

ONE MINUTE GUIDE - RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

What is it?

Restorative practice is a term used to describe behaviours, interactions and approaches which help to build and maintain positive, healthy relationships, resolve difficulties and repair harm where there has been conflict.

When we work with and alongside people, there is strong evidence to say that outcomes for children and their families are improved

Restorative practices enable those who work with children and families to focus upon building relationships that create and inspire positive change. Creating change sometimes requires challenge as well as support.

Restorative practices range from formal to informal processes that enable workers, managers, children, young people and their families to communicate effectively. The processes used focus upon; removing barriers, proactively promoting a sense of community, understanding, social responsibility and shared accountability.

Why are we doing it?

Restorative approaches are widely established and accepted both nationally and internationally as a highly effective way of achieving better outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Given its focus on relationships, restorative practice has broad applications across the range of agencies working with people. Organisations working with children and families in Portsmouth are using restorative principles and behaviours with children and families, to develop positive working relationships. This includes professionals working in schools, social care, health services and the voluntary sector.

These approaches provide staff with a range of language, behaviours and tools that strengthen their relationships with children, young people and families, empowering them to share responsibility by using a solution-focused approach, which supports positive change whilst keeping them safe.

How are we doing it?

Restorative practices are an important part of the way in which we support families to become better equipped to solve their difficulties and address challenges. This requires a shift in the relationship between professionals and families; from doing things **to** and **for** to doing things **with**.

Portsmouth has a Restorative Practice Strategy which includes plans and training for both service and professional development. Please see link RP Strategy on PSCB website page.

One of ways we are using restorative practice is in Child Protection Conferences. For more information, please see OMG on Child Protection Conferences.

A number of schools in Portsmouth are now using restorative practices to shape how staff and children communicate with each other. Circle and group discussions help students to share their feelings, build relationships, problem solve and play an active role in challenging and supporting one another. For further information, please see PEP website.

Who are the key contacts?

For more information about restorative practice training, please email:
rptraining@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

For more information about how we are using restorative approaches in Portsmouth, please contact Hayden Ginns - hayden.ginns@portsmouthcc.gov.uk