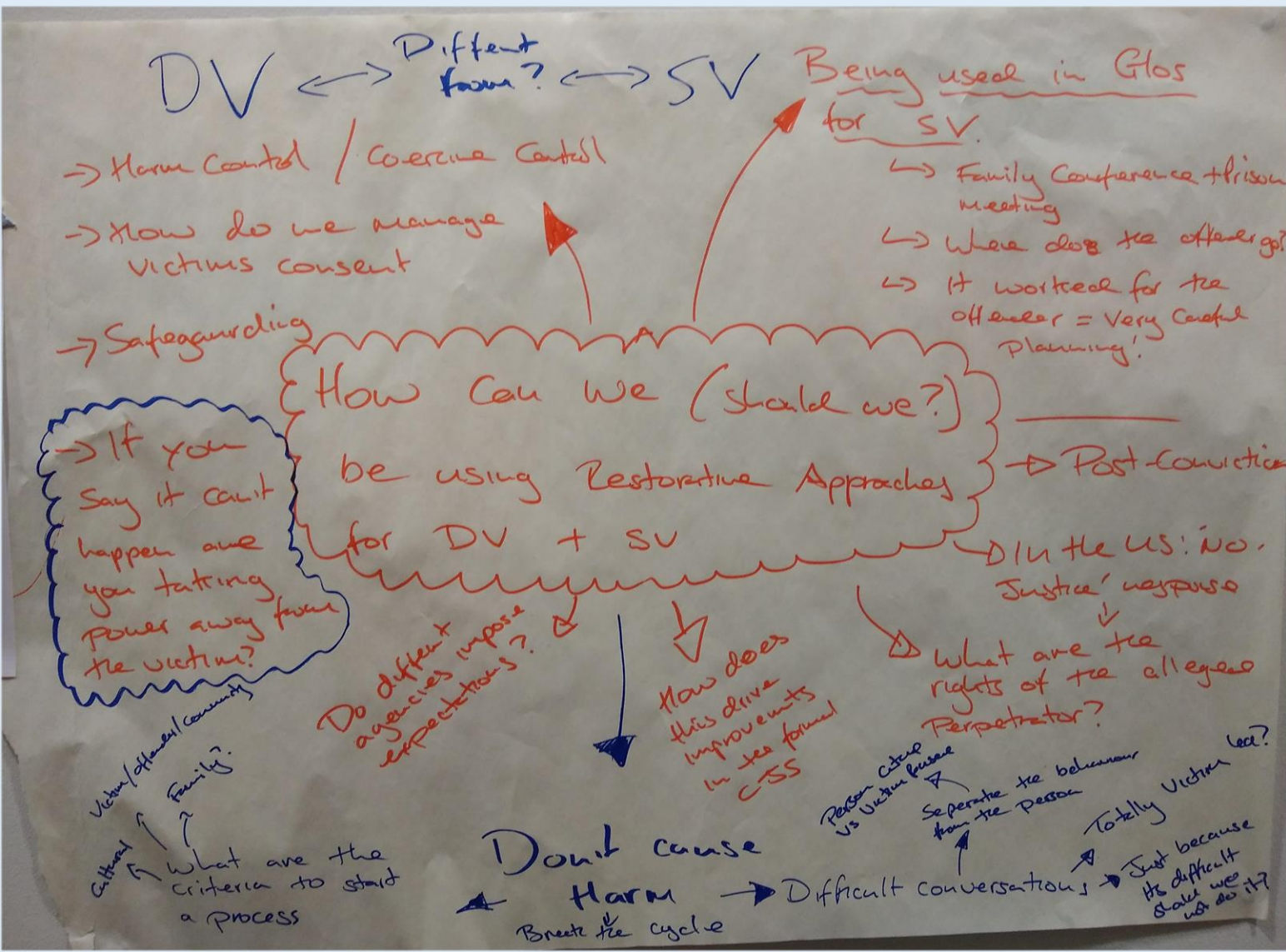
- CREATES A BASELINE FOR GOOD RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

• OVERCOME COMPETITIVENESS AND RELUCTANCE TO JOIN FORCES AND WORK TOGETHER

- FINITE FUNDING
- IT'S OUR COMMUNITY WE ARE THE COMMUNITY
- OVERCOME BY VARIOUS INTO CONTRACTS THAT PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY.
- CLEAR CONTRACTS, CONSORTIUM AIDS.
- ASPIRE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A PORTFOLIO OF SERVICES FOR YOUNG MEN AT RISK
- FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

Domestic violence and sexual abuse:

How can we (should we?) be using Restorative approaches for DV and SV?



