



# Victim First

## Monthly Newsletter – Issue 4

### Overview

Warm greetings from Victim First! We are excited to have you join our newsletter. We are eager to share these updates with you and hope you find the content both informative and enjoyable. Thank you for your ongoing support.

This edition highlights **Restorative Justice**, coinciding with Restorative Justice Week, which takes place from **November 17th to 23rd**. The theme for this year is “The Promise of Restorative Justice in a Polarizing World.” This edition aims to provide you with information on Restorative Justice at Victim First, including what this is and how it can be used successfully.

### Catch22 Spotlight

During [#RestorativeJusticeWeek](https://www.catch-22.org.uk/resources/podcast-s2e7/), explore how RJ gives victims a voice and helps offenders repair harm! With research suggesting **85% victim satisfaction** and **14% less reoffending**, it's transformative! Hear powerful stories and insights on this episode.

<https://www.catch-22.org.uk/resources/podcast-s2e7/>



### Key Statistics: July - September 2024



We received **14** Restorative Justice referrals



We had **12** Restorative Justice outcomes



We facilitated the exchange of **2** letters



We spent **12 hours** in the community for Restorative Justice



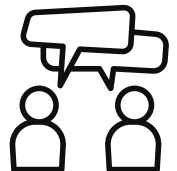
We delivered **7 Restorative Justice inputs** to professionals



**100%** of service users were satisfied with their Restorative Justice experience

### What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative justice (RJ) is a voluntary process which brings **victims and offenders into communication**. This can happen either directly, face to face, or indirectly.



### Magic Moments

Daniel attended a local prison to speak about restorative justice principles to groups of **20 learners**.

He explained **the process of restorative justice** to the offenders, highlighting the importance of **groundwork, preparation and communication**. He also used a case study to illustrate how engaging in RJ benefits both offenders and victims.



For victims, it allows them to **ask any questions** that they may have been left with after the crime and the chance to **explain how they are feeling** to the person who caused the harm.

For offenders, RJ can help with **supporting them to understand the consequences of their actions** and in doing so, go on to make **meaningful changes to prevent repeat offending**. It also gives them the opportunity to do the right thing and try to make amends.



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### Feedback

“It’s extremely beneficial having the support given to me and I am glad it exists.”

“Daniel helped us to restore justice between myself & my neighbour.”

“Chloe and Daniel have both been paramount to support keeping me sane, listening and supporting me in only the few conversations that we’ve had but they’ve made me feel heard and I’m so grateful to them for that”

### Staff Spotlight



### Contact Us

Email us: [victimfirst@catch-22.org.uk](mailto:victimfirst@catch-22.org.uk)

Visit our website: [www.victimfirst.org](http://www.victimfirst.org)

Call us: 0800 953 95 95

### Case Study

Two neighbours, had been **experiencing escalating tensions** that led to frequent police involvement. These interactions often revolved around perceived **disturbances and boundary issues**. Both parties felt uncomfortable in their own homes and as if they were **“walking on eggshells”** due to the ongoing conflict. Restorative Justice was initiated and communication was facilitated through written letters. This allowed both parties the space to express their concerns and emotions without immediate confrontation.

Each neighbour worked with Victim First to discuss restorative justice and ensure they felt comfortable participating. Once both neighbours were ready, I **facilitated the exchange of letters**. Through the letters it became clear that both neighbours were experiencing a shared feeling of unease and frustration, each feeling their peace and privacy was being impacted. An **agreement was collaboratively developed** where they agreed to **respect each other's privacy and property boundaries** and committed to reducing behaviours that could cause further tension.

Following the restorative justice process, both neighbours reported a noticeable **improvement in their living environment**. By addressing the underlying issues through open written communication and mutual empathy, they successfully redefined their relationship from one of conflict to one of mutual respect, allowing them to feel comfortable and at peace in their own homes.

### Staff Spotlight

**Name:** Daniel **Role:** Restorative Justice Lead

Being a Restorative Justice Lead means I that have the privilege of facilitating **meaningful conversations** that helps individuals to **address harm and foster understanding**. My work allows me to make a difference in people’s lives by supporting and empowering them to find positive paths forward.

I’ve had a diverse journey in my career, each experience adding to my commitment to helping others. As a restorative justice practitioner in Birmingham, I enabled **impactful dialogues between parties**. I also coordinated a **gang prevention service**, working closely with at-risk individuals to support safer decision-making and reduce harm in our community.

One of the greatest highlights of my career is seeing young people I once supported now **thriving in education and work**. Knowing that I’ve played a part in helping them to become meaningful contributors to society is incredibly **fulfilling and drives my passion for this work**.

Outside of work, I manage an 11-a-side Sunday league football team, play football weekly, and enjoy attending the gym.

### What’s next for Victim First?

#### Victim Advisory Board - Restorative Justice

The upcoming Catch22 Victim Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26th, focusing on the topic of Restorative Justice. To reserve your spot, please email [victimadvisoryboard@catch22uk.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:victimadvisoryboard@catch22uk.onmicrosoft.com).