



SUPPORT

**Information for those harmed
and affected by youth crime**



Lambeth

We are here to help

The Restorative Justice team at Lambeth Youth Justice Service (YJS) supports people who have been impacted by offences committed by children we are working with.

What is restorative justice?

Restorative justice is a voluntary process that helps those harmed by an offence and those responsible for the harm to communicate. It enables everyone affected by a particular incident to be involved in repairing the harm and finding a way forward.

Restorative justice gives persons harmed the chance to tell those responsible for the harm the impact of the offence, to get answers to their questions, and to move on.

It helps the child who has caused the harm to understand the consequences of their actions on others, be encouraged to take responsibility and make amends.

What are the benefits of restorative justice?

There is significant evidence to show that restorative justice helps people who have been affected by an offence to tell their story, increase feelings of safety, and move on. It also helps those responsible for the harm to understand the impact of their behaviour, make amends and reduce re-offending. You can find out more from the Restorative Justice Council website www.restorativejustice.org.uk

Our restorative justice offer includes:

- Restorative Conferences (a face-to-face meeting with the child who has caused the harm)
- Family Group Conferences (involving extended family members)
- Shuttle mediation (passing messages back and forth)
- Indirect reparation (letters of explanation, videos, pieces of artwork or other gesture)
- Community reparation (where the child will engage in an activity to make amends to the local community)

It is your choice

Restorative justice is entirely voluntary for both the person harmed and the person who caused the harm. You can opt out at any time. Whatever you decide, Lambeth YJS remains committed to helping children to understand the impact of their actions on those they harmed and to prevent offending.

What happens next?

You have the right to be kept informed of what is happening with the child who has caused the harm. If you both wish it, we will support you and the child to engage in communication if it is safe and suitable.

If you decide to partake, our Restorative Justice Officer will meet with you to find out a little bit more about how the offence has impacted you, any questions you may have, and what your wishes and preferred options for restorative justice are.

If you would like to meet the child who committed the offence, we will carry out a safety assessment with both you and the child. We will find a suitable place to hold the meeting. You and the child can bring supporters. We will facilitate the meeting and ensure everyone feels safe and supported.

What if a face-to-face meeting is not possible or I do not want to meet the child / the child does not want to meet me?

Restorative justice is voluntary for all parties, and nobody will be forced to participate. You do not have to meet them face to face. If you are interested in answers to your questions, then we will try to ask these on your behalf and relay the child's answer back to you – this is known as shuttle mediation. We can also explore other options such as, letters of explanation or other means of indirect reparation. The child will be encouraged to participate, and although it is a voluntary process, we have found that over time children may change their mind.

Other support

Our service also offers impartial advice, referrals, and signposting to alternative support services, should you or your family choose not to engage with us, or if you would like additional or specialist support.

What do I do if I have any questions or want to leave feedback?

For more information or to leave feedback,
please contact the Restorative Justice Officer at:

**Lambeth Youth Justice Service
Civic Centre
6 Brixton Hill
London SW2 1EG**

Telephone number: 020 7926 2644