Summary

Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

- **Opportunity for different organizations to come together and share practice**
- **Chance to learn from what is happening in each jurisdiction**
- **Space to discuss different approaches and areas for restorative practice**

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange

Day 3: Thursday 04 April, 2019



Day 3: Schedule

Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

Morning:	Restorative Gloucestershire staff tour of Belfast
Afternoon:	Restorative Gloucestershire staff visit to Northern Ireland Alternatives office
18.00-20.00:	Summary of the Knowledge exchange and Panel Discussion on key issues across the three days
20.00:	Drinks reception and networking space

Summary of the Knowledge Exchange

Day 3, 04 April

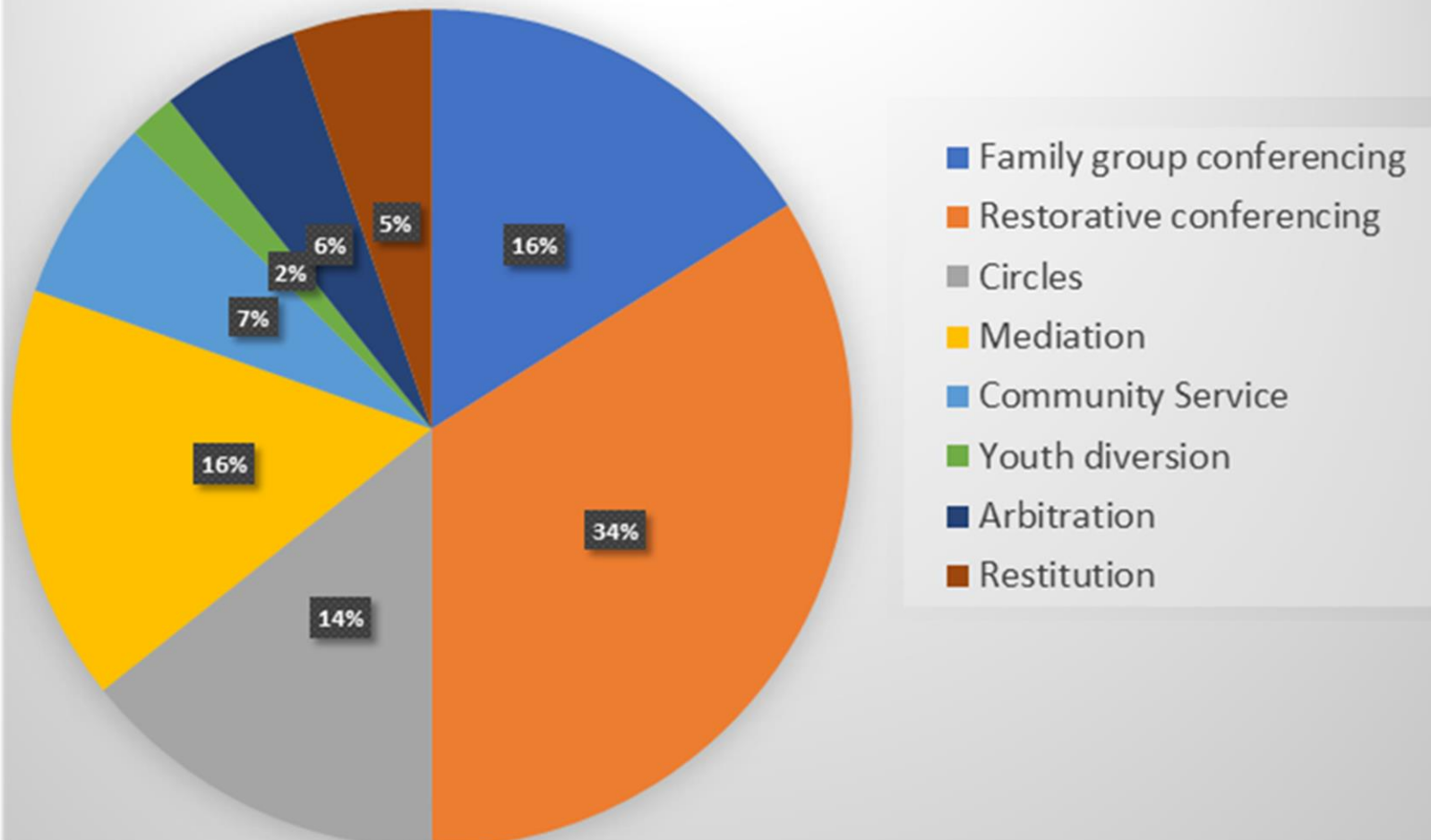
Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Restorative approaches: Survey results and responses

Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

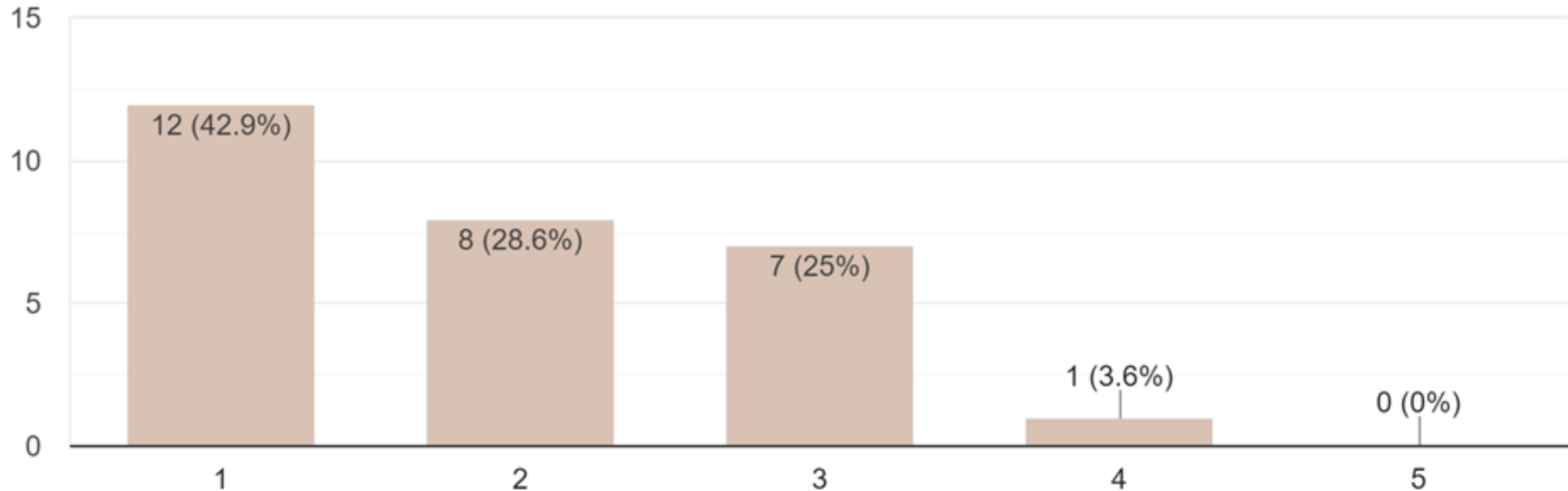
What type(s) of restorative process(es) do you most commonly use?



28 responses (so far!)
from Gloucestershire,
Belfast & across NI ;
Sierra Leone

Survey still open:
<https://goo.gl/forms/i5EgNOt3QDLMPrmb2>

Do you feel that your organisation/project is taken seriously as a valid response to crime or conflict?



Very few or no agencies or organisations we work with view our service as a valid response to crime or conflict



Every agency or organisation we work with views our service as a valid response to crime or conflict

What are the benefits & impacts of your restorative practices?

- Empowering individuals and families to find their strengths
 - Community responses to community problems
 - Showing a different way to repair harm
-

What are the biggest challenges to improving the services you provide?

- Perceptions that RP/RJ is a soft option
 - Popularity of punitive and violent responses to harm & wrongdoing
 - Finding the time & resources to do RP/RJ
-

What are the biggest opportunities for developing your practices or service?

- Training young people and Building RP in schools
- Re-imagining criminal justice and harm
- Using RJ/RP in prisons and probation

Workshop



**Police-led and
top-down
restorative
approaches**

**Community-led
and bottom-up
restorative
approaches**

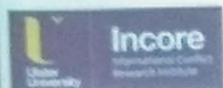
Challenges & Opportunities 1

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Exploring the Future: the opportunity to introduce a
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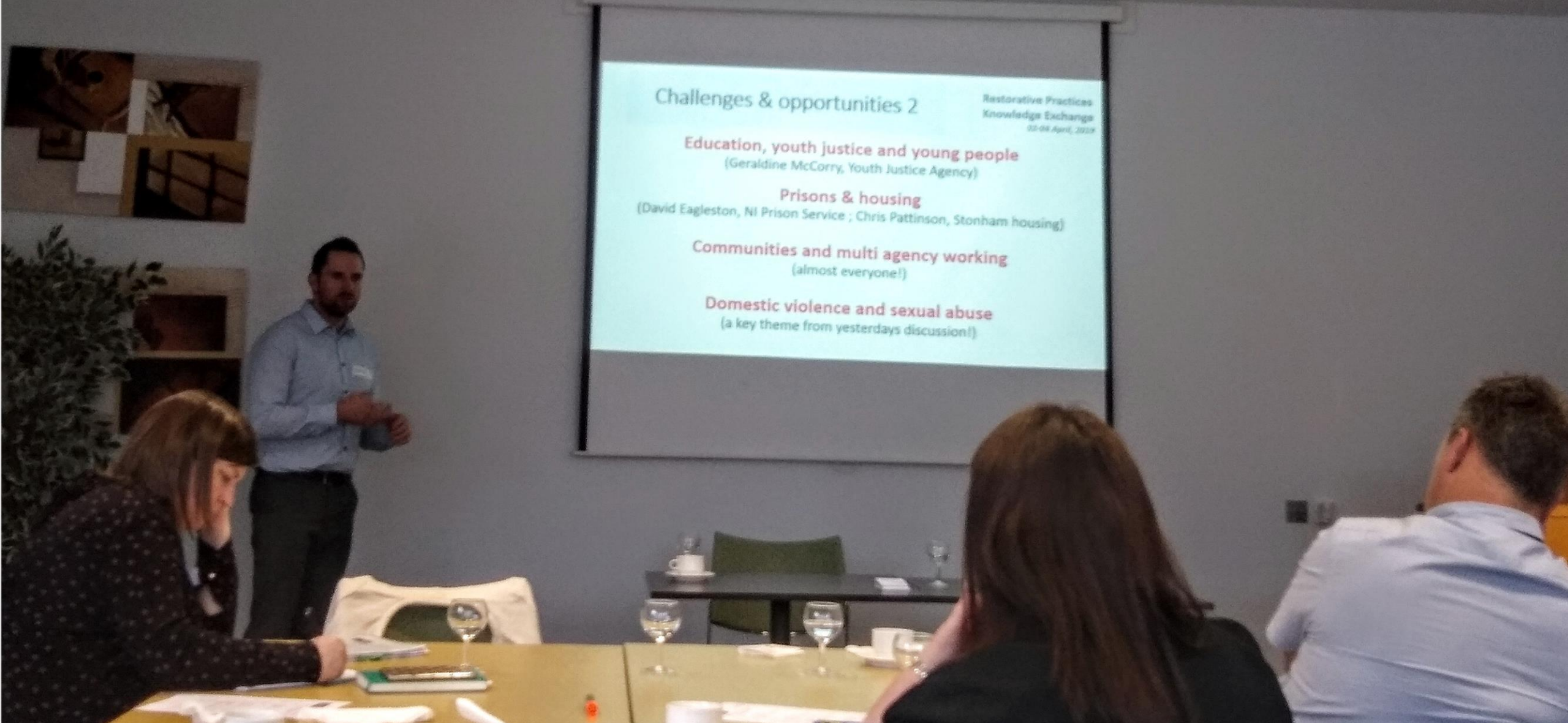
Adult RJ Strategy (Louise Cooper, Department of Justice)



Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange

02-04 April, 2019





Challenges & opportunities 2

Restorative Practices
Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019

Education, youth justice and young people
(Geraldine McCorry, Youth Justice Agency)

Prisons & housing
(David Eagleston, NI Prison Service ; Chris Pattinson, Stonham housing)

Communities and multi agency working
(almost everyone!)

Domestic violence and sexual abuse
(a key theme from yesterdays discussion!)

Panel Discussion

Day 3, 04 April

Restorative Practices Knowledge Exchange
02-04 April, 2019



Becky Beard (Director, Restorative Gloucestershire)

Peter Brannigan (Chief Inspector, Police Service Northern Ireland)

Louise Cooper (Director of Rehabilitation Department of Justice, NI)

Martina Jordan (Restorative Advocate with schools)

Jim McCarthy (Deputy Director, Community Restorative Justice Ireland)

Nic Meeks (Sargent, Gloucestershire Police seconded to Restorative Gloucestershire)

Paul Mukasa (Coordinator, Restorative Gloucestershire)

Panel questions

Question 1: How can we realise the potential of restorative practice in our schools and prisons?

Question 2: What are the challenges for top-down and bottom-up restorative justice, and how can they work together?



Following are some short reflections on the questions and answers from the panels. A more detailed set of reflections will be available in the final event report.



Question 1: How can we realise the potential of restorative practice in our schools and prisons?

Restorative Practices
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- The panel discussed the use of restorative approaches in schools, in particular the importance of embedding these approaches in infant schools with younger children. Some of those present expressed a concern that if there was not similar support in secondary schooling we could be 'setting them up to fail'. Currently in Gloucestershire most work is taking place in primary schools, in NI there is more work post-primary.
- The panel described how, as well as working with children it is important to work also with teachers and with parents, so that the restorative ethos is embedded across all those involved in the community.
- There were also reflections on the importance for children in schools to see police in a positive light; this can help to build legitimacy between these two parties.
- In prisons many of these same approaches are true; there is a need to build sustainable and positive relationships between prisons and officers as well as proving supporting mechanisms for prisons pre and post-sentence to support them in managing transition.

Question 2: What are the challenges for top-down and bottom-up restorative justice, and how can they work together?

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- The differences between the two services were discussed: Restorative Gloucestershire was established by the police and crime commissioner and as such has legitimacy within the statutory agencies in the county, but struggles with generating community buy-in. Many of the services across NI grew from strong community needs but there are still difficulties engaging with some statutory agencies although this is improving year on year.
- The two journeys from top-down and bottom-up that the different groups are following contain difficulties. In NI the accreditation process and demands faced in applying for state funding created some difficulties, with highly experienced practitioners having to justify/evidence their work. In Gloucestershire, generating and sustaining community capacity as a means for supporting and growing the restorative work has been difficult but the recruitment and retention of volunteers has strengthened.
- The development of a 'Centre for Restorative Excellence' in NI is currently being championed by the DOJ. The aim of this is to collect and support good practice with practitioners, it is not designed as a cocooned body developing academic or policy work. Ambitions for a 'one stop shop' which contained all relevant statutory and community agencies has long been an ambition of local community-based practitioners and they have cautiously welcomed the renewed vigour for such an initiative, especially as the DOJ have pursued an inclusive and cooperative approach to planning what a 'Centre for Restorative Excellence' might look like.



Our thanks again to the organisations and individuals that gave their time to participate in this knowledge exchange

A full event report will be available soon, and the slides will be updated with a link to this document.

